

The Book of Esther



No God = Know God

The Book of Esther

Characters



Xerxes

Vashti

Haman

Mordecai

Esther

The Book of Esther

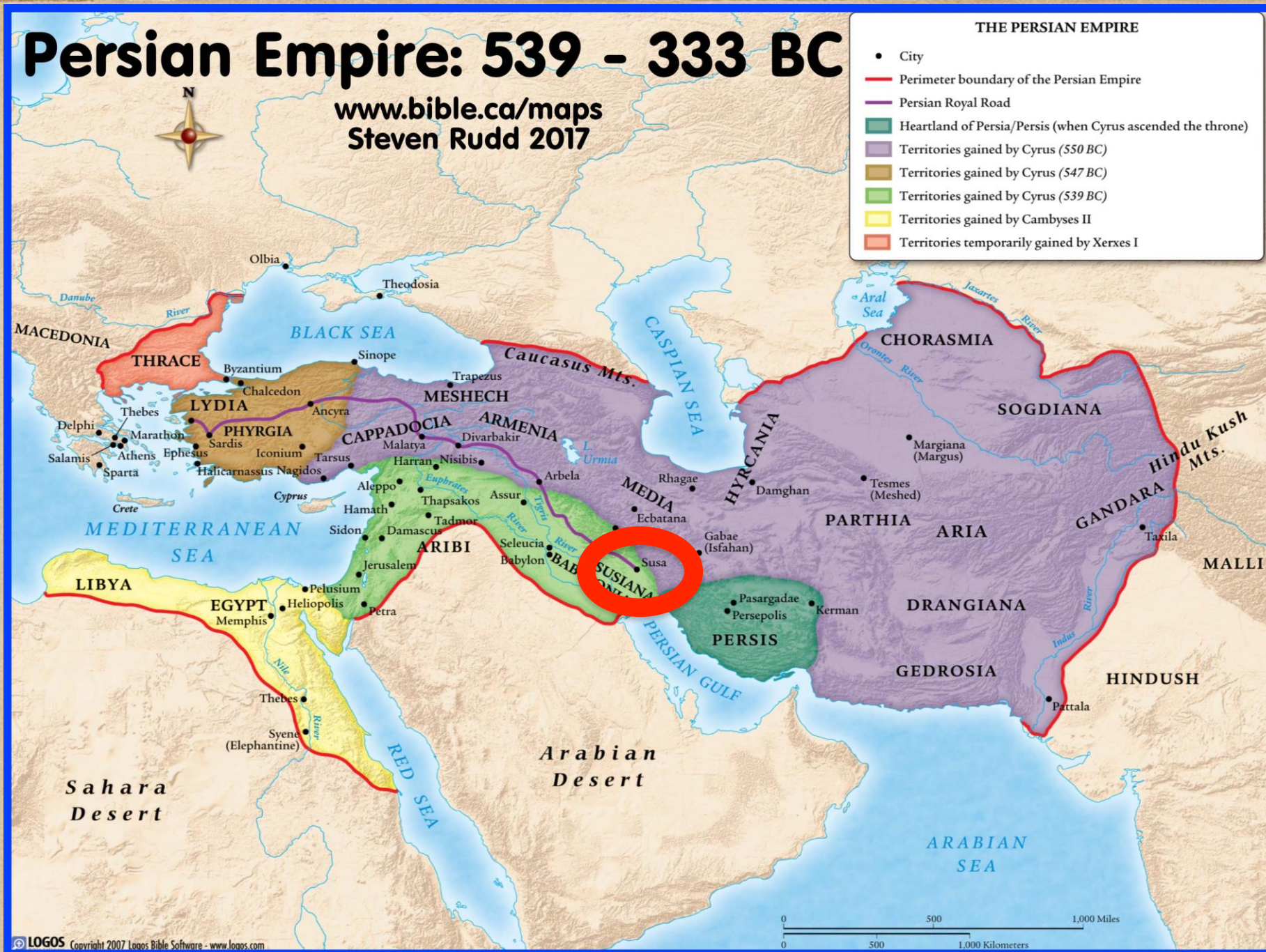


Highlights of Esther

- Book of Feasting
- one of two books named after a female
- 10 years is covered in the book of Esther
- Esther isn't mentioned in N.T.
- Esther is mentioned 55 other times in the Bible
- Name of God isn't mentioned

