

Esther 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

Analysis

Esther's approach to the king 'on the third day' wearing royal robes demonstrates both courage and wisdom. Approaching the king unsummoned risked death (4:11); that she did so after three days of fasting (4:16) indicates she sought divine favor before human. The 'third day' echoes biblical patterns of deliverance (Genesis 22:4, Exodus 19:11, Jonah 1:17, and supremely, Christ's resurrection). Esther's 'royal apparel' (levush malkut) signals she comes as queen, not suppliant—bold faith despite fear. The narrative tension ('if I perish, I perish,' 4:16) resolves when the king extends his golden scepter. This models courageous obedience: committing outcomes to God while faithfully acting. Her wisdom in inviting the king to a banquet (rather than immediate request) shows strategy guided by prudence.

Historical Context

Persian court protocol was rigid and violation could mean death, though the king could extend clemency via the golden scepter. Historical sources confirm Persian kings' absolute power and the danger of approaching unbidden. Esther's Jewish identity was still secret (2:10, 20), adding complexity: revealing her ethnicity to save her people meant personal risk. The timing is critical: Haman's edict to destroy the Jews had been issued (3:12-15), and Mordecai challenged Esther to

recognize her providential position (4:14—'for such a time as this'). Her courageous intercession typifies Christ's advocacy for His people, entering God's presence on our behalf (Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:25).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When called to risky obedience, do I seek God in prayer before acting, trusting outcomes to Him?
2. How does Esther's 'for such a time as this' challenge me to recognize my unique position and calling?

Interlinear Text

אֶסְתֵּר	וַתֵּלֶבֶשׁ	הַשְּׁלִישׁ י	בַּיּוֹם וַיְהִי יוֹם		
that Esther	put on	Now it came to pass on the third	day		
H635	H3847	H7992	H3117	H1961	
הַפְּנִימִי ית	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	הַבַּיִת:	בְּחֹצֵר	וַתֵּעַמַּד ד	הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּלֶךְ
in the inner	and the king	house	court	apparel and stood	her royal
H6442	H4428	H1004	H2691	H5975	H4438
כִּסֵּא	עַל	יּוֹשֵׁב ב	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ
throne	H5921	sat	and the king	and the king	house
H3678		H3427	H4428	H4428	H1004
וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	פֶּתַח	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ
house	the gate	over against	her royal	house	her royal
H1004	H6607	H5227	H4438	H1004	H4438

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:21 (Parallel theme): To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Esther 6:4 (Kingdom): And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

Esther 4:16 (Kingdom): Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

Esther 4:11 (Kingdom): All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

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.