

Esther 1v1 - 2v18 TWO QUEENS

Where is God in all this?

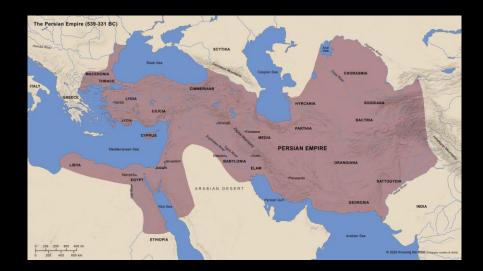
Context...

- **Date** 483BC
- Place Exile in Persia
- **Question** Has God left us?



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- Key Characters
 - Mordecai
 - Esther



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V5: When these days were over, the king **gave a banquet**, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king's palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest who were in the citadel of Susa.

V8: By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink <u>without restriction</u>, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished.

Freedom?

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"Be what you want, do what you want, consume what you want"

V9-10: <u>**Queen Vashti**</u> also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.¹⁰ On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him...

V11: ...to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at.

V12: <u>But</u> when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti <u>refused to come</u>...



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... Then the king became **furious** and burned with anger.

V19: Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes.

V1-2: Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.² Then the king's personal attendants proposed, 'Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.

V2: 'Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.

V5-7: Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai...

...Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful.

V10: Esther had <u>not revealed</u> her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so



V16: Esther was <u>taken to King Xerxes</u> in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

V17: Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favour and approval more than any of the other virgins. So, he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

4v14: Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

Two Queens or two Kings?

King Xerxes – Loud and Lavish but ultimately powerless

True King – Quietly at work yet with infinite power at his disposal

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Whose rule would you rather be under?