

The Book of ESTHER.

From the Creation, 3483.....From the Deluge, 1846....From the foundation of the Temple, 489....From the division of Judah and Israel, 453....From the Captivity of Israel, 200....From the destruction of the Temple, 67.

CHAPTER I.

1 *Ahasuerus maketh royal feasts. 10*
Vashti sent for.

NOW it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, *a* (this is Ahasuerus which reigned from India even unto Ethiopia, *over b* an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

2 *That* in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which *was* in Shushan *c* the palace,

3 In the third year in his reign, he made a feast *d* unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, *being* before him:

4 When he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, *even* an hundred and fourscore days.

5 And when three days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were ¹ present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;

6 *Where were* white, green, and ² blue hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds *e were* of gold and silver, upon a pavement ³ of red, and blue, and white, and black marble.

7 And they gave *them* drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and ⁴ royal wine in abundance, according to the ⁵ state of the king.

8 And the drinking *was* according to the law; none did compel: *f* for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women *in* the royal house which *belonged* to king Ahasuerus.

10 ¶ On the seventh day, when the *g* heart of the king was merry *h* with wine, he commanded Mehu-

B. C. 521.

a Ezr.4.6.
Da.9.1.

b ch.8.9.
Da.6.1.

c Ne.1.1.

d ch.2.18.
Ge.40.20.
Mar.6.21.

¹ found.

² or, violet,
ch.8.15.

e Eze.23.41.
Am.6.4.

³ or, of porphyre, and marble, and alabaster, and stone of *luz* colour.

⁴ wine of the kingdom.

⁵ hand.

f Hab.2.15.

g 2Sa.13.23.

h Ec.10.19.

i ch.7.9.

⁶ or, eunuchs.

⁷ good of countenance,
1Sa.25.3.

⁸ which was by the hand of his eunuchs.

k Je.10.7.

l 1Ch.12.32.

m Ezr.7.14.

n 2Ki.25.19.

⁹ What to do.

¹⁰ be good with.

¹¹ from before him.

man, Biztha, Harbona, *i* Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven ⁶ chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king, with the crown royal, to show the people and the princes her beauty: for she *was* ⁷ fair to look on.

12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment ⁸ by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

13 ¶ Then the king said to the wise *k* men which knew *l* the times, (for so *was* the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

14 And the next unto him *was* Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tars-hish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven *m* princes of Persia and Media, which *n* saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom:)

15 ⁹ What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that *are* in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

17 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.

18 *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.

19 If it ¹⁰ please the king, let there go a royal commandment ¹¹ from