

Esther 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

Analysis

And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? The verse references official Persian chronicles documenting both the king's mighty acts and Mordecai's greatness. This formula parallels how Kings and Chronicles reference royal annals (1 Kings 14:19, 29; 2 Chronicles 25:26). The placement of "Mordecai's greatness" alongside the king's acts indicates Mordecai's enormous significance—second only to the king (10:3). The rhetorical question "are they not written?" asserts this information's historical reliability and accessibility. Later readers could consult Persian records confirming the account. This appeal to external sources strengthens Esther's historical credibility.

Historical Context

Persian royal chronicles are mentioned throughout biblical texts dealing with the Persian period (Ezra 4:15; Esther 2:23; 6:1). These official annals documented significant events, royal deeds, and notable servants' contributions. That Mordecai's achievements were recorded in imperial chronicles demonstrates his genuine historical significance—not merely Jewish legendary embellishment but Persian administrative recognition. Some scholars note that while Xerxes/

Ahasuerus is well-attested historically, Mordecai and Esther aren't mentioned in surviving Persian sources (though most such records are fragmentary). The reference to chronicles serves narrative purposes even if those specific records haven't survived.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the appeal to external historical records demonstrate the author's confidence in the account's historical reliability?
2. What does Mordecai's inclusion in imperial chronicles teach about how God's servants can achieve genuine historical significance while serving His purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל	מַעֲשֵׂה הַ	תְּקוּפֹה	וְגִבּוֹרֹת וְ	וּפְרָשֵׁת		
H3605	And all the acts	of his power	and of his might	and the declaration		
	H4639	H8633	H1369	H6575		
גְּדֻלַּת	מֶרְדֵּכַי	אֲשֶׁר	גָּדַל וְ	לְמַלְכֵי	הַלְוָא	הֵם
of the greatness	of Mordecai	H834	advanced	of the kings	H3808	H1992
H1420	H4782		H1431	H4428		
כְּתוּבֵי יֵם	עַל	סֵפֶר	דְּבָרֵי	הַמֵּי יֵם	לְמַלְכֵי	
him are they not written	H5921	in the book	of the chronicles	H3117	of the kings	
H3789		H5612	H1697		H4428	
מִדֵּי	וּפָרְסָא					
of Media	and Persia					
H4074	H6539					

Additional Cross-References

Esther 8:15 (Kingdom): And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

Esther 9:4 (Kingdom): For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

Esther 2:23 (Kingdom): And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

Esther 6:1 (Kingdom): On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.