

Esther 1-2v18

TWO QUEENS

IMO OOFEM?



# Where's God in all this?



# Context...

- **Date** – 483BC
- **Place** – Exile in Persia
- **Spiritual thermometer** – Is God interested?
- **Key Characters** – Mordecai and Esther

# 1) The Fall of Queen Vashti



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**V4:** For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendour and glory of his majesty.

# 1) The Fall of Queen Vashti

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.

# 1) The Fall of Queen Vashti

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

*“Be what you want, do what you want,  
consume what you want”*

# 1) The Fall of Queen Vashti

**V9-11: 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.



# 1) The Fall of Queen Vashti

**V12: But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come...**

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**V12:** But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come...

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

## 2) The Rise of Queen Esther

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

## 2) The Rise of Queen Esther

**V10:** Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so

*For all the pomp and power of Xerxes, he's not the one in charge – God is!*

## 2) The Rise of Queen Esther

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

## 2) The Rise of Queen Esther

**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.

# 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

