

Esther 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Analysis

So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him. The chapter concludes with Mordecai's obedience to Esther's instructions. The role reversal is significant: previously Esther obeyed Mordecai (2:10, 20); now he obeys her. This demonstrates her maturation into independent agency and leadership. Mordecai organized the corporate fast among Shushan's Jews, mobilizing the community for prayer and preparing for Esther's risky intercession. His obedience shows humility—despite being older, male, and Esther's guardian, he submits to her leadership in this crisis. The verse also demonstrates covenant community cooperation: different members contribute according to their positions and abilities. Mordecai couldn't approach the king, but he could mobilize prayer. Esther had palace access but needed community intercession. Together, they addressed the crisis through coordinated, complementary action.

Historical Context

Mordecai's ability to "gather together all the Jews" in Shushan (v. 16) indicates the Jewish community had organizational structure and communication networks. Diaspora communities typically maintained synagogues or meeting places for religious observance and community business. Mordecai's position as a respected community leader enabled him to summon the community for corporate fasting. The three-day timeline created urgency—everyone needed to begin fasting immediately to complete the three days before Esther approached the king.

Historical evidence shows diaspora Jewish communities maintained cohesion through regular gatherings, shared observances, and mutual aid, enabling rapid mobilization in crises.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the role reversal (Mordecai now obeying Esther) demonstrate appropriate flexibility in leadership based on position and situation?
2. What does this chapter teach about covenant community cooperation with different members contributing according to their unique positions and abilities?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּעַב ר	מֶרְדֳּכָי י	וַיַּעַשׂ	כָּל ל	אֲשֶׁר	צִוְּתָהּ	עַל יו
went his way	So Mordecai	and did	H3605	H834	had commanded	H5921
H5674	H4782	H6213			H6680	

אֶסְתֵּר:

according to all that Esther

H635