



Sunday Morning Sermon (by Ray Reynolds)

January 1, 2017

"THE PRIDE OF KING AHASUERUS"

TEXT: Esther 1



Introduction: Strange things happen at parties. Especially if there is royalty involved (ego), heavy drinking (impaired judgment), and wealthy/powerful people (politics). I doubt if any other party in history could equal the one thrown by Ahasuerus in the first chapter of Esther. For nearly six months he celebrated the riches of *his* kingdom, honor of *his* majesty and abundance of *his* possessions. Esther isn't introduced in this opening chapter but we see the groundwork for her introduction. We also learn about the character of the king. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The King's Drunkenness (Esther 1:1-10)

- ◆ Noah (**Genesis 9:20-27**)
- ◆ Lot (**Genesis 19:32-35**)
- ◆ Nadab & Abihu (**Leviticus 10:9-11**)
- ◆ The Philistines (**Judges 16:25-30**)
- ◆ Uriah (**II Samuel 11:1-17**)
- ◆ Nabal (**I Samuel 25:2-42**)
- ◆ Amnon (**II Samuel 13:28-29**)
- ◆ Benhadad & the 32 kings (**I Kings 20:16-34**)
- ◆ The Proverbs (**Proverbs 20:1, 23:29-32, 31:4-6**)
- ◆ Belshazzar, wives & concubines (**Daniel 5:1-31**)

II. The King's Desire (Esther 1:11-12)

- ◆ Abuse of Position
- ◆ Abuse of Policy
- ◆ Abuse of Power
- ◆ Abuse of Politics

III. The King's Decree (Esther 1:13-22)

- ◆ Queen Vashti is Alarmed
- ◆ King Ahasuerus is Angry
- ◆ Advisor Memucan is Annoyed
- ◆ The Kingdom is Appalled

Conclusion: The pride of King Ahasuerus led to his own disgrace. The party to demonstrate his honor ended up revealing his shame. His drunkenness produced irrational behavior and resulted in a foolish decree. In order to justify his bad decision-making he shamed his wife in front of the entire kingdom. What can we learn from his mistakes? **Proverbs 16:18** says, "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*" Let's stay on track with God's plan. We must remain humble and follow where He leads us.