

Esther 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)

Analysis

The seven princes: **'And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom'.** These seven princes formed Persia's highest advisory council with special access to the king ('saw the king's face'). The number seven reflects Persian administrative structure documented in ancient sources. These counselors' advice would determine Vashti's fate and inadvertently create opportunity for Esther's rise. Their counsel, though motivated by maintaining male dominance, became instrument of divine providence positioning Esther to save the Jews.

Historical Context

Herodotus mentions seven Persian noble families who participated in overthrowing a usurper and elevating Darius I. These families maintained special privileges including unrestricted access to the king. Ancient Persian inscriptions confirm administrative councils, though specific number varies. The seven princes' counsel carried enormous weight—their recommendations typically became royal policy. That these powerful nobles concerned themselves with what might seem domestic squabble shows they recognized broader political implications of queen's public

disobedience to king's command—if unpunished, it might encourage broader disobedience to royal authority.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the involvement of highest officials in seemingly personal matters teach about how private and public spheres intersect?
2. How does this demonstrate God's sovereignty over highest human powers and counselors?

Interlinear Text

וְהָקָרָב	אֵלָיו	כְּרִשְׁנָא	שֶׁתָּר	אַדְמָתָא	תַּרְשִׁישׁ
And the next	H413	unto him was Carshena	Shethar	Admatha	Tarshish
H7138		H3771	H8369	H133	H8659
וּמֵדִי	יָמֵי	שֶׁבַע	יְהוֹנָדָן	מְרוֹסָנָא	מֵרֵס
and Media	of Persia	princes	the seven	and Memucan	Marsena
H4074	H6539	H8269	H7651	H4462	H4826
וּמֵרֵס	וּמֵדִי	וּמֵרֵס	וּמֵרֵס	וּמֵרֵס	וּמֵרֵס
which saw	face	the king's	and which sat	the first	in the kingdom
H7200	H6440	H4428	H3427	H7223	H4438

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 25:19 (Kingdom): And out of the city he took an officer that was set over the men of war, and five men of them that were in the king's presence, which were

found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, which mustered the people of the land, and threescore men of the people of the land that were found in the city:

Ezra 7:14 (Kingdom): Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;

Matthew 18:10 (Parallel theme): Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

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