

Esther 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

Analysis

Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

Mordecai sent Hatach back with a copy of Haman's decree, written evidence of the genocide plot. He instructed Hatach to show Esther the decree, explain it fully, and charge her to intercede with the king for "her people"—identifying Esther with the Jewish community despite her position as Persian queen. The threefold instruction (show, declare, charge) emphasizes thoroughness—Esther needed full information and clear direction. Mordecai's charge that she intercede demonstrates his faith that God positioned her strategically "for such a time as this" (v. 14). The written decree provided concrete evidence, transforming abstract threat into undeniable reality requiring response.

Historical Context

Written copies of royal decrees circulated throughout the empire (3:14), making Mordecai's acquisition of one plausible. The decree's written form made the threat undeniable—not rumor or fear but official, legal genocide. Mordecai's instruction

to "charge her" uses strong language suggesting both urgency and authority—despite Esther's royal position, Mordecai exercises guardian's authority in crisis. His identification of Jews as "her people" reminded Esther that queenship didn't exempt her from ethnic identity or communal responsibility. Ancient Near Eastern culture recognized that privilege created obligation to benefit one's community. Mordecai's challenge appealed to this understanding.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the written decree's concrete evidence illustrate the importance of documenting injustice to motivate action?
2. What does Mordecai's charge teach about how privilege creates responsibility to advocate for one's community, not exemption from it?

Interlinear Text

בְּשׁוּשִׁן	נִתְןָ	נִתְתַּן	וְאֶת	פְּתַחַת	כְּתֻבָּה	כְּתֻבָּה	בְּדִתְּהָרָה	בְּדִתְּהָרָה	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	וְאֶת	בְּשׁוּשִׁן	
H853	him the copy	of the writing	H3791	of the decree	H1881	H834	Also he gave	H5414	at Shushan	H7800			
H6572			H3791		H1881	H834		H5414		H7800			
לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	לְפִשְׁמִידָם	אָסֵת רָא	אָסֵת רָא	אָסֵת רָא	אָסֵת רָא	
to destroy	Also he gave	H0	them to shew	H853	it unto Esther	H635							
H8045	H5414	H0	H7200	H853	H635								
וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	וְלֹבֶג יְדָה	לְבָב וְאֶת	לְבָב וְאֶת	לְבָב וְאֶת	לְבָב וְאֶת	
and to declare	H0	it unto her and to charge	H5921	her that she should go in	H935								
H5046	H6680	H0	H5921	H935									
אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	וְלֹבֶג שָׁ	וְלֹבֶג שָׁ	וְלֹבֶג שָׁ	וְלֹבֶג שָׁ	
H413	unto the king	to make supplication	H4428	H2603	H0	unto him and to make request	H1245						
H413	H4428	H2603	H0	H1245									
עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי	עַל מִלְּפָנֵי					
before	H5921	him for her people	H6440	H5971									

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 10:4 (Parallel theme): If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

Job 9:15 (Parallel theme): Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer, but I would make supplication to my judge.

Esther 2:20 (Parallel theme): Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.