

# 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

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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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וַתַּעֲנֶה	אָסֶתֶר רַ	הַמֶּלֶכָּה	וַתֹּאמֶר	אֲנִי	מָצָא אֶתִּי	יְיָ
<b>answered</b>	<b>Then Esther</b>	<b>the queen</b>	<b>and said</b>	H518	<b>If I have found</b>	<b>favour</b>
H6030	H635	H4436	H559		H4672	H2580
בְּעֵינֶיךָ יְיָ	הִמָּלֵךְ לְךָ	וְאֵם	עַל	הִמָּלֵךְ לְךָ	ט וְ	תִּתֶּנָּה לִּי
<b>in thy sight</b>	<b>O king</b>	H518	H5921	<b>O king</b>	<b>and if it please</b>	<b>be given</b>
H5869	H4428		H4428		H2895	H0
נַפְשִׁי	בִּשְׂאֵל לְתִי	וְעַמִּי	בְּבִקְשָׁתִי			
<b>let my life</b>	<b>me at my petition</b>	<b>and my people</b>	<b>at my request</b>			
H5315	H7596	H5971	H1246			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.