

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 22, 2025

"Biblical Personalities: Vashti"

QUEEN VASHTI

Sunday Read Esther 1:1-10

"Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to King Ahasuerus." Queen Vashti was the wife of the King of Persia during the days of the Persian Empire in world history. In the third year of the reign of King Ahasuerus, he called for a feast of celebration. All the servants in the regal palace were invited to the feast. As part of the celebration, King Ahasuerus ordered his wife to stand before the celebrants to show off her beauty. Queen Vashti refused to comply with the king's request. As a result, the King in response to his advisers, called all the beautiful women in the empire to appear before the King. Among them was Esther, one of the Jewish people who were being held captive by the king. God used the occasion to bring a Jewish woman, Esther, into prominence. The King ended up wanting to marry Esther, and she became the queen. God used this royal decision to protect His chosen people because of the influence of Queen Esther.

GOVERNMENT DECREE

Monday Read Hebrews 13:17-21

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." It is God's plan to have human leaders to rule over the people in order to have stability in towns, cities, and nations. Without the authority or government leaders, there would be utter confusion. Conformity to the laws and decisions made by the ruling authorities is one way for believers to be witnesses. Now when civil authorities issue rulings that violate God's Word, Christians are compelled to follow God as their highest priority. God is honored by our complete devotion to Him! As a matter fact, God used the non-conforming Puritans in England to come to the Western Hemisphere and establish a new country that would become the United States of America. God truly is sovereign over the nations of the world!

PERSONAL LOYALTY

Tuesday Read Romans 13:1-4

"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." This is an important Biblical command for Christian Americans. It is primary in being a witness for our Lord. In today's Bible reading, God instructs His people to be model citizens. This is an important way for Christians to be a testimony for the glory of God! That should start with Christian children as students in their schools. Their model behavior is a

testimony of their faith in Jesus, our savior. It is being the "light" in their world as Jesus commanded.

PERSONAL CONVICTIONS

Wednesday Read Romans 14:5-10

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." In today's Bible reading, God is basically telling His children that there will be differences in personal convictions. That is to be expected. If the Bible does not give specific instruction concerning a given practice, individuals must determine what they think is appropriate for their own lives and families. That does not mean one Christian is better than another; it simply means Christians have different personal convictions. That is fine as long as the practices of others are not in violation of clear Biblical teaching. To be tolerant of others who have different persuasions provides unity and harmony. That should be our priority. The Bible tells us this in Psalm 133:1: *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

CORPORATE JUDGMENT

Thursday Read I Peter 4:17-19

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:.. And if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God." Christians are expected to be part of a local church family as indicated in I Corinthians 12:18: *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."* Those believers are expected to work in harmony as led by the Holy Spirit. Yes, there will be differences, but that can be a strength if the people strive to work together. That unity comes by seeking the will of God by yielding to the Holy Spirit. By all sharing their personal persuasions, the group can decide on a course of action for the group. God is honored by the agreement of His people!

PROHIBITIVE JUDGEMENT

Friday Read Matthew 7:1-5

"Judge not, that ye be not judged." It is not a Christian's responsibility to judge others! That is God's job. Judging others is an indication that some are lesser than those making judgments: that is not true. Differences can actually be a strength if believers are committed to working together! Having different ideas and opinions widens the groups' possibilities. As long as the ideas and opinions are consistent with Biblical truth, people can agree to disagree. God has given us friends so we work together to implement His plans. The main thing is for each

believer to seek God's will for his or her life. Our responsibility is to pray for others, not judge them!

SELF-EXAMINATION

SaturdayRead I Corinthians 11:31-32

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." We do ourselves a favor if we periodically examine ourselves. In so doing, we should use the Bible as a parameter. That brings God's light into our decision-making. God's ways are perfect and the Holy Spirit's presence in us keeps us on the right path. By reading God's Word, we have the opportunity to make the right choices in our decisions. The Lord said John 16:13 that the Holy Spirit will be sure of that: *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."*

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