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*Lessons for
Every Child
of God*

THE SPIRIT OF QUEEN VASHTI

BIBLE TEXT:
ESTHER 1:10-12

The story of Queen Vashti is more than the account of a queen who lost her position. Behind the events recorded in Esther chapter 1 are lessons that every child of God must carefully examine.

Prepared by
Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

The story of Queen Vashti is more than the account of a queen who lost her position. Behind the events recorded in Esther chapter 1 are lessons that every child of God must carefully examine. Sometimes, what looks like a simple decision in the physical may have deeper spiritual implications. Vashti's story calls us to pause, look inward, and examine our hearts, attitudes, and responses to authority. As we study this subject, may the Lord give us understanding and help us recognize anything in our lives that could hinder His purpose for us.

Esther 1:10-12

On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

11 - to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold.

12 - But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.

The story of Queen Vashti is one that has sparked a lot of debates in Christianity. Although many make reference to Esther more than Vashti, there are some things we need to learn from Vashti. It is advisable to read the full chapter of Esther chapter 1. Vashti was a queen of 127 provinces. This shows that she was a great queen of a great king. This king decided to make a feast for 180 days, which is 6 months. It takes someone exceedingly rich to make a feast for that long. **Esther 1:4 (KJV):** “When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.”

A detailed description was given concerning the decoration that was made and the vessels used in serving everyone. **Esther 1:5–7 (KJV):** “And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and black, and white, marble. And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.” It was indeed a great feast, and everything was going on well, until Vashti was summoned by the king.

Vashti's Refusal

Esther 1:10–12 (KJV): “On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.”

Looking at what happened carefully, one would say that she wanted to protect her dignity as a queen, but she could have obeyed the king's command by coming out first and then go straight to him to have a quiet conversation with him regarding what he asked her to do. But her ultimate refusal to show up at the king's command means a lot. There must have been other things that would have happened that were not recorded for us to read, but we read that her actions were regarded as an insult.

Respect for Higher Authority

Women ought to exercise wisdom in relating to their husbands, especially when they have unbelieving husbands. Everyone, both male and female, must respect higher authorities. **Romans 13:1 (KJV):** “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” When the command they give is not contrary to the word of God.

The Hidden Hand of God in Esther

If we read through the book of Esther, there is nowhere the word "God" was mentioned. But all through we can see the hand and the workings of God. We can see that as things were playing out in the physical, there was also God working behind the scenes in Persia's kingdom.

Let's carefully examine some things.

The Historical Setting of Vashti

Queen Vashti lived during the Persian Empire. After the time when Babylon had fallen to Persia, and Daniel was likely still alive during the early part of the Persian period. The reign of King Ahasuerus, usually identified with Xerxes I, who reigned about 486 to 465 BC, came after the reign of Cyrus and Darius, during whom Daniel served.

It goes like this.

- Babylon falls to Persia, 539 BC.
- Daniel serves under Darius and Cyrus, 539 to 530 BC.

- Daniel 10 vision Prince of Persia, third year of Cyrus, about 536 BC.
- King Xerxes and Queen Vashti, about 486 to 465 BC.

Esther becomes queen during Xerxes reign. This means that what happened in Daniel chapter 10 occurred several decades before events of Esther 1. Daniel's vision about the prince of Persia was given during the reign of Cyrus, whereas Vashti's refusal occurred during the reign of Ahasuerus, Xerxes, roughly 50 years later.

The Prince of Persia

And we read in Daniel 10 that the prince of Persia withstood Daniel's prayer. **Daniel 10:12–13 (KJV):** “Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

This was a principality that was set over the kingdom of Persia in the spiritual realm. It is possible that the prince of Persia could still have been the spiritual principality associated with the Persian Empire during Vashti's time, because Persia was the same empire. It appears that this was a territorial principality over Persia kingdom, though the scripture did not directly say this principality was at work during the time of Vashti. But it's likely that it influenced particular system of Persia at that period, which made Vashti misbehave, and ultimately God also permitted it to fulfill His divine purpose for the Jews.

We would say that the principality displayed stubborn resistance to God's authority by stopping the answer to Daniel's prayers. And in the same way, Vashti was stubborn to rightful authority, and this and many more made her lose her position.

Territorial Powers and Spiritual Warfare

We must know that territorial powers are real, and they have power to dictate what happens in a particular territory, in the realm of the spirit. Christians who understand spiritual warfare would ask God to know the territorial powers in charge of their territories, who have stopped men from believing the gospel and placed them under bondage, in order to be effective where they are for Christ.

If we are talking about the spirit of Vashti, we would be talking about:

1. Stubborn Resistance to Rightful Authority

It was recorded that Vashti refused to come at the king's command. She knew the king had authority over her. She couldn't have been a queen without him marrying her, but she became resistant to his authority. If she was not resistant, she would have honoured the king in the presence of his subjects and heeded his call. This is the same way many women are today. They give no regard to their husbands, whom the Lord has placed as constituted authority over them. They behave stubbornly and cannot subject themselves. Some would always do contrary to what their husbands say and remain adamant in it. There are men who are stubborn to those whom God has placed over them, as leaders in the church at work and other places. They see themselves as their own bosses and despise authorities.

