

Daily Devotional, August 3, 2020

“The Golden Scepter”, (Esther 5:2, NKJV)

“Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king’s palace, across from the king’s house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house. So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter. And the king said to her, “What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!”” (Esther 5:1-3)

In the ancient kingdom of Persia and Media, an audience with the king required that “**the golden scepter**” be stretched out to the one seeking an audience. Even the queen was not exempt from this rule. At the instigation of the evil Anti-Semite, Haman the Agagite, a decree had been written to destroy the Jews (**Esther Chapter 3**). Esther, being a Jew herself, was in a unique position to be used by God for the deliverance of her people from destruction. Therefore, she boldly approached the throne of the king who loved her, King Ahasuerus, and found an audience and sympathy for her needs.

Christians have a King like that, but our King is immeasurably greater, for He is a divine King and not a human King only. We are encouraged to come to God our King reverently and with humility, and He is perfectly willing to hold out “**the golden scepter**” to us. “**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need**” (Hebrews 4:16). The seeking sinner shall always be welcomed by the merciful Savior. Jesus has promised that “**the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out**” (John 6:37). The one with a plea to Almighty God will have his or her request heard on the basis of His grace. “**Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him**” (1 John 5:14-15).

If Esther never went into the king’s court, the Lord would have delivered the Jews another way, but who knows if things would have went as well for the people? If you do not go into the King’s court in prayer, perhaps the Lord will act somehow in your life, but would it be as well for you? Surely not with regard to your spirