

Dethroning Vashti

Esther 1.1-2.20

The Set Up

1. Read Esther 1:1-2. Who was the king in charge?

_____ . His other name in Hebrew is _____ .

2. See from the map below, how big was his empire? Name all the present-day countries he would have ruled if he were alive today.

E _____, I _____, J _____, S _____, T _____, I _____, I _____,
A _____, P _____, I _____



The Persian Empire

3. Which city did this King rule his empire from? Circle this on the map.

4. Fill in the timeline below. Your Bible Study leader will provide you with the answers.

Year	Event
1050-931 BC	Israel as a nation was ruled by King S _____, King D _____, and King S _____.
931 BC	Nation of Israel split into two nations, north called I _____, south called J _____.
722 BC	A _____ invaded and destroyed I _____, forced Jews into exile

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586 BC	B _____ invaded and destroyed J _____, forced Jews into exile.
539 BC	B _____ Empire is taken over by the M _____ - P _____ Empire.
538 BC	Jews exiled by the Babylonians returned to J _____.
522 BC	D _____ becomes King of Persia.
486 BC	X _____ becomes King of Persia.
479 BC	E _____ becomes Queen.

5. According to v.3-9. What did King Xerxes and Queen Vashti do for the leaders and servants in the kingdom?

They held banquets for: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

It lasted for _____ months!

6. What "hidden" purpose was there for this banquet?

King Xerxes was planning to invade **G** _____ (see map).

7. Read v.10-12. What did the King ordered Queen Vashti to do? Why do you thin she refused? How did he react?



8. Read v.13-22. What advice did Memucan give to the king? What were his reasons?

Memucan's Advice: (v.19-20)

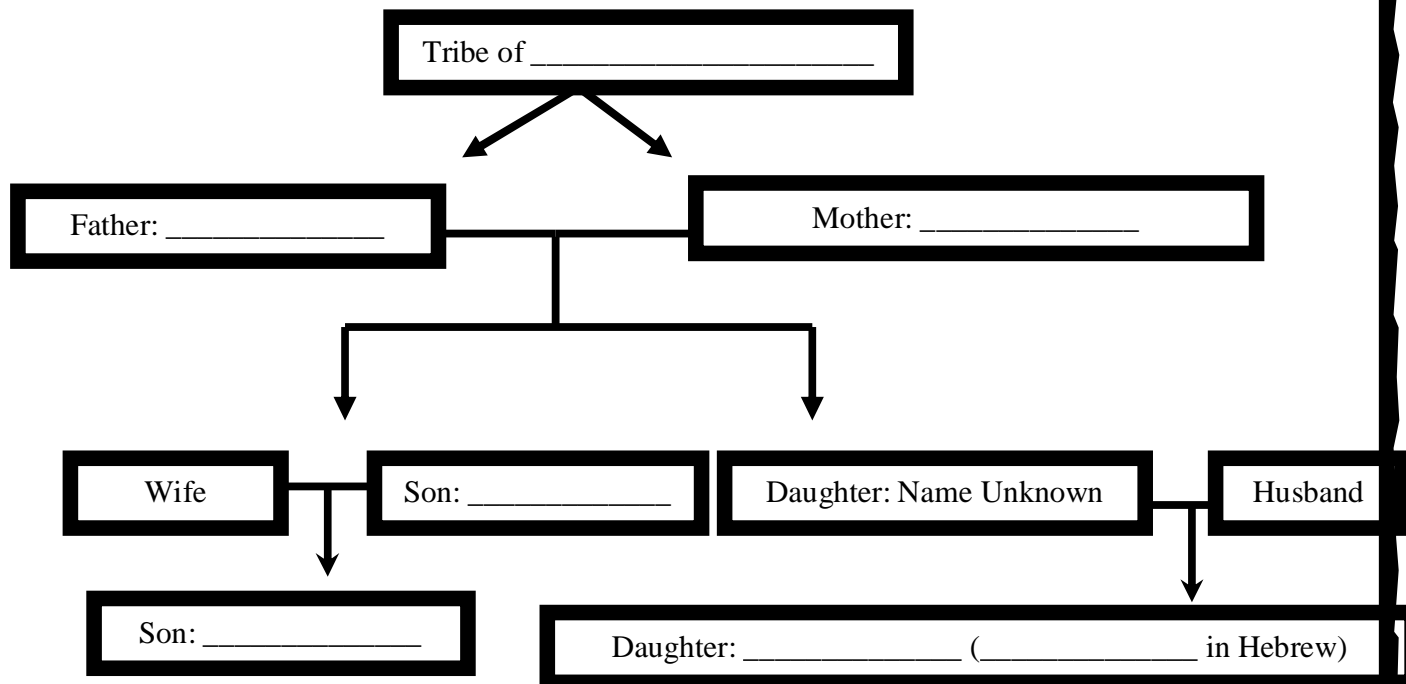
Memucan's Reasons: (v.16-18)

9. Read Esther 2:1-4. What did King Xerxes decided to do?

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10. Based on Esther 2:5-7, fill in the family tree below.



11. Read Esther 2:8-20. What happened to Esther? What happened to Mordecai?

God's Plan?

12. If you only have chapters 1 and 2 of the book of Esther and nothing else, what do you think God is up to? (Hint: Where did God put Moses and Joseph just prior a "big" event in Israel's history?)

13. What does the word "sovereignty" mean?

14. What does it mean when we say, "God is sovereign"?

15. Do you believe God is sovereign over your life? Why or why not? How is He sovereign over your life?