

Esther 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Analysis

Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

When the king returned, he found Haman fallen on Esther's couch—either prostrate in supplication or accidentally fallen while pleading. The king interpreted this as assault—"Will he force the queen?"—adding sexual violence to Haman's crimes. The phrase "before me in the house" emphasizes outrage at such audacity in the king's presence and home. The servants immediately covering Haman's face indicates condemned status—covering faces marked those sentenced to death. This final accusation, though possibly misunderstood, sealed Haman's fate. Providence uses even miscommunication to accomplish justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern protocols strictly regulated access to royal women. Any perceived sexual impropriety toward the queen warranted death. Haman's physical proximity to Esther, though likely innocent supplication, appeared incriminating to the angry king. Covering the face of condemned criminals appears

in various ancient sources as marking death sentence. Servants' immediate action demonstrates they recognized the king's question as final condemnation. The rapid transition from Haman's plea to his covering shows how quickly ancient justice could move from accusation to execution. Archaeological evidence confirms strict protocols governing royal women's interactions with male courtiers.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the covering of Haman's face demonstrate how quickly judgment can fall when God's time for justice arrives?
2. What does this incident teach about how circumstances can compound against the wicked when divine justice operates?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵד	לֹא	בַּבָּיִת	מִגְּדָּלָה	שָׁב	לָרֶגֶל	וְאַל
Then the king	returned	garden	out of the palace			
H4428	H7725	H1594	H1055			H413
בְּבֵבֶת	מִשְׁתַּחַת	בְּבֵין	בְּבֵבֶת	נִפְלָא	לְנִפְלָא	עַל
also before me in the house	of the banquet	of wine	Haman's	was fallen		
H1004	H4960	H3196	H2001	H5307		H5921
בְּמִלְּמָטוֹה	אֲשֶׁר	אָסַתְּךָ	עַל יְהֹוָה	וְאָמַר	לְרַגְלֵךְ	
upon the bed		whereon Esther		was Then said	Then the king	
H4296	H834	H635	H5921	H559	H4428	
בְּגָם	לְקַבֵּשׁ	אַתָּה	עַמְּךָ	בְּבֵבֶת	בְּבֵבֶת	
Will he force		the queen		also before me in the house		
H1571	H3533	H853	H4436	H5973	H1004	
בְּזַבְּבָדָה	מִצְאָה	מִפְּנֵי	לְרַגְלֵךְ	בְּפָנָים	בְּפָנָים	
As the word	went out	mouth	Then the king	face	Haman's	they covered
H1697	H3318	H6310	H4428	H6440	H2001	H2645

Additional Cross-References

Esther 1:6 (Parallel theme): Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

Esther 6:12 (Kingdom): And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered.