

**God Prepares for a
Coming Crises
Esther 1-2**

I. The King's Festival – 1:1-9

1. Ahasuerus hosts a royal festival – 1:1-4
Festival lasted for 6 months (180 days) - 4
Leading officials of the empire were invited
Perhaps at different times during 6 month period
2. King hosts a party in city of Shushan – 5-8
This party lasted for seven days
It included the people of the city
It was a drinking party
3. Queen Vashti hosted the women – 9
She made a feast for women in the palace

II. The Queen's Refusal – 1:10-12

1. King under influence calls for Vashti – 10-11
Sends servants to bring the Queen
Wants to show off her beauty to these men
2. She refuses to obey King's command – 12
King is enraged at her refusal
Undoubtedly his pride is hurt and he can't let it go

III. King & Wise Men – 13-22

1. Must deal with Vashti – 13-15
She must be punished for disobedience
2. Also consider impact on others – 16-18
Other wives will follow her disobedience
This will impact & stir-up our society
3. King makes an unchangeable law -19-22
Vashti is removed from being Queen
Another Queen must be chosen
All women must give honor to their husbands

IV. Esther Becomes Queen – 2:1-18

1. King regret's his decree – 1
After his anger cools he misses his queen
But law of Medes & Persians is irrevocable
2. Recommend a beauty contest – 2-4
Search the empire for beautiful young woman
3. Esther is introduced – 5-8
Raised by Mordecai (his uncle's daughter)
She was a very beautiful young woman
She was chosen as a candidate for Queen
4. Esther favored by one in charge – 9
Appears God protected Esther in this way
5. Mordecai kept close watch on her – 10-11
Told her not to make her ethnicity known
He learned all he could of what was happening
6. Routine set for each to be with king -12-14
One night with king unless he changed it
7. Esther spends a night with the king - 15-16
She goes asking no special favors
8. King delights in and chooses her – 17-18

Contest was over when he met Esther
He crowned her and made her queen
There was a royal celebration

V. Mordecai's Report – 21-23

- A third event has a place in God's plan
1. King's men plan his assassination - 21
At that time Mordecai was sitting in the gate
 2. Mordecai learned of their plan – 22
He reported it to the king through Esther
 3. King's research found report accurate – 23
The two men were executed
Event was recorded in the King's records