

# Esther 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

## Analysis

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**And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.** During the wine course, the king repeated his generous offer, again promising "half of the kingdom." The second asking (after v. 3) increased pressure for Esther to reveal her request. Yet she continued to delay, extending invitation to a second banquet (v. 7-8). The "banquet of wine" (mishteh ha-yayin, מִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן) indicates the drinking portion following the meal, when conversation flowed freely. The king's repeated question shows genuine curiosity and willingness to grant Esther's desire. Each repetition of the offer builds narrative tension while demonstrating God's providence ensuring the king's favorable disposition when Esther finally reveals her request.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern banquets included extended wine-drinking portions where business, diplomacy, and important conversations occurred. Wine loosened formality and inhibitions, creating atmosphere for frank discussion. The king's repeated questioning shows both his affection for Esther and growing curiosity about her mysterious request. Royal protocols allowed queens to make requests, especially during banquets where relaxed atmosphere and wine created generosity. Esther's continued delay, rather than frustrating the king, seems to

have increased his interest and willingness to please her. This demonstrates shrewd psychological insight—delayed gratification often increases desire.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does the king's repeated offers demonstrate God's providence creating favorable disposition for Esther's eventual request?
2. What does Esther's continued delay despite opportunities teach about strategic timing and psychological preparation?

## Interlinear Text

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מָה	הִי יַיִן	בַּמִּשְׁתֶּה הַ	לְאֶסְתֵּר	הַמֶּלֶךְ לָךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
	of wine	at the banquet	unto Esther	And the king	said
H4100	H3196	H4960	H635	H4428	H559
בִּקְשָׁתְךָ	וְמָה לָּךְ	וַיֵּן תֶּן	שְׂאֵלָתְךָ		
thee and what is thy request			What is thy petition		
H1246	H4100	H0	H7596		
				וְחָצִי	עַד
				even to the half	
				H2677	H5704
			וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְ
			of the kingdom	of the kingdom	of the kingdom
			H4438	H4438	H4438
				וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְ	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְ
				it shall be performed	it shall be performed
				H6213	H6213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Esther 9:12** (Kingdom): And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy

petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done.

**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.

**Esther 5:3** (Kingdom): Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

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