

Xerxes' Greatness and Vashti's Bold Defiance

Esther Chapter 1/Lesson 3

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The very thing in one point of view may be the divine appointment, and in another view may be the sinful actions of men. The free appointment of man is also an appointment of God. This is the doctrine of providence that the wisdom of men will never penetrate; it is the depth that human intellect will never be able to fathom.

Everything that has taken place from the time of creation must minister to His glory!

I. Xerxes' Greatness 1:1-10

A. The First Banquet (vv. 1–4)

B. The Second Banquet (vv. 5-10)

C. The Queen's Banquet (v.9)

II. Vashti's Bold Defiance 1:11-12

III. The King's Dilemma 1:13-22

Prov. 31:4-5; Isaiah 5:11-12

The Royal Road Ahura Mazda=Xerxes' god

Dan. 4:30; 4:34-37; Isaiah 25:6-9; Rev. 19:7-9

IV. POA's

Have you gained a better understanding of this glorious doctrine we call God's providence?

Are you recognizing it more frequently in your life or in the lives of others?

Here are a few scriptures to consider when making decisions: Proverbs 3:5-6;

James 1:5-6; Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 21:5, and 29:20. What other ones do you turn to?

Vashti's response to Xerxes provoked anger and fury in him. When have you provoked someone to anger with your words or deeds? How might things have ended differently if you had behaved differently?

Jesus offers a seat at the greatest banquet feast yet to come, the marriage supper of the Lamb. He says Come to Me, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. Do you personally know and worship King Jesus, One far greater than any earthly king? If you are not worshipping Jesus, who or what are you worshipping? Come to Jesus, the One

who can set you free from the bondage of sin! If you are not certain of your salvation, talk with your small group leader.

For those of us who have placed our faith in Christ the Lord, He now has supreme authority over our lives. In what ways are you pushing His authority out?

Lastly, in what areas do you struggle with submission, and why? How can God's providence and His kingship help you in this struggle?

Using the language of Hebrews 12, what weights and sins are entangling you and need to be laid aside so that you can run with endurance the race that is set before you?

God is to be trusted when His providences seem to run contrary to His promises. T. Watson

It is not as important that we understand God's purposes in a particular providence as it is that we trust His character. Jon Bloom

"Those who seek to control their own lives will inevitably be frustrated. A confident trust in God's providence is foundational to contentment." John MacArthur