

A Better King: Xerxes vs. Jesus

King Xerxes	King Jesus
Reigned from India to Ethiopia (1:1), basically the whole known world	Reigns over all the earth (Zech 14:9; Ps 11:4) and created all earthly authorities (Col 1:16)
Never leaves his royal throne (1:2)	Left glory of heaven to become a man (Phil 2:6-7)
Nickname: “king of kings”	The King of kings (Rev 19:6)
Fashioned himself a god	Was God (Col 1:15-19)
Threw a party to show how great & important he was (1:3-4)	Instituted a meal to remind us of his sacrifice (1 Cor 11:23-26)
Extravagantly wealthy (1:4-7)	All things belong to him (Ps 50:10) and his wealth is immeasurable (Eph 2:7)
Wanted people to show off the “riches of his royal glory” (1:4)	Pours out his immeasurable riches in grace and kindness to us (Eph 2:7)
Punished all who disobey him, or even appear to do so (1:15; 3:8; 7:7-10)	Loves us even when we are dead in sin (Eph 2:4-5)
Wanted to parade his bride, Vashti, naked for all to lust after (1:10-11)	Clothes his bride in fine linen, bright and pure (Rev 19:8) and presents her pure and blameless (Eph 5:25-27)
Banishes his bride, Vashti, from his presence forever (1:19)	Will spent eternity with his bride, the church (Rev 21:2-3)
Surrounded himself with a private guard to protect him called the “10,000 immortals”	Was led as a sheep to the slaughter (Acts 8:32)
Killed those who entered his presence uninvited (4:11)	Died that we might come boldly into the presence of the Father (Heb 4:16)
Makes laws that can’t be repealed (1:19)	Came under the law (Gal 4:4) to fulfill the law (Matt 5:17)
Declared “male headship” through men domineering their wives (1:20-22)	Demonstrated “headship” by giving his life for the church, and calling husbands to do so for their wives (Eph 5:25)
Can’t make decision on his own, so surrounds himself with “advisors”	In eternal counsel of Trinity, ordained all things that come to pass (WSC 7)
Wanted his royal edicts to go to all people in their own language to rule over them (1:22; 3:12)	Wanted the gospel of deliverance and grace to go to people in their own language (Rev 7:9-10; cf Esther 8:9)
Honored those who saved his life (6:1-3)	Honored by the Father for giving his life to save others (Phil 2:8-11)
Sat on a throne in Susa (1:2)	Sits on a throne in heaven (Isa 6:1; Ps 11:4; Heb 12:3; Rev 3:21)
Reigned for 20 years and then died	He lives and reigns forever (Dan 4:34-35)