

Esther 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

Analysis

If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said. Esther delayed again, inviting the king and Haman to a second banquet "tomorrow" where she would finally reveal her request. The conditional phrases "if I have found favour" and "if it please the king" show humble deference despite the king's repeated generous offers. By requiring Haman's presence at both banquets, Esther ensured he couldn't escape before exposure. The promise "I will do tomorrow as the king hath said" committed her to revealing her request at the second banquet. This final delay built maximum suspense and positioned all players precisely where needed for the climactic confrontation.

Historical Context

The second banquet invitation extended the strategy—another intimate setting, more wine, continued mystery. Ancient audiences would have recognized Esther's skill: she controlled timing and setting, maintained royal interest through suspense, and created multiple opportunities to establish favorable atmosphere. The delay also allowed events to unfold overnight—particularly the king's insomnia and discovery of Mordecai's unrewarded service (chapter 6), which would

dramatically affect the next day's confrontation. Providence works through Esther's strategic delay, positioning pieces for maximum impact.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Esther's second delay demonstrate trust in God's timing rather than anxious rushing, even in crisis?
2. What does this teach about how divine providence works through human strategic planning and patience?

Interlinear Text

אִם	מָצָא אֶתִּי	חַן	בְּעֵינַי	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	וְאִם	עַל	הַמֶּלֶךְ:
H518	If I have found	favour	in the sight	as the king	H518	H5921	as the king
	H4672	H2580	H5869	H4428			H4428

וְכִשְׁתִּי	אֶת	אֲעֹשֶׂה	שְׂאֵלָתִי	אֶת	לָתֶת	ט	וְ
H853			my petition	and to perform		and if it please	
H1246			H7596	H6213		H2895	

אֲעֹשֶׂה	אֶת	הַמִּשְׁתָּה	אֶל	וְהָמָן	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	יָבֹא
			H413	and Haman	as the king	come
			H4960	H2001	H4428	H935

הַמֶּלֶךְ:	כָּדַבֵּר	אֲעֹשֶׂה	וּמָחָר	לָהּ
as the king	hath said	and to perform	to morrow	
H4428	H1697	H6213	H4279	H0

Additional Cross-References

Esther 7:3 (Kingdom): Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

Proverbs 16:9 (Parallel theme): A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Esther 8:5 (Kingdom): And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: