

## A King's Edict

Esther 1:13-22

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther+1%3A13-22&version=NIV>

***“Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.” (19)***

For the Medes and the Persians, the law of the land was that if the king issued a decree then that decree would become law forever and ever. The King's therefore wielded great power. Once again this first chapter is setting us up to meet Esther a Jew and follower of the one true God. Though it seems right now that God is not present in a partying king who bans his wife in order to pursue a new queen, we will see later how God is able to work through these events.

We experience this same phenomenon in our own lives as well. As we walk through a trying time, challenges, and darkness. When we face those moments where it seems God has walked out of the room, leaving us all alone, we fail to see through our limited human view how God is at work. We are unable to imagine how God will work through a dire or desperate situation. We fail to see God at work even in the good of life at times giving praise instead to chance or good luck or human design. Yet as God continues to work and enables us to better see through prayer, through hindsight, through the wise counsel of another, we are able to behold how God was at work the whole time.

In the week ahead, no matter what you face remember that our God is the only King who truly issues everlasting edicts. Remember that some of his edicts include promises like “I will never leave you nor forsake you,” “I will send to you the advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be your help,” “I am with you even to the end of the age,” “I forgive you,” and “I love you.”