

Lesson 4
The Power of Ahasuerus and the Punishment of Vashti
(Esther 1)

Questions

1. What did Ahasuerus do for the leaders of the provinces of Persia for 180 days (1:1-4)?

2. What did Ahasuerus do for the people who were present in Shushan for seven days (1:5-8)?

3. What did Vashti do for the women (1:9)?

4. What did Ahasuerus request of Vashti and how did she respond (1:10-12)?

5. What argument did Memucan make to the king concerning Vashti's actions (1:13-18)?

6. What suggestion did Memucan make to the king concerning what should be done to Vashti (1:19)?

7. What effect did Memucan believe this command would have on all the wives in the kingdom of Persia (1:20-22)?

Digging Deeper

1. What was the other name for Ahasuerus and what are the approximate dates of his reign over Persia (1:1)? Where in the books of Daniel and Ezra is "Ahasuerus" mentioned and is he the same as the "Ahasuerus" of Esther 1:1?

2. What were the 127 provinces of Persia and where on a map are they located (1:1)?
3. What was the other name for Shushan and where was this city located (1:2)? Where in the books of Daniel and Nehemiah is it mentioned?
4. When was the third year of the reign of Ahasuerus (1:3)?
5. What caused Vashti to refuse the king, was it modesty or something else (1:12)?

Applications for Today

1. With some people, all they have to show for their life is their physical wealth, but nothing of their spiritual wealth (1:1-4; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).
2. Drinking alcohol is popular and it is also problematic (1:5-8, 10; Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35).
3. The modesty of a woman will keep her from showing herself as an object of beauty purely for the enjoyment of others (1:10-12; 1 Tim. 2:11-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-6).
4. Be careful who you allow to give you advice and counsel (1:13-22; Prov. 12:5).
5. Wives are to respect and honor their husbands (1:20-22; Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Pet. 3:6).