


## Esther 1:1-3 (NIV)

*This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush:  
2 At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,  
3 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.*



## Esther 1:4-5,8 (NIV)

*For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. 5 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... 8 By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink with no restrictions, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished.*



## Esther 1:9 (NIV)

*Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.*



## Esther 1:10-12 (NIV)

*On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas— 11 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.*



## Esther 1:10-12 (NIV)

*12 But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.*



- Esther Never Directly Mentions God, Miracles, or Prayer
- There is No Longing for Jerusalem. Esther takes place some 60 years after Cyrus the Great Issued a Decree in 539 BC Allowing Jews to Return to Jerusalem.
- Esther and Mordecai do not come off as pious Jews.



## So why study it?

1. Just because God's name is not mentioned does not mean God is absent from the book.
2. It balances God's Sovereignty and Man's Freewill (Esther 4:14)

*"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*



## So why study it?

3. Esther and Mordecai were far from perfect and, yet, God used them in a mighty way. He can use you, too!
4. Romans 14:5 (NIV), *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*





*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, **6** so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans  
15:5-6 (NIV)