Persian Empire: 539 - 333 BC

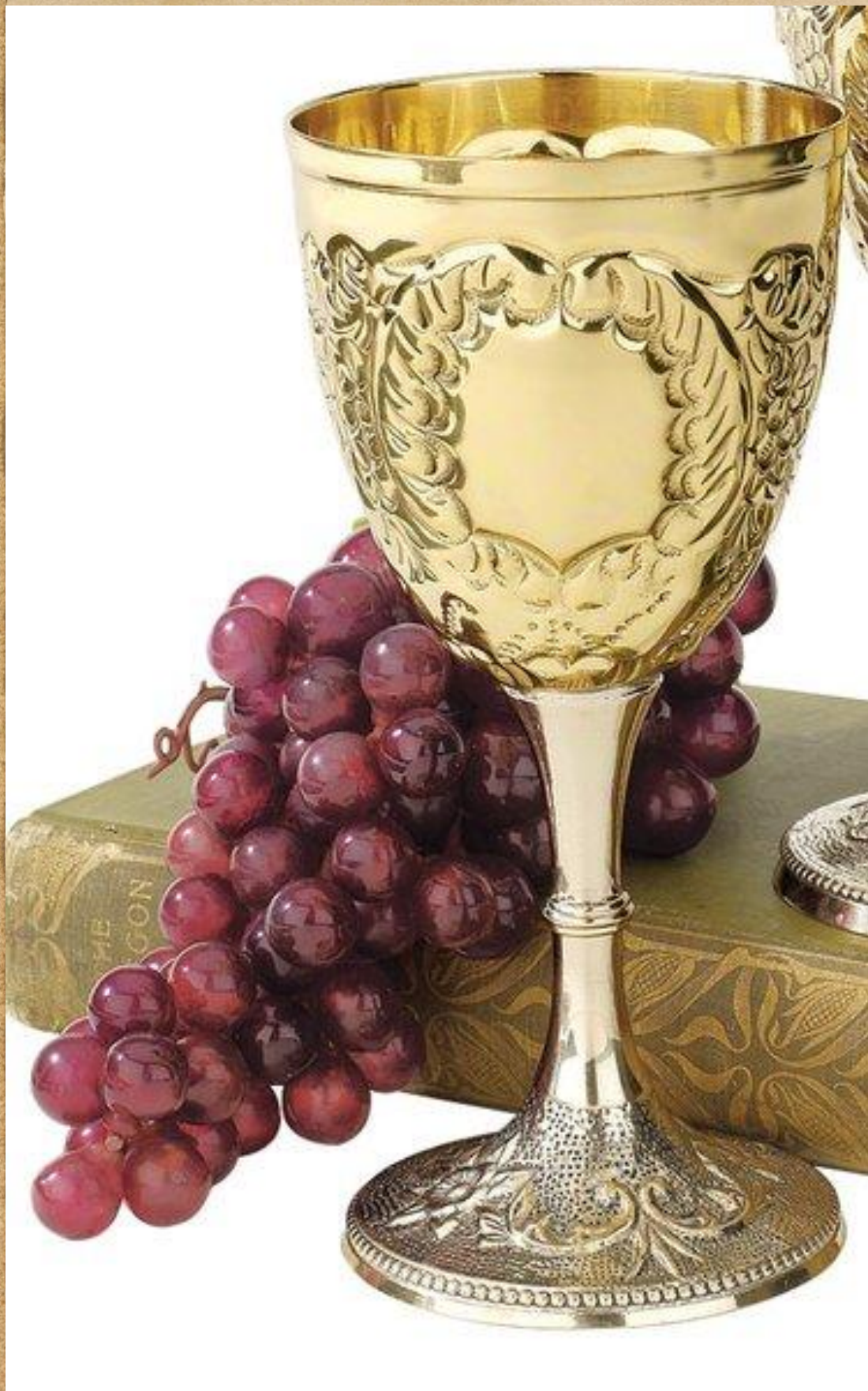
