

another woman into this powerful position and Vashti was really a victim of circumstance and providence.

III. Conclusion:

The stage is being set by the Lord even though we cannot see any concrete evidence of it unless we have the knowledge of the whole book which, fortunately we do have! No one on the scene is conscious of any action by the Lord but that is not necessary. It is a similar scenario to the one given in Isaiah 10 with regard to the King of Assyria. It is also striking at how well the Bible defines the scene with just a few words and we are left at this point with a great question: what will happen next? So we appreciate your listening today and trust you will be with us again when we next pick up this narrative and see more of the workings of the Lord.

MESSAGE# 4...Vashti's Fate: Esther 1:13-22

I. Introduction:

Welcome to our continuing study in the Book of Esther. This is Tom Taylor looking through this Old Testament book with you in the assurance that the Word of God will bless us and we will be the richer for exposure to it. Following our earlier discussions of background material, we began our study in Esther I with observations on the great feast of Ahasuerus and the circumstances that attended it. Today's study is in Esther 1:13-22 as we observe how Vashti was treated after she refused to come out to display herself at the feast of the king. You will find some really interesting things in this passage and when we put them into our context today we can smile at them and rejoice in what better things God has provided.

II. Discussion:

1:13...Ahasuerus has been frustrated by Vashti's actions and is not sure what to do. He called for the wise men of the kingdom, men who "knew the times" astrologers, and the like. We are told this is how he approached most of his problems and he probably felt comfortable with their abilities.

1:14...the wise men are listed by name....there are seven of them and they are called "princes" of the territories and described as those who knew the king's face. This is a colorful way of saying they were familiars as far as the king was concerned and he felt comfortable with them.