

Born for THIS!

Part 2 **Nothing new under the sun!** Esther 1

Self-**FOCUSED**, self-**INDULGENT** civil leadership vs. 1-9

In 486 BC Ahasuerus **INHERITED** a massive kingdom vs. 1, 3

Ahasuerus was a **PRIDEFUL** showman vs. 3-8

SIX MONTH banquet capped off by a **SEVEN DAY** feast

Every detail is a display of Ahasuerus' **WEALTH**

Struggles between the **SEXES**; regarding **GENDER ROLES**
vs. 9-22

Wives feasted in a **SEPARATE** hall vs. 9

Vashti refused to be **DISGRACED** before drunken men vs. 10-12

Ahasuerus' council **OVER-EXAGGERATES** the issue vs. 13-22

This was the **CULTURAL** environment in which God placed

Esther... so she could save her **PEOPLE!**

Auburn Grace Community Church – April 25th, 2021

Life Group Discussion Questions – April 25, 2021

Esther 1:17 For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women so as to make their own husbands despicable in their sight...

DISCOVER (read Esther 1:1-22)

1. What do we know about the time and setting of the book of Esther?
2. Why do you think the first chapter includes a description of the king's wealth?
3. How did King Ahasuerus' wife, Vashti, embarrass him? Why did she make this decision?

EXPLORE

1. Ahasuerus lived for his possessions, passions, and pride. How does 1 John 2:15–17 warn about the danger of living for this world and what it has to offer? What warning is also found about prideful people in Prov. 16:18–19?
2. Read Job 14:5, Psalm 139:16, Ecclesiastes 1:9 and Acts 17:26. We can conclude that God has ordered our days that we live. Of all the billions of people that have ever lived, God has determined that you and I will live in this explicit time. How is it a privilege to be living in these days?
3. Vashti lost her crown because of her refusal, but kept her dignity. There may come a time where we have to make a decision like Vashti did that may cost us if we refuse. How did the apostles set the example of making such a decision (Acts 4:19–20; 5:29)? How can our decisions work as instruments to save people?

EXPERIENCE

1. Esther had to struggle with what it means to live faithfully in a pagan culture. What does it mean to live faithfully in a post-Christian culture?
2. With Esther 1 for context, compare our contemporary western governmental and home level struggles with those of ancient eastern cultures. How are they the same? Why do you think that is? Why is this so important to know?
3. What is the promise of Romans 8:28? Describe a time in your life when you didn't understand why God allowed something to happen to you. How can the promise of Romans 8:28 be applied to that personal circumstance?

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... thank God that in His perfect wisdom, He has chosen us for the privilege of His Kingdom work in this age. Ask Him for more faith and boldness to go out in these darkest of times; that God gives us rest in the assurance that He goes before us. Praise Him that because "there is nothing new under the sun," we can anticipate and discern His paths for we understand the times in which we live.

Action...name one practical action step you can take as a result of reading Esther 1.