

# Esther 1:19

Authorized King James Version (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.

## Analysis

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The proposed decree: **'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'**. Memucan proposes permanent, irrevocable decree banishing Vashti and replacing her with another queen. The phrase 'that it be not altered' reflects Persian law's immutability (Daniel 6:8, 12)—once written into law, even the king couldn't reverse it. The statement that replacement would be 'better than she' added insult to punishment. This harsh, permanent sentence for refusing degrading command demonstrates the injustice, yet God's providence uses it to position Esther.

## Historical Context

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Persian legal immutability created both stability and inflexibility. Once laws were officially decreed and sealed, not even the king could change them—creating problems when circumstances changed (as Esther 8 demonstrates when Haman's decree couldn't be revoked). Memucan's proposal made Vashti's banishment permanent and created legal mandate for finding new queen. The phrase 'better

than she' might mean more beautiful or more obedient—either way, it justified replacement and intensified humiliation. This unjust sentence against Vashti for maintaining dignity became the providential mechanism bringing Esther to the throne.

## **Related Passages**

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does law's immutability create both order and injustice, and what does this teach about legalistic systems?
2. What does God's use of Vashti's unjust punishment to position Esther teach about His comprehensive sovereignty?

## Interlinear Text

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אִם	עַל	הִמָּלֵךְ	ט וּב	יֵצֵא	דָּבָר	וּמַלְכוּתָהּ
H518	H5921	and let the king	If it please	let there go	commandment	a royal
		H4428	H2895	H3318	H1697	H4438
לְפָנָי	וְיִכָּתֵב	בְּדֵת י	פָּרְס	וּמֵדֵי י		
from him	and let it be written	among the laws	of the Persians	and the Medes		
H6440	H3789	H1881	H6539	H4074		
וְלֹא	יִעָבֹר	אֶשֶׁר	תָּבֹא	וְשֵׁתִי י	לְפָנָי	
H3808	that it be not altered	H834	H3808	come	That Vashti	from him
	H5674			H935	H2060	H6440
הִמָּלֵךְ	אֲחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ	וּמַלְכוּתָהּ	יָתֵן	הִמָּלֵךְ	לְרֵעוֹתֶיהָ	
and let the king	Ahasuerus	a royal	give	and let the king	unto another	
H4428	H325	H4438	H5414	H4428	H7468	
הַטּוֹבָה	מִמֶּנָּה:					
that is better	H4480					
H2896						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Esther 8:8** (Kingdom): Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

**1 Samuel 15:28** (Kingdom): And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

**Esther 8:5** (Kingdom): And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:

**1 Kings 3:28** (Kingdom): And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

**Daniel 6:17** (Kingdom): And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

**Esther 3:9** (Kingdom): If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

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