

Esther 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

Esther's petition: **'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'**. Esther reveals she's among those targeted by the genocidal decree, personally appealing for her life and her people's. Her phrasing ('let my life be given me') demonstrates rhetorical skill—she presents herself as condemned but deserving king's mercy. The phrase 'my people' will force the king to recognize Jews aren't abstract threat but include his beloved queen. This strategic revelation demonstrates wisdom in advocacy—making abstract injustice personal and specific to move hearts toward action.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern court advocacy required skillful rhetoric. Esther's appeal balances humility ('if I have found favour') with directness ('let my life be given me'), making personal what Ahasuerus had approved abstractly. That she identifies Jews as 'my people' forces the king to recognize that the decree threatens someone he loves, personalizing the genocide. Her timing—after two banquets building suspense, after Haman's attendance increasing dramatic tension—shows strategic wisdom. Ancient rhetoric valued kairos (proper timing) and pathos (emotional appeal), both demonstrated here. Esther's intercession foreshadows Christ's advocacy for His people before the Father.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Esther's rhetorical strategy teach about effective advocacy for the vulnerable and oppressed?
2. How does her intercession for her people foreshadow Christ's advocacy for believers?

Interlinear Text

אָסַת	ר	וְתַּעֲנִ	פָּמָלָכָה	וְתַּאֲמִ	ר	אָמ	מִצְאָתִ	ר	נִ
answered	Then Esther		the queen	and said		H518	If I have found		favour
H6030	H635		H4436		H559		H4672		H2580

בְּעֵינֶיךָ	יְהִ	לְךָ	עַל	וְאָמַ	בְּךָ	לְךָ	בְּךָ	וְבָ	תִּתְּנִ	לִ
in thy sight	O king	H518	H5921	O king	H4428	O king	and if it please	be given		H0
H5869	H4428					H2895		H5414		

נֶפֶשִׁי	בְּבִקְשָׁתִי:	וְעַמְּךָ	בְּשָׁא	לְתִּ	
let my life	me at my petition	and my people	at my request		
H5315	H7596		H5971		H1246

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 38:26 (Kingdom): Then thou shalt say unto them, I presented my supplication before the king, that he would not cause me to return to Jonathan's house, to die there.