

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

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

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

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