



I am Xerxes, the great king,
the king of kings, the king of
all countries which speak all
kinds of languages...

- XERXES

LESSON 2 NOTES

The King’s Dat (1:9)

In the middle-eastern cultures of the day, a “Dat” or a decree could not be reversed. Law’s could only be changed by making another law that conflicted or voided the older law.

However, the word Dat was used to indicate a law, regulation, tradition, or custom. Therefore, in verse 8, the King made it clear that the custom of drinking in proportion to the King was to be waived. After all, this was a PR campaign to garner good will.

The Queen’s Catch-22 (1:9-12)

Persian law dictated that it was immodest for a woman to be in the presence of men while they were drinking. It violated exclusive male territory and offended the woman’s modesty.

Vashti was caught in an impossible situation thank to her drunk, irrational husband.

Memucan & The Wise Men (1:13-20)

The embarrassed and intoxicated king seeks the counsel of Wise Men, much like the men who sought the star of the Messiah.

Memucan takes the focus off of the king by making the issue about the kingdom. The rebellion of one woman was, in his words, an attack on the very culture and well-being of the entire kingdom. Thus, the king had to act, not out of embarrassment but out of his duty to put the kingdom first.

The Ironclad Law of Male Superiority (1:21- 22)

Wives from different cultures and languages were decreed that from this day forward, the culture and language in the home would only be that of the husband’s native culture and language.

REMEDIES FOR A ROYAL MISTAKE

The narrative of chapter two begins with the phrase, “after these things.” This indicates a passage of time between the events of chapter one, and the events of chapter two.

LESSON 2 NOTES

The scene is one of king Xerxes regretting the thing he had done to Vashti. The drunken lapse of judgement was unfixable, in that the solution to the issue was not just made into law, but was published across the kingdom. Xerxes could not just undo what he had done.

Wise Men Saving Their Own Necks (2:2-4)

The mistake was the counselors own doing. Now, a sad and spoiled king was sure to eventually turn to anger at those who caused his sadness.

They quickly hatch a plot to solve the issue by getting the king a new wife, one even more beautiful than Vashti.

This plot is the door through which Esther becomes queen.

Esther Becomes Queen (2:5-20)

Esther finds favor with the king, and he loves her more than all the rest of his many new wives. He chooses her to be his new queen.

Proactive Provision (2:21-23)

Through a series of events, the savior of God's people is strategically placed before the need for a savior is realized; even before the enemy of God's people has been named.

A crazy law enacted in a drunken stupor causes Esther to keep her identity hidden. One minute of eavesdropping saves the kings life.

And, a little bit of ink put to a page and forgotten ends up saving the lives of thousands, if not millions of people a few chapters later.