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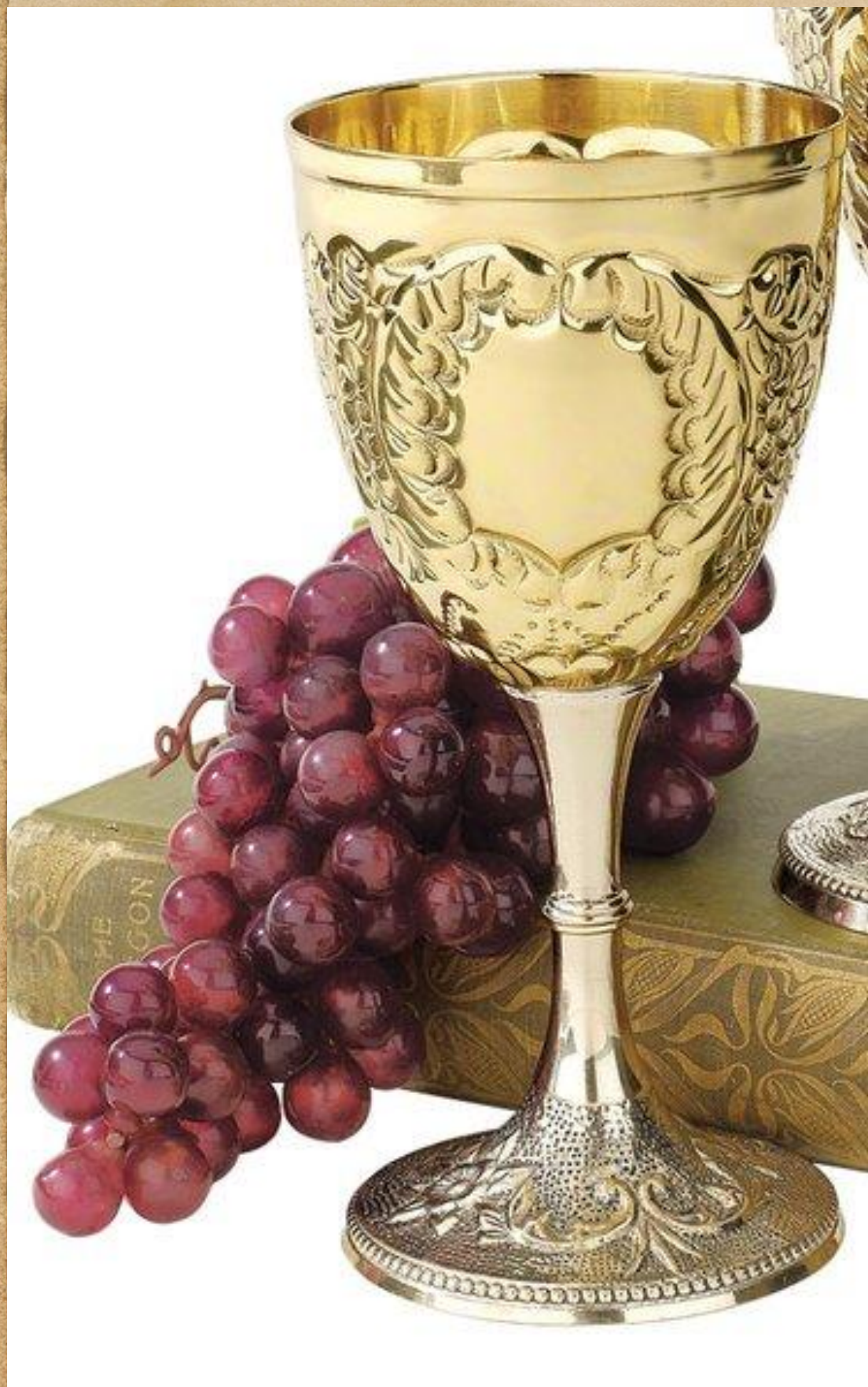


