

Men Rule, OK? - No, not really!

Esther 1.1-22

A man's world!

1. Right Royal Feasts, vs 1-9

- ***Empire Exhibition vs 3-4***
national strategy conference
- ***Royal Garden Party vs 5-8***
extraordinarily lavish
- ***Exclusive Dinner Party v 9***
women only

A contrast in feasts

***royalty – military power,
material wealth***

God's people – great salvation!

Rev 19.7-9

2. Wrong Royal Behaviour, vs 10-22

- **Alcohol Abuse v10**
blurred judgement
Prov 31.4-5; 20.1; 1 Tim 3.3,8
- **Female Abuse v10-12**
self-gratification
- **Power Abuse v12-22**
superpower leader needing laws for his wife! v15
knee-jerk over-reaction vs16-18
laws against women vs 19-22

The basis for marriage relationships

- **equal dignity Gen 1.27**
- **a partnership of equals Gen 2.18,23**
- **equal heirs of salvation 1 Pet 3.7**
- **a goal of holiness Eph 5.25**
self-sacrifice, not self-gratification
Boaz is the man of substance

Esther in Context

Persia: *world's superpower nation*

King Xerxes: *486-465 BC*

Susa: *winter palace, southern Iraq*

BC

605 first deportation of Jews

587 Jerusalem falls to Babylonians

539 Babylon falls to Persians **Dn 5.30**

538 first exiles return **Jer 29.10**

516 temple completed

458 Ezra to Jerusalem - law

445 Nehemiah to Jerusalem – walls

Purpose: *origin of Purim Feast*

**A Curiosity: *God's name nowhere,
God's hand everywhere***

***God, the unseen director
of world events***