

Esther 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.

Analysis

And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea. The book's final chapter begins not with Mordecai or Esther but with Ahasuerus's taxation. This seemingly mundane administrative detail serves multiple purposes: it demonstrates the king's continuing sovereignty and the empire's stability after the crisis; it shows life returning to normal administrative functions; and it provides context for Mordecai's role in this administration. The "tribute upon the land and upon the isles of the sea" indicates comprehensive taxation throughout the empire's vast extent. This detail suggests prosperity—the empire could bear taxation and the king could effectively collect it. The return to normal governance demonstrates that the Jewish crisis and its resolution didn't destabilize the empire.

Historical Context

Persian Empire taxation is well-documented in both biblical texts (Ezra 4:13; Nehemiah 5:4) and extra-biblical sources. Herodotus and Persian administrative documents describe elaborate tax systems funding imperial administration, military, and construction. The phrase "isles of the sea" likely references coastal and island regions under Persian control, possibly including Greek islands and territories. Taxation demonstrated both royal authority and imperial administration's effective reach. That this detail appears in Esther's conclusion emphasizes the Persian context—Mordecai's influence operated within this

imperial framework, using his position to benefit Jews while serving Persian administration.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the return to normal administrative functions demonstrate God's providence preserving both His people and the empire through the crisis?
2. What does this teach about how believers can faithfully serve within imperfect secular systems while maintaining covenant loyalty?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשֶׂם	הֶמָּה לֶךְ	אֲחַשְׁוֶרֶשׁ וְשׁוֹ	מִ ס	עַל	הָאָרֶץ
laid	And the king	Ahasuerus	a tribute	H5921	upon the land
H7760	H4428	H325	H4522		H776

וְעַל	הַיָּם:
and upon the isles	of the sea
H339	H3220

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 24:15 (Parallel theme): Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea.

Psalms 72:10 (Kingdom): The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.