

XERXES: THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING ESTHER 1

Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely!

2 Corinthians 1:24 **Not** for that we have dominion over your faith, **but** are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

2 Corinthians 10:8 **For** though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us **for edification**, and **not for your destruction**, I should not be ashamed:

2 Corinthians 11:18 Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also. 2 Corinthians 11:19 For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise. 2 Corinthians 11:20 For ye suffer, **if** a man bring you into bondage, **if** a man devour you, **if** a man take of you, **if** a man exalt himself, **if** a man smite you on the face.

2 Corinthians 13:10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, **according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.**

The ministry is about power / authority

The ministry is about the correct use of power

The ministry is about the correct use of power **even when the incorrect use works.**

The ministry is about keeping power out of the wrong hands.

And we all have power / authority....

1. Xerxes was King of the “world!”

Esther 1:1 NOW it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, **from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces**;) Esther 1:2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, Esther 1:3 In the third year of his reign, **he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: Esther 1:4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.**

Facts about Xerxes:

➤ **He inherited a great kingdom from two great kings: Cyrus & Darius**

2 Chronicles 36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, **that** the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, **the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 2 Chronicles 36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.**

Daniel 1:21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus. Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

Esther 1:1 NOW it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

Cyrus → Cambyses ->Darius →Xerxes...

➤ **Xerxes made the kingdom greater**

➤ **Xerxes demonstrated his greatness to his nobles / aristocracy**

➤ **Xerxes then demonstrated his greatness to his loyal, local servants**

The court travelled to 4 capitols during the year: Susa, Persepolis, Babylon, and Ecbatana

Esther 1:2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom..., Esther 1:3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants...Esther 1:4 ...even **an hundred and fourscore days.**

Esther 1:5 And when these days were expired, **the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; Esther 1:6 Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble. Esther 1:7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king. Esther 1:8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.**

➤ **Xerxes was truly great: from Ethiopia (Cush) to India**

2. Xerxes wasn't king of his “little world!”

Esther 1:10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, **Esther 1:11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. Esther 1:12** But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

Does this remind you of anyone?
Humoris ubiquitous and obvious!

3. Xerxes certainly wasn't king of his "inner / private world!"

Esther 1:12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: **therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him. Esther 1:13** Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment: **Esther 1:15** What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.

What follows is an expose of his kingship:

➤ Emotions out of control

Proverbs 14:17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: And a man of wicked devices is hated.

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; And with a furious man thou shalt not go: **Proverbs 22:25** Lest thou learn his ways, And get a snare to thy soul.

Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, And a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

➤ Inability for calm, rational, reasonable thought / decision-making

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. **James 3:15** This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. **James 3:16** For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. **James 3:17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and **easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.**

Proverbs 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

➤ Very poor counselors: only obsequious sycophants

Esther 1:16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. **Esther 1:17** For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

Esther 1:18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath. **Esther 1:19** If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, **That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. Esther 1:20** And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) **all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.**

➤ Very real need for real information

Where did he receive his from? His employees What do they all have in common? 100% dependent on him

Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 18:17 He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; But his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

4. Xerxes wasn't king of any world for long!

Esther 4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: **and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**

Esther 1:3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: **Esther 2:16** So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. **Esther 3:7** In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

Xerxes reigned: 485/86 BC to 465 BC