

Esther 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;

Analysis

Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is: Esther began to answer the king's question about her request (v. 6), but this verse only introduces her response—the actual content comes in v. 8. The incomplete sentence creates suspense, holding the revelation for another verse. This narrative technique builds tension while demonstrating Esther's continued strategic delay. She hasn't yet revealed her true request (saving her people) but will use this moment to extend an invitation to a second banquet. This careful orchestration of timing and revelation demonstrates wisdom in advocacy—knowing when to speak and when to create additional opportunities.

Historical Context

Ancient rhetorical practices recognized the power of delayed revelation and sustained suspense. Esther's incomplete answer in this verse, followed by the invitation to another banquet rather than immediate disclosure, demonstrates sophisticated understanding of persuasion. Creating multiple opportunities for intimate interaction with the king built relationship and favorable disposition before making the difficult request. Ancient banquets typically included extended conversation over wine, making them ideal settings for important discussions. Esther's strategy of multiple banquets maximized her opportunities to establish positive atmosphere before revealing the crisis.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Esther's strategic delay demonstrate wisdom in knowing when to speak and when to create additional preparation time?
2. What does this teach about the importance of timing and setting in effective communication and advocacy?

Interlinear Text

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| וַתֵּעַן | אֶסְתֵּר | וַתֹּאמֶר | שְׁאֵלָתִי | וּבִקְשָׁתִי: |
| Then answered | Esther | and said | My petition | and my request |
| H6030 | H635 | H559 | H7596 | H1246 |

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