



**Queen Esther.**  
**See Esther Chapter 1-10.**



**Don't Mess With God's People!**

*This story is a classic illustration of God's caring for His people: "...for whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye."*(Zech.2:8 TLB)

This story took place in the city of Susa which was in Persia (Babylon or Iraq today) about 450 years before Christ when King Xerxes reigned, he was also known as King Ahasuerus. He was very good, rich, and ruled over 127 provinces. They included Upper Egypt across to India and over to Persia.

He had lots of 'Satraps', (bureaucrats or local Governors) to keep the peace and keep his people happy - and I guess collect the taxes for the king as well.

Xerxes was a very happy king and this story begins by him giving a party for all his military officers and officials (Satraps) which lasted six (6) months. Some party! Please note that travel was very slow in those days and it took months to make some journeys. (no cars, trains or aircraft or fast ships - just camels or horses).

At one stage many of his Satraps at his party were a bit or a lot drunk, Xerxes told his eunuchs (men who had been sterilised and could not marry or have children) to bring in his wife Vashti with her crown on and show everybody how beautiful she was. Vashti was at that time giving a party for the women of the royal palace.

Vashti refused to come and 'show off her beauty'. *Nobody, but nobody says "No!" to the king-but what was he to do?*

Well, the king called on his advisers and wise men and one man's advice seemed good to everybody: "If Vashti says "No!" to the king, then it will only be a few days and all the wives will be telling their husbands "No!" too - and then husbands will no longer be in control of the home and that means real trouble." The king and all his advisers agreed that this was the best thing to do: "Send Vashti away never to come to the king again." So it was done ... no more can Vashti come before the king.

Later King Xerxes got to be very lonely and sad without Vashti, so to make him feel better his advisors suggested that they look for the most suitable and most beautiful girl in the land and make her Queen. He agreed.

The search began and many lovely young girls were looked at, then just a few of the best were selected to be specially prepared for twelve months: best food, best make-up and schooling as one would be chosen by the King to be his queen.

The 'winner' was a lovely girl named Esther: "This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features."(Esther 2:7)

