

# Esther 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

## Analysis

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**For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?** Esther's appeal becomes personally emotional: "how can I endure" (literally "how am I able") to witness her people's destruction? The parallel phrases—"evil that shall come unto my people" and "destruction of my kindred"—emphasize both communal and familial bonds. This declaration demonstrates Esther's full identification with the Jewish people despite her position as Persian queen. She could have remained safe (Mordecai warned against this in 4:13-14), but she commits to her people's fate. This models covenant loyalty and solidarity: privilege doesn't exempt believers from responsibility to their community. Esther risks everything to save her people.

## Historical Context

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Ancient honor-shame cultures valued kinship and ethnic solidarity highly. Esther's declaration that she couldn't bear watching her people's destruction would have resonated with ancient audiences. Her reference to both "my people" and "my kindred" covers both the broader Jewish nation and immediate family/community. This appeal combined emotional impact with strategic reminder that the decree threatened the king's beloved queen's family and people—personalizing the genocide in ways that abstract numbers couldn't. Ancient rhetorical handbooks taught that personal, emotional appeals often moved rulers more effectively than abstract arguments about justice or policy.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Esther's complete identification with her threatened people model covenant loyalty that privilege and position don't exempt?
2. What does her emotional appeal teach about how personal connection and empathy can motivate action where abstract justice claims might not?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶת	יִמָּץ א	אֲשֶׁר	בָּרָע ה	וְרָא יִתִּי	אוֹכֵל	וְאֵיכָךְ ה	כִּי
H853	H4672	H834	H7451	H7200	H3201	H349	H3588
	that shall come		the evil	to see	can I endure	For how	
מִוִּלְדֹתַי:	בְּאַבְדֹּן	וְרָא יִתִּי	אוֹכֵל	וְאֵיכָךְ ה	עַמִּי		
H4138	H13	H7200	H3201	H349	H5971		
of my kindred	the destruction	to see	can I endure	For how	unto my people		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Esther 7:4** (Parallel theme): For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

**Romans 10:1** (Parallel theme): Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.