

Esther 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king.

Analysis

On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king (בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא בָּא מִסְפָּר הַהַרְגוּת בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבֵּיכָה לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ)—The Hebrew *mispār* (number) emphasizes accountability and record-keeping. King Ahasuerus received an official report of the executions, demonstrating governmental oversight. This was not mob violence but judicial process under Persian law.

The king's interest (v. 12) shows his alignment with Mordecai and Esther. The very throne that Haman manipulated for genocide now ensures Jewish protection. Romans 13:1-4 teaches that governing authorities are 'ministers of God' for justice. Here, God's providence works through Persian administration to preserve His covenant people, just as He would later use Persian kings (Cyrus, Artaxerxes) to restore Jerusalem.

Historical Context

Persian administrative efficiency required detailed reporting. The king's review of casualties in Shushan sets up his conversation with Esther (v. 12-15), where he offers additional measures to ensure Jewish security. This demonstrates how thoroughly the political situation had reversed from chapter 3.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty work through even pagan governments to accomplish His purposes?
2. What does the king's protective concern for Jewish security teach about how God can change hearts in positions of power?

Interlinear Text

בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	בָּא	מִסְפַּר	הַהֲרוּגִים
On that day	H1931	was brought	the number	of those that were slain
H3117		H935	H4557	H2026
בְּשׁוּשַׁן	הַבֵּיֶרֶת	לִפְנֵי	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	
in Shushan	the palace	before	the king	
H7800	H1002	H6440	H4428	

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