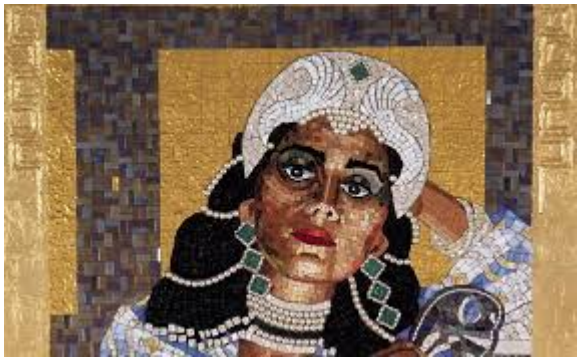
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Queen Vashti Deposed by King Ahasuerus 1: 1-22



The book begins with a banquet given by **King Ahasuerus**. The events of the banquet led to the king's disapproval of **Queen Vashti**. This event is vital in understanding the book as a whole. The anger that **the king** displays toward **Vashti**, and her subsequent departure, sets the stage for **Esther** to take decisive action and deliver her people. **Vashti** turns out to be one of the Gentile women heroes in the Bible, along with **Rahab** and **Ruth**. We read: **But Queen Vashti refused to come at the order of the king, which he had sent through his officers. This enraged the king – he became furious and burned with anger (1:12).** But how does this make **her** a Gentile hero? Introductions in biblical books often foreshadow things to come, and this was certainly true of **Queen Vashti**. In this case, the author of the book of **Esther** shows that **Vashti** foreshadows both Jewish heroes in the book, **Esther** and **Mordecai**.

First, **Queen Vashti** foreshadows the coming of **Queen Esther**. **Queen Vashti** made **a banquet (1:9)**, and **Queen Esther** made **a banquet (Chapters 5** and **6)**. These are the only two **women** in the TaNaKh that actually make **banquets**. **Queen Vashti** is described as **beautiful (1:11)**, and **Esther** is described as **shapely and good looking (2:7b)**. These are the only two **women** in the TaNaKh that are described like this. **Queen Vashti** defied **the king's** command in not coming before **him** (**to see link click Al – When Queen Vashti Refused to Come, The King Became Furious**), and **Queen Esther** defied **the king's** command in coming before **him** when **she** wasn't supposed to (see **Ba – I Will Go**

to the King: If I Perish, I Perish). **Queen Vashti** not only risked the loss of **her** throne, but **she** also the risked the loss of **her** life, as did **Queen Esther**.

Second, **Queen Vashti** also foreshadows the coming of **Mordecai**. **Queen Vashti** defied **the king's** command in not coming before **him** and **the king became furious (1:12)**, and **Mordecai** defied **the king's** command, which provoked the rage of **Haman** (see **At – Haman was Honored, But Mordecai would not Kneel Down Him**). **Queen Vashti** refusal to obey **the king's** command resulted in **a decree**, not just against **Vashti**, but against **all the women** in the Persian Kingdom **(1:19-20)**. **Mordecai's** refusal to obey **the king's** command resulted in **a decree**, not just against **Mordecai**, but against **all the Jews** in the Persian Kingdom (see **Au – Haman's Plan to Annihilate All the Jews**). And in both cases, **the decrees** themselves were related to the contempt of those who refused to be defeated by those who opposed them.