

# 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

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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וְהַיּוֹם	תֹּאמַרְנָהּ הַיּוֹם	שֶׁרֹא	פָּרַס	וּמִדֵּי		
this day	say	Likewise shall the ladies	of Persia	and Media		
H3117	H2088 H559	H8282	H6539	H4074		
אֲשֶׁר	שָׁמְעוּ	אֶת	דְּבַר	הַמַּלְכָּה	לְכָל	שָׂרֵי
which have heard	of the deed	of the queen	princes			
H834	H8085	H853	H1697	H4436	H3605	H8269
הֵם לָךְ	וְכִי	בְּיָדוֹן	וְקִצְפִּי:			
unto all the king's	Thus shall there arise too much	contempt	and wrath			
H4428	H1767	H963	H7110			