

Esther 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

Analysis

Esther's approach: '**And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre**'. Esther's unbidden approach to the king risked death (Esther 4:11), yet she found favor and the king extended his scepter, granting audience. This demonstrates God's providence governing even pagan king's responses to position Esther for intercession. Her touching the scepter accepted his grace and petition right. This scene foreshadows believers' bold approach to God's throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16), finding mercy when seeking help.

Historical Context

Persian court protocol made unsummoned approach to the king capital offense unless he extended the golden scepter showing mercy and granting audience. This protocol protected kings from assassination while demonstrating absolute power—even queens couldn't approach without risk. Esther's three-day fast (Esther 4:16) prepared spiritually, but outcome depended on king's response. Archaeological evidence from Persepolis shows elaborate court ceremonies and throne room

settings where such protocols governed access. That Ahasuerus extended the scepter immediately shows both his affection for Esther and God's providential governance of his heart. Proverbs 21:1 teaches that 'the king's heart is in the hand of the LORD'—here demonstrated practically.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the king's extension of the scepter illustrate God's sovereignty over human hearts and decisions?
2. What does Esther's risky approach teach about bold faith action when God's purposes require it?

Interlinear Text

הַמֶּלֶכָּה אֶסְתֵּר רַ אֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּכָּא וְתַ וַיְהִי
H1961 saw And it was so when the king H853 Esther the queen
H7200 H4428 H635 H4436

וַיִּשָּׂא וְעֵינָיו בְּעֵינָיו הָיָה בְּחֹצֵי רַ עִמָּה דָּת
standing in the court that she obtained favour in his sight held out
H5975 H2691 H5375 H2580 H5869 H3447

אֶשׁ רַ הַזָּהָב הַשְּׂרָבִיט: אֶת אֶסְתֵּר רַ הַמֶּלֶךְ
And it was so when the king Esther H853 of the sceptre the golden H834
H4428 H635 H8275 H2091

הַשְּׂרָבִיט: בֶּרֶךְ אֶשׁ וַתִּגַּע אֶת אֶסְתֵּר רַ וַתִּקְרַב בַּיָּד ו
that was in his hand drew near Esther and touched the top of the sceptre
H3027 H7126 H635 H5060 H7218 H8275

Additional Cross-References

Esther 8:4 (Kingdom): Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,

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.

Proverbs 21:1 (Kingdom): The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.