

# . God's Competitor Humbled

## Esther 1

Intro:

### ***I. Darius' Urge to Play God in (vv. 1-11)***

- A. Monopoly of Power ("Ahasuerus"; expansionism. v. 1)
- B. Politicking for control (v. 4-7)
- C. Pride (v. 4,12)
- D. Generosity to officials out of the taxes (vv. 4-7)
- E. Generosity to citizens out of the taxes (v. 5)
- F. Wasteful luxury (vv. 6-7)
- G. Treats wife like property (v. 11)
- H. Ultimate centralization of government in one individual (vv. 3,4,16)
- I. Saving face more important than justice (vv. 17-18)
- J. Multiplying laws for every new perceived danger (v. 19-20)
- K. Treating man's laws as equal to God's (v. 19)
- L. Intruding even into the privacy of the home (vv. 20,22)

### ***II. Darius' lessons that he was not God (vv.***

- A. Shown by the Queen's Refusal (v. 12) (While he commands others to master their households, he cannot master his own wife)
- B. Shown by his need for help (vv. 13-15)
- C. Shown by his anger (v. 12b)
- D. Shown by the counselor's manipulations (vv. 16-19)
- E. Shown by his being ensnared by his own decisions (vv. 19-20) Bureaucracy tends to flounder in its own web of rules. (see his regret in 2:1-2)
- F. Shown by his focus on outward behavior (vv. 18,22)

### ***III. Applications***