

Recap of 9/8/19 (Esther 1:1-22):

1. The following quote perfectly captures the Providence of God, a concept which the Book of Esther teaches more clearly than any other Biblical book, according to many Bible scholars. “Some may crave for sensational happenings to prove the wisdom and power of God, but to the devout believer the greatest miracles are sometimes simple happenings of life which are yet perfectly timed to realize the divine end.” (Foster)
2. Though alcohol is only incidental to the teaching of Esther 1, it is important to understand the Biblical teaching concerning it. The Bible is clear everywhere that drunkenness is a sin. Drinking to excess is forbidden. Some of the many passages dealing with alcohol are Isaiah 5:11; Proverbs 20:1; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; and Ephesians 5:18.
3. Esther 2 is not a representation of the Biblical view of headship and submission in marriage. The concepts of headship and submission were present from the creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2) and are best illustrated by the word “partnership.” The roles of man and woman in marriage were marred by the Fall, what was to be partnership became a battle for control (Genesis 3). Under the control of the Spirit a man can lead his family as he loves his wife as Christ loved the church (sacrificially, as a servant).
4. “Some Christian husbands adopt a similar attitude in their marriages [to the attitudes displayed by the Persians in Esther 1]. They say: ‘I am the head and that means I must be obeyed at all costs. God has made this decreed in His Word and I am here to enforce it.’ God gives spiritual headship to the man in marriage, but that headship is to be operated under the law of love. A man is to love his wife and lead her ‘as Christ loved the church’ (Eph. 5:25)...Any man who adopts the position of ‘I’m the boss so you had better obey’ is not following the leadership example of Christ. He is not a leader; he is a dictator. And such an attitude is alien to the Spirit of Christ.” (Hughes)
5. “A man receives authority to lead his home from Christ (see 1 Cor. 11:3). When he takes the proper role of spiritual leader in his home the entire household become well-ordered. But, on the other hand, you must show yourself worthy to lead and rule your home. Your character must be such as to command respect.” (Tozer)