

Esther 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

Analysis

Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, After receiving Mordecai's message with copy of the decree and charge to intercede (v. 7-14), Esther sends her response. The verse introduces her reply, which will reveal her decision: will she risk approaching the king or remain silent? The tension builds as the narrative pauses before her answer. This structural technique emphasizes the weightiness of her decision—everything depends on her response to Mordecai's challenge. Will she embrace her providential position "for such a time as this" (v. 14), or choose personal safety over covenant loyalty? Her answer will determine not just her fate but potentially her entire people's survival.

Historical Context

The messenger system between Esther and Mordecai involved Hatach, Esther's eunuch attendant (v. 5, 9-10). Royal protocols governing communication between the queen and the outside world meant direct contact was impossible—all messages went through intermediaries. This created delays and required trust in messengers' discretion. The back-and-forth communication (v. 4, 5-9, 10-12, 13-14, 15-17) shows both the urgency of the crisis and the obstacles to resolution. Esther's deliberation before responding demonstrates the gravity of her decision—approaching the king unbidden risked death (v. 11).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the narrative structure building tension before Esther's response emphasize the significance of her decision?
2. What does the deliberation process teach about wisdom in making high-stakes decisions with life-or-death consequences?

Interlinear Text

וַתֹּאמֶר	אָסִיתִי	לָהֶם	יָבֹאוּ	אֵלַי
bade	Then Esther	them return	H413	Mordecai
H559	H635	H7725		H4782