

ESTHER  
Pt. 1 - Ahasuerus and Vashti  
Pastor Vernie Fletcher  
June 1st, 2014

**Historical Background**

The dramatic events recorded in Esther most likely took place between the exiles' first return under Zerubbabel and the second led by Ezra.

Hebrew name is **Ahasuerus** – the Persian King (Greek name) **Xerxes** and his wife **Queen Vashti**

**Esther 1:1-5 (NIV)**

<sup>[1]</sup> This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush:

<sup>[2]</sup> At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,

<sup>[3]</sup> and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present.

<sup>[4]</sup> For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty.

<sup>[5]</sup> 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.

**Esther 1:9-12 (NIV)**

<sup>[9]</sup> Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

<sup>[10]</sup> On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him...

<sup>[11]</sup> 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.

<sup>[12]</sup> But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.