2 Peter 2:9–10 (KJV): “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day

of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.” This is one of the things God hates and He knows how to reserve them for judgment when they choose not to repent. Those who have remained persistent in this act of stubborn resistance to authority are most likely to be possessed by what I call the spirit of Vashti. This is why every child of God must check themselves. We must submit to those whom God has placed over us. Vashti made a grave mistake.

2. Pride or Self-Exaltation

This is another thing that can be deduced from the life of Vashti. It was said that she was very beautiful. It's most likely that she got prideful because of her beauty and exalted herself beyond measure. Wanting to prove that as the queen, she also has levels before the king, right before the other women. **Proverbs 16:18 (KJV):** “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” This spirit of pride and self-exaltation finally brought her low to the point that it was said that let another better than she be used to replace her.

Esther 1:19 (KJV): “If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.” There is always someone better than us as humans, no matter how gifted, powerful, great, rich, strong, wise, knowledgeable, and beautiful we are. This is why we must stay humble. No man is indispensable except God. Today, there are many men and women who take pride in their beauty like Vashti.

They have exalted themselves beyond measure. Some would say they cannot marry some set of people, claiming these people cannot maintain their beauty. Some would say certain people are not up to their levels, not knowing that beauty fades. And no matter whom they think they are, there are those better than them because of pride. Many have lost their God-ordained partners. Many have lost job opportunities that should change their lives. Some have lost responsible friendships and families. Pride has nothing good to offer anyone than to bring such a person down from great heights like Lucifer. We must then check our lives to see where we are missing it through pride and begin to work on that strange spirit in our lives.

3. Rebellion

This works hand in hand with stubbornness and resistance to rightful authority. This most times refers to those acts of biting the fingers that once fed you. Today, God used some men to raise some who have turned their backs at them without any justifiable reason and seeks to bring those who struggle to lift them up down. The sin of rebellion is so serious that God equates it with the sin of witchcraft. **1 Samuel 15:23 (KJV):** “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

We should know that rebellion is not merely disagreement. It is willful resistance against authority that God has established, especially against God himself. Vashti got rebellious against the authority over her, and it turned out sore for her. This was the one who made her queen. She did not realize that "Getting married does not make a Mr but makes a woman a Mrs" But she turned against him, making a refusal of the king's command viewed by the king's officials as an act that would encourage other women to despise their husbands.

Esther 1:17–18 (KJV): “For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.” She did not attempt negotiation or explanation in the text. It was simply said that she refused. This was similar to the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, who refused to show up at Moses' command. When a constituted authority asks one to do something, and is not against God's command, it is important to obey because it is the will of God. Refusing and ganging up against such as some do can lead to serious problems for one and one's family. We must therefore search our lives and get rid of any form of rebellion.

4. Contempt or Disrespect

This is another spirit in Vashti. It was clear that she held the king in contempt and was disrespectful to him. It must be observed that for her to have done that publicly, she must have been doing so privately, which then made it part of her. She must have been esteeming the king lightly, which made him ask for an advice from his wise men. Today, the world has taught women to treat their husbands with contempt and disrespect, and many women are practicing it already, not knowing it was the same spirit that brought Vashti low. The outcome of such lifestyle is usually not good.

Look at the case of Michal, who became barren just for the same reason of contempt and disrespect of David her husband. **2 Samuel 6:16 (KJV):** “And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window,

and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.”

2 Samuel 6:20–23 (KJV): “Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.”

As I am teaching now, there are women who do not respect their husbands and they know it. It is time to repent because such ways bring evil upon one.

The Danger of Worldly Influence

The teaching of feminism as propagated by the world should not have a way in your life as a child of God. Only women aiming at making heaven submit to their husband, respecting and honoring them because of what Vashti did, a decree was made in verse 20. **Esther 1:20 (KJV):** “And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.” It says all wives should honor their husbands whether great and small, and it does not matter how small you feel your husband is, you must honor him. Even if you are older than him in age or you think he is not responsible, you must

honor him. You can even feel you are greater than him in position and talk or even richer than him, you must honor him.

A Call to Self-Examination

Failure to do this means you have given room for the spirit of Vashti to operate freely in your life. We can see that the spirit of Vashti is different from the one in Sarah and Abigail. This is the call for both men and women to examine themselves well to know if they are still on track and have not been possessed by the spirit of Vashti and are not already getting influenced by the territorial principalities of where they live. Let God be true and let every man be a liar. God never changes at any time.

This is calls for sober reflections.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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Contacts:

+2347067511039

+2349028350180

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Edited & Compiled by

Joanna O. Adewuyi

Sunday Joseph

Media Team

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