This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush: At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present. Esther 1:1-3

Banquets

7Wine was served in goblets of gold, each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king's liberality. **8**By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink with no restrictions, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished. **9**Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.





Banquets

10 On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas— **11** to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. **12** But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

Queen Esther



1 Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. **2** Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king."

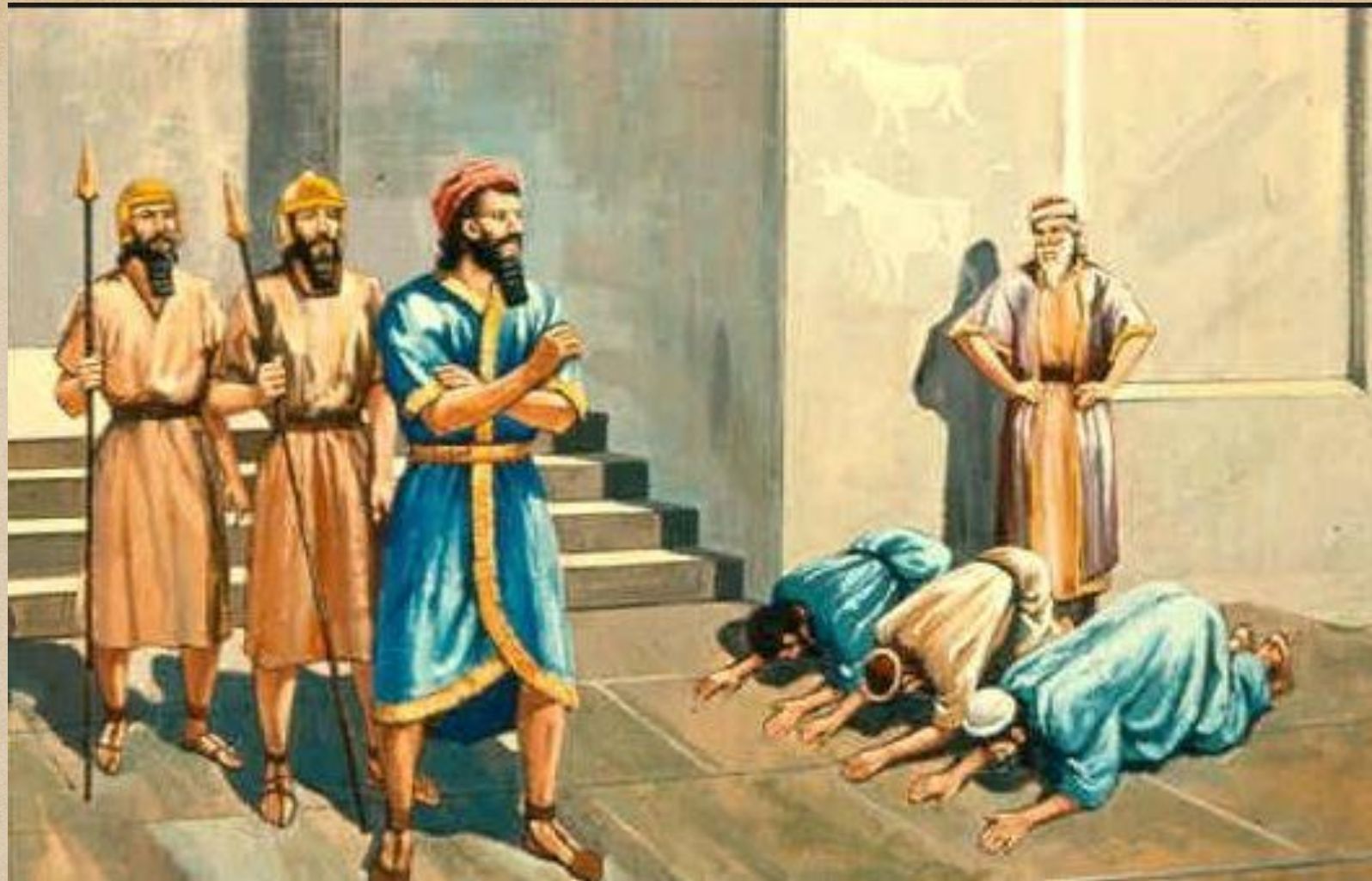
7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

Assassination Plot

20 But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai's instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.

21 During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. **22** But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.





Attack against the Jews

1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. **2** All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

5 Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. **6** So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. **7** Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. **8** He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. **9** Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. **10** Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, **11** "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law:

