

**Context**

- 1] The Bible is God's Word – every word in its original language.
- 2] Question – What form is it, poetry, history, letter, parable, vision etc?
- 3] Esther – extra biblical –
  - King Xerxes came to power 486 BC - 55yrs after the return to Jerusalem of the Jews (539 BC)
  - Failed in military campaigns against Greece c 480 BC
  - Brutal tyrant – beheaded failed engineers at Dardanelles bridge
  - Assassinated 465 BC
  - No ref. Esther, Mordecai, 75000 enemies of Jews killed (9:16)
- 4] Jesus in parables
  - a) Used historical 'carcass' as vehicle for parable cf 10 minas (Lk 19:12ff).
  - b) Not afraid to depict God as a human - eg unjust Judge (Lk18:1ff)
  - c) God is not explicit in majority of parables, though He is represented in all. (In Esther God Himself is no mention explicitly once)
- 5] Esther – Word of God / narrative/parable.

**MP** (Reflecting our relationship with God), *every person should respect authority and act within the Law*

(i.e., wives / husbands. children/ parents. workers /bosses; rulers/subjects

**KV** 'The king... all parts...each province ... each people ...each peoples' tongue ...*every man should be the ruler over his own household*' (22b).'

**The King rules absolutely (1-8)**

- 1] And it came to pass (1) used only four times (Gen 14:1; Ruth 1:1; Is 7:1; Jer 1:3) – impending doom with a happy ending.
- 2] All powerful –vast empire (Upper Nile-India) All nobles present (3)  
*Nb All authority is his (Matt 28:18)*  
*God's invisible qualities .... clearly seen (Romans 1:19, 20)*  
*The Lord reigns (93:1; 97:1; 99:1)* 3] Majestic and glorious (4)  
*Cf Jesus is the King of Kings (1 Tim 6:14; Rev 17:14; 19:16)*  
*Nb His Glory (John 17:5)*
- 4] All – least to greatest  
*nb First last, last first (Mark 10:31)*  
*cf 'Whosoever' (Jn 3:16; 4:14; 11:26; 12:46)*  
*\*God's glory is evident for all who will see\**
- 4] A garden (6)  
*cf Garden of Eden – perfect (Gen 2:8) (cf Garden -Gethsemane, tomb of resurrection)*
- 5] Free to drink (8)  
*cf God gives us free will (Gen 2:16)*  
*\*God devolves his authority to man and we are free to respond \**
- 6] Vashti – 'NO' - own banquet (9)  
*Nb the seeds were sown earlier (9) refusal (12).*  
*cf Eve – did God really say? (Gen 3:1)*  
*\* We have the free will to respond to the Kings command\**

## **The King rules according to the Law (10-20)**

1] The command (10-12)

a) 7<sup>th</sup> Day (10a)

*Nb Jewish divine perfect number*

*cf 7 eunuchs (10), 7 nobles (14)*

b) high spirits / merry (KJV) from wine (10b)

*Nb not drunk*

c) Command – Vashti to display her beauty (10c, 11)

*Nb weight of command (4:11)*

*\*Jesus wants church to display her beauty for His Glory among nations\**

d) Vashti refused. (12)

*nb command - Death if not invited (4:11)*

*Cf she ate the fruit (Gen 3:6) disobeying God (Gen 2:17)*

2] The action (12c-15)

a) The king was furious (12c)

*cf Wrath of God (Ps 79:6; Jn 3:36; Rom 2:5; Eph 5:6; Rev 6:16)*

b) He consulted

1) Wisemen - understood the times (1 Chron 12:32)

2) The law (13-15)

*nb God acts consistent with His Law cf Jesus – it is written (Lk 4:4,8)*

*Not the smallest letter removed (Matt 5:18)*

*Jesus the same yesterday today and forever (Heb 13:8)*

3] The reply (16-20)

a) Vashti wronged King + all nobles & peoples of provinces (16)

b) imitation – no end of disrespect and discord (17, 18)

*\*Reverence for the Kings (God's) is reflected between husband/wife\**

c) therefore Royal decree - Vashti out from presence of King. (19b)

*Cf Adam and eve from Garden of Eden (Gen 3:23)*

*\*Our rejection is met by grace – we may enter again through Jesus\**

d) Given to someone better (19c)

e) King's edict – all women will respect their husbands (20)

*\*Respect for the King brings accord & respect in Human relationships\**

## **The King expects us to follow his authority (21, 22)**

1] King agreed (21) consistent with His law.

2] Despatched to all/each/every/ one – no exceptions (22a)

3] Man ruler of his household

*Nb Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph 5:21)*

*Cf also children:parents, slaves:master, rulers:subjects (Rom 13:1-5; Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:1)*

*Cf like Jesus – humbled himself and became nothing (Phil 2:5-9)*

## **Conclusion**

1] Submit / bend the knee to the King - Jesus

2] Show that in your attitude to the Authorities he has instituted – in home, work and society