

# Esther 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

## Analysis

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Predicted consequences: '**Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath**'. The counselors predict noble women throughout the empire will cite Vashti's example in resisting their husbands, creating 'contempt and wrath'—wives despising husbands, husbands angry at wives' defiance. This forecast of domestic chaos throughout the empire provided compelling argument for severe action against Vashti. The counselors' reasoning, though exaggerated and misogynistic, became mechanism for her removal and Esther's elevation.

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'this day' emphasizes immediacy—the deed is already known and its effects beginning. Ancient Mediterranean culture was honor-shame based, making public respect crucial to male authority. The counselors' concern wasn't merely about domestic convenience but about fundamental social order as they understood it. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Near Eastern societies maintained strict gender hierarchies through law, custom, and force. The counselors' argument that Vashti's example threatened this entire system reveals both how fragile coercive authority is and how God uses even unjust social structures to accomplish His purposes.

## Related Passages

## **John 3:16 — God's love and salvation**

## **Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith**

## Study Questions

1. What does the counselors' fear reveal about authorities that depend on coercion rather than genuine leadership?
  2. How does God's use of this unjust reasoning demonstrate His sovereignty even over human prejudice and patriarchal excess?

## Interlinear Text

וְיֹום this day	H3117	הַיּוֹם H2088	רְגָנָה say	H559	תָּאִם Likewise	שְׁרָות shall the ladies	H8282	פְּרָס of Persia	H6539	וּמָדִיך and Media	H4074
אֲשֶׁר H834		שָׁמְעוּ which have heard	H8085	אַתָּה H853	דָּבָר of the deed	הַמֶּלֶךְ of the queen	H1697	לְכָל H4436	שָׁרֵר princes	H3605	H8269

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי עַמּוֹת בְּנֵי לְהִתְּמַמֵּן  
unto all the king's Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath

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