

## ESTHER

-- KING AHASUERUS– Whimsical, extravagant, selfish

-- ABUSE OF VASTI, THE QUEEN. 1:11, During a feast the king was filled with wine and commanded "Queen Vashti to be brought into the presence of the king with the royal crown, to show the peoples and princes their beauty because she was beautiful."

--- MODEST QUEEN. But "Queen Vashti did not want to appear at the king's order..." The king's advisers advised him to remove her as queen because what she did could influence all women to hold their husbands in "low esteem."

--- ESTHER THE QUEEN.

--- Haman, the king's chief minister, everyone knelt before him, except Mordecai. 3:8, the king, not knowing that Esther was Jewish, gives Haman permission to destroy the Jews. BUILD GALLOWS TO DESTROY MORDECAI.

--- 4:14, GOD'S PROVIDENCE, Esther's position to save her people.

--- 4:11, APPROACHING THE KING WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION RESULTED IN DEATH. What will Esther do with this dilemma? Risk your life or let them destroy your people?

--- 4:16, SHE DECIDED TO APPROACH THE KING AND "IF I PERISH, I PERISH."

--- CHAPTER 5. BUT SHE DOES IT VERY DISCREETLY. INVITES THE KING AND HAMAN TO A BANQUET and Haman was overjoyed to have been invited with the king to that banquet.

--- But seeing that Mordecai did not kneel before him he became enraged and advised him to build a gallows to kill Mordecai and he does.

--- Then BY GOD'S PROVIDENCE. That night the king could not sleep and reading his chronicles he realized how Mordecai saved his life and the king asked Haman, "What will be done to the man whose honor the king desires?" and Haman thinking that he was talking about him recommended some actions of great honor and the king commands Haman to honor Mordecai himself.

---PROVIDENCE. 6:13. An interesting thing here is that his wise men said that since Mordecai descended from the Jews Haman would fall before him."

--- THE KING RECEIVES ESTHER. Haman's plan is discovered and the king orders Haman to be hanged on the gallows he made for Mordecai. The king gave the house of Haman to Esther and exalted Mordecai to Haman's position as prime minister.

--- Then came the edict that the Jews could defend themselves so as not to be destroyed.

*{Wayne Partain, March 18, 2003}*