



# ESTHER



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Esther 1:1-18



## Esther 1

1 This is what happened during the time of Xerxes,[a] the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush[b]:

2 At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, 3 and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials.

4 For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty.

5 When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, for all the people from the least to the greatest who were in the citadel of Susa.

9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

10 On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded 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.

13 Since it was customary for the king to consult experts in matters of law and justice, he spoke with the wise men who understood the times

15 According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti? he asked.

16 Then Memukan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles,


17 For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.

18 There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom proclaiming that every man should be ruler over his own household.

19 Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else.

20 Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest.



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Holding something like that together required more than authority - it required belief. And for Xerxes, that belief had to be constantly reinforced. Power had to be seen to be believed. Because if people began to question his strength, his control would begin to weaken.



The king, who appears to control an entire empire, cannot control this one moment in his own household. What is revealed is not strength, but insecurity; not stability, but fear; not wisdom, but reaction.

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When what we trust is threatened, we  
move quickly to defend it.





When trust is placed in what only  
looks strong, the result is never  
stability - it's damage.

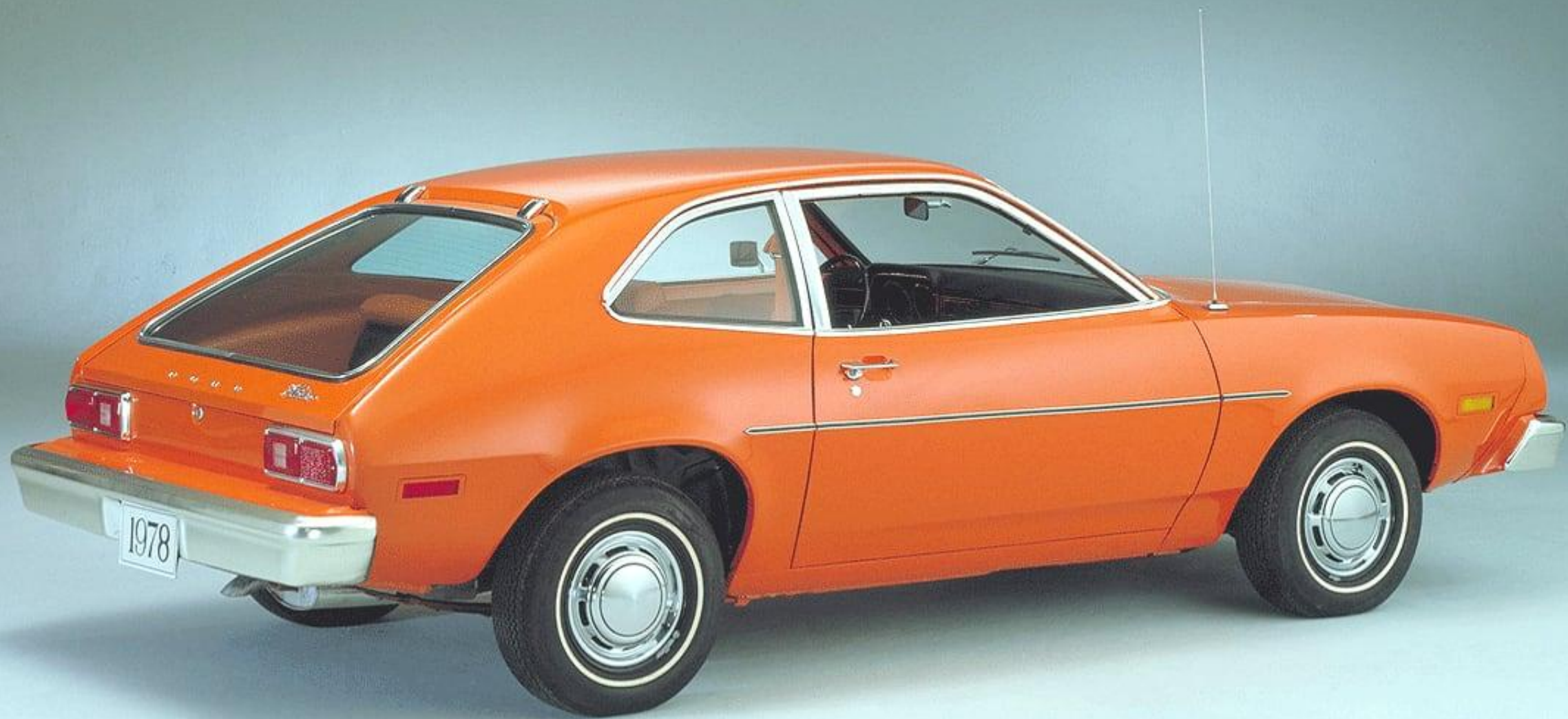


Misplaced trust is not just fragile - it  
is dangerous.



Broken power does not stay  
contained - it spreads.







That is the danger of broken power - it multiplies itself. It moves from the top down, shaping environments, influencing relationships, and affecting people who had no say in how it began.





Where is God in this?



Esther is teaching us  
something essential:  
God may feel distant, but He is  
not disengaged.







The narrative of Esther does not simplify human behavior or present clear-cut moral categories. Instead, it portrays a world where decisions are often mixed, imperfect, and at times even questionable, yet God's purposes continue to move forward within that complexity.



# SERMON RESOURCES

