

Man's sin in God's plan

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Historical summary: The Jews were in exile in Persia, but God sovereignly preserved them through a pagan king, evil enemies and all circumstances.

- I. CREATING A CRISIS THROUGH PRIDE: XERXES' WAS DRUNK AND BOASTING AT A LONG PARTY (ESTHER 1:1-12).
 - A. Arrogant king Xerxes held an extravagant 6-month feast to show off his wealth and greatness (1-8).
 - B. Inebriated Xerxes ordered his wife Vashti to pose immodestly for his drunk nobles but she refused (9-12).
- II. MAKING A CRISIS WORSE THROUGH CONTROL: XERXES DIVORCED VASHTI TO PRESERVE HIS MALE EGO (1:13-22).
 - A. Xerxes consulted his (foolish) wise men about how to handle Vashti's refusal to appear (13-15).
 - B. Memucan, urged Xerxes to make an example of Vashti or else all wives would defy their husbands (16-18).
 - C. Xerxes permanently deposed Vashti as his wife and sent notice all around the Persian empire (19-22).

Conclusion: God's plan is often best accomplished in the midst of sin, arrogance and domination of others.