

- 1:4...the great celebration in general lasting 180 days. They were probably not all there all the time although we do not know. When these guys were showing off they did it big time.
- 1:5...at the conclusion of the 180 days there was a massive feast of seven days for everyone who was present, great and small, and held in the king's garden court of the palace.
- 1:6...the elaborate nature of the decorations boggles the mind but everything had to be right for the king!
- 1:7...there was lots of drinking...wine in abundance drunk from vessels of gold. This sort of demonstration is almost sickening to us. And while we are at it, have you noticed how often alcohol and debauchery go together.
- 1:8...but happily, no one was compelled to drink. Every person could take one's pleasure. There may have been some teetotalers there but it is likely they were a minority group. Note that the king had commanded it to be this way.
- 1:9...in the meantime, Vashti, the queen, was having a great celebration for the women in the royal house. These monarchs were not, generally, monogamous. Vashti may have been the queen for the season or for this period of his life. There would certainly be a harem.
- 1:10...and on the seventh day when the king's heart was merry (and his mind was not sharp--that is my note--he called for the seven chamberlains (KJV) who likely were in charge of the harem and cared for the needs of the queen and such other women as the king possessed.....
- 1:11...and instructed them to bring Vashti with the royal crown to show the princes and the people her beauty...the text tells us she was fair to look upon. I don't think he meant for her to come in and smile at the gathering but rather to make an erotic appearance that would show the wisdom of the king's choice and the exquisite beauty with which he surrounded himself.
- 1:12...But Vashti refused to come and the king was angry and the more he thought about it the more angry he became. The defiance showed a weakness in his authority and having demonstrated the power of armies and forces it was pretty humiliating not to be able to order one's wife! Why she did not come out? Not sure but I think it was a concept of decency that overcame her. But behind this...God was going to bring

She refused to come. God needed someone in the court who could speak for his people.