

**INTRODUCTION: LISTEN BEFORE YOU SPEAK** (see Jms.1:19; Lk.24:45; Ezra 7:10)

**I. INSTRUCTION: TRUTH FOR FAITH & LIFE**

**A. POWER ASSERTED (1-9)**

1. *an extensive kingdom* (1,2)
2. *an extensive bureaucracy* (3,4; 5)
3. *an extensive treasury* (4; 6-9)
4. *summary: irresistible force*

**B. POWER ASSAULTED (10-15)**

1. *the finale of display* (9-11; see 4)
2. *the frustration of display* (12)
3. *the foolishness of display* (13-15; see 8)
4. *summary: immovable object*

**A<sup>1</sup>. POWER ASSERTED (16-22)**

1. *alliance lobbied* (16-18, 20; see 3f)
2. *Vashti deposed* (19,21; see 10,14)
3. *self-evident decreed* (22; see 15,8)
4. *summary: irresistible force crushes immovable object* (see 3:1/2/12-15)

**II. PROCLAMATION: LESSONS FOR FAITH**

**A. YOU ARE HELPLESS BEFORE THE POWERFUL HAND OF MAN!** (Est.1:12f; 3:12f; Rom.8:36; see Dan.4:30; Is.10:13f,5f; Mt.2:16; 14:6f; Acts 4:27; Rev.2:10; 20:4)

**B. THE INVISIBLE HAND OF GOD DELIVERS FROM THE POWERFUL HAND OF MAN!**  
(Esther! /Ex.14f; Ps.83,etc.; 2S22:1f=Ps18:1f; 2K19:32f; Dan.3:1f; 6:1f; Mk.8:31(16:2f); Acts2:23f /Rom.8:37)

**C. WE OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US!** (Esther!;  
Rom.8:38f; see Lk.8:50f; 12:4-7,32; Acts 18:9f; 27:24; Heb.13:6; 1Pt.3:14; Rev.1:17; 2:10)

**III. EXHORTATION: LESSONS FOR LIFE**

**A. LISTEN BEFORE YOU SPEAK!** (Est.1; see Jms.1:19; Lk.24:45; see 2Tm.3:14f)

**B. DON'T RESIST OPPRESSION BY THE POWER OF MAN!** (Est.1:10f; see 2:6,8; 19; see Dan.1:1f;  
Mt.5:39f; 1Pt.2:13f,18; yet see Dan.1:8f; 3:16f; 6:5f; Acts 4:19f; 5:29; also see Rom.13:1f)

**C. PRAY EARNESTLY FOR GOD'S DELIVERANCE!** (Est.4:1f,16 (Neh.1:4; Mt.6:5f,16f; Acts 13:3);  
see Ex.14:10f; 2Sam.15:31; Ps.141:1,etc.; 2Kngs.19:20; Jon.2:1f; Heb.5:7)

**D. FAITH, HOPE, LOVE: TRUST GOD BY WAITING FOR HIM IN OBEDIENCE!** (Esther;  
Rom.8:37,25,18f; see 1Cor.13:13; Gal.5:5; Col.1:5; 1Th.1:3;see Rom.5:1-4; 1Tm.4:10-12; Heb.6:10-12; 10:22-24)