**Esther 1:1-22 April 11, 2021**

**For Such a Time as This**

King Xerxes Esther 1:1-8

* Persian name is Ahaseurus
  + Your Bible will have one of these two names
  + It is a reference to the same king, there were not two Persian kings during Esther’s time
* His reign was from India to eastern Egypt / Ethiopia
* Ruled Persia from 486 – 465 BC

Queen Vashti Esther 1:9-12

* She hosted the women of Persia while the king entertained the men
  + She was holding up her responsibility for governing
* She did not want to be put on display
  + She refused the king’s request!

Vashti and Xerxes

* The point is not to elevate one or the other in the narrative
  + The key is to understand that the king was in charge
  + The king dominated in whatever he wanted, regardless of the morality of the situation
  + The author of Esther is giving us clues that will be important very soon in the story

Xerxes’s Dilemma Esther 1:13-22

* The council of advisors suggests that Vashti should be deposed as Queen
  + The reason is her disobedience to a request of the king
  + The king should seek a woman “who is more worthy”

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