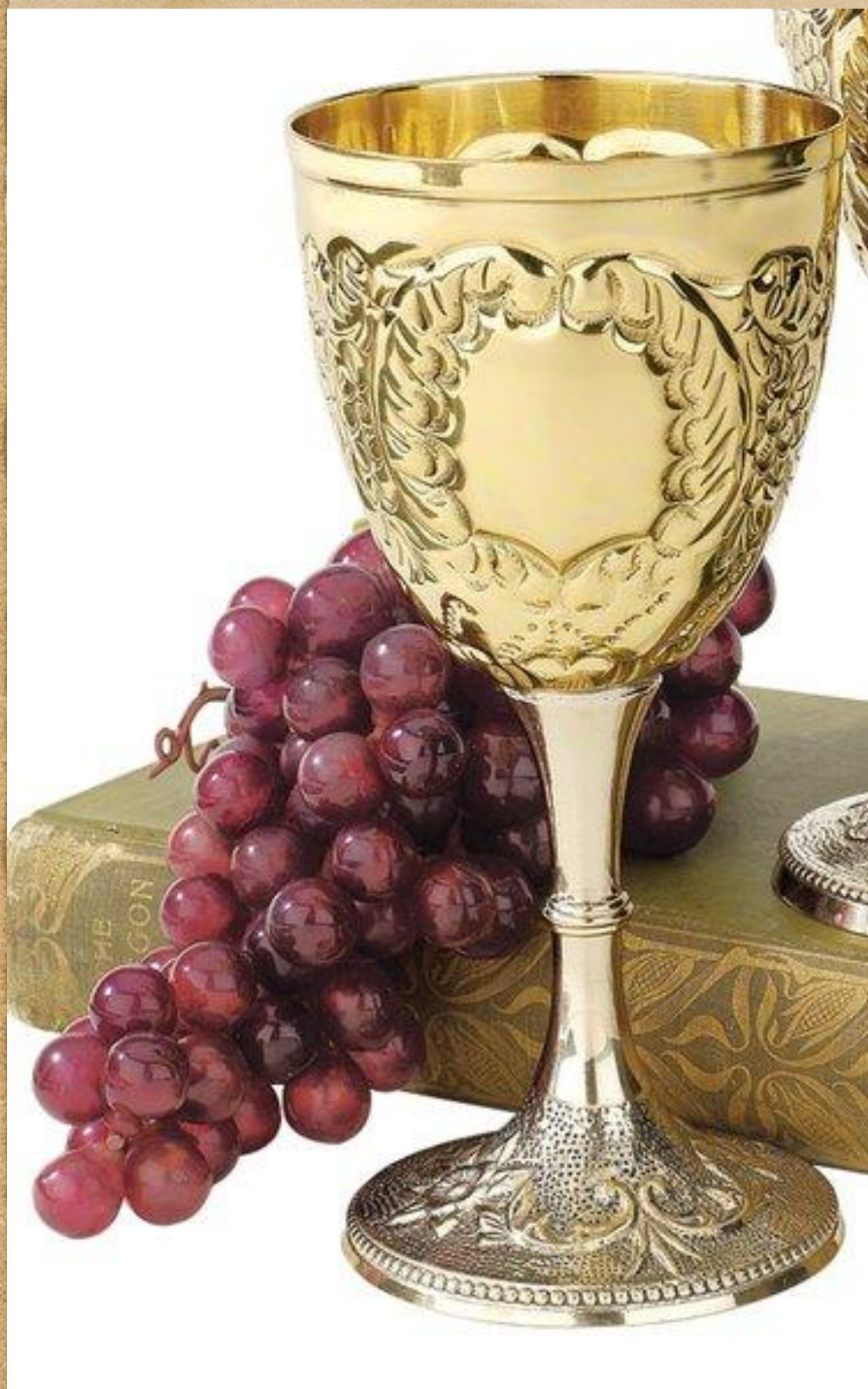
that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.” **12**When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, **13**he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. **14**For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” **15**Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: **16**“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” **17**So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.

Counter Attack

2 When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.



4 “If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”

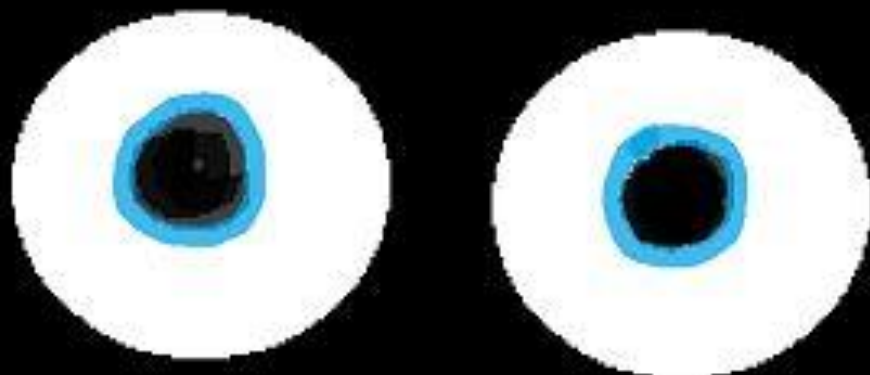


First Banquet

9 Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

14 His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself."

Sleepless King

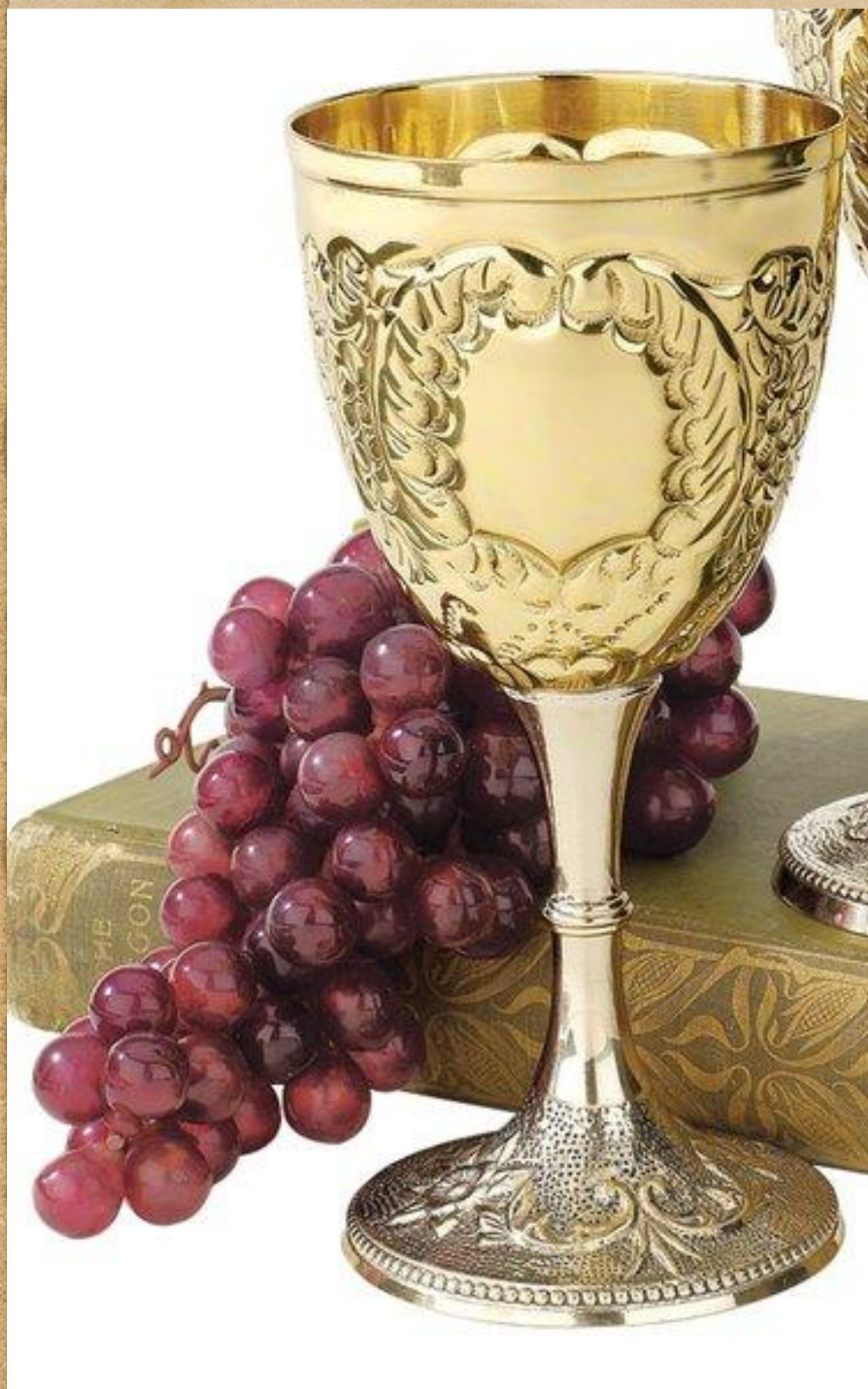


1That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. **2**It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. **3**"What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered. **4**The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him.

Humiliation

10 “Go at once,” the king commanded Haman. “Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king’s gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended.”





Second Banquet

What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”

3Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.”

5King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?”

6Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!”



Tables Turned

8Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?” As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. **9**Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman’s house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Impale him on it!” **10**So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.

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Evidence of God

Vashti's Disobedience

Esther as Queen

Mordecai hearing the plot

King not rewarding him

King accepts Esther

King can't sleep

Haman in the courtyard

God's people spared

Are your eyes open to God
working in your life?

