

Esther 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.

Analysis

So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. Hatach obeyed Esther's command, finding Mordecai in the street before the king's gate—the closest Mordecai could approach while wearing sackcloth (v. 2). This verse demonstrates providence working through faithful servants at multiple levels: Esther seeking information, Hatach serving as reliable messenger, Mordecai maintaining his vigil. The location—"before the king's gate"—symbolizes Mordecai's position: near power but temporarily excluded by crisis, yet positioned to communicate with those inside. God's providence operates through ordinary faithful service by people like Hatach whose names might otherwise be forgotten.

Historical Context

Hatach's role as trusted intermediary proved crucial for the entire deliverance narrative. Without reliable, discreet messengers, Esther and Mordecai couldn't have coordinated their response. Eunuch servants in Persian courts held positions of trust precisely because their dependent status and lack of family ambitions made them reliable. The street before the king's gate would have been public space where Mordecai's mourning was visible, serving both to express genuine grief and to send a signal that something was gravely wrong. Archaeological evidence shows ancient palace complexes had public areas outside gates where officials and citizens could gather.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Hatach's faithful service demonstrate that God's providence works through ordinary, faithful people serving in their assigned roles?
2. What does this teach about the importance of reliable, trustworthy intermediaries in accomplishing complex purposes?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּצֵא א	הָתָּה הַ	אֶל	מֶרְדֳּכָי	אֶל	רֶחַב וְ	הָעִיר
went forth	So Hatach	H413	to Mordecai	H413	unto the street	of the city
H3318	H2047		H4782		H7339	H5892
אֲשֶׁר	לִפְנֵי	שַׁעַר	הַמֶּלֶךְ:			
H834	which was before	gate	the king's			
	H6440	H8179	H4428			

Additional Cross-References

Esther 4:3 (Kingdom): And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Esther 7:2 (Kingdom): And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.