

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

הַפְלַקְתָּה אֲסֵת רִאֵהוּ
the queen Esther saw
H4436 H1961 H7200 H4428 H853 H635 H4461

וְעַתָּה שָׁאָה בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה
held out favour in his sight
H3447 H5869 H2580 H5375 H2691 H5975

בְּפִתְחַת רִאֵהוּ אֲסֵת רִאֵהוּ
the golden sceptre of Esther Esther
H834 H2091 H8275 H853 H635 H4428

בְּפִתְחַת רִאֵהוּ אֲסֵת רִאֵהוּ
the sceptre of Esther Esther and touched
H8275 H7218 H5060 H635 H7126 H3027

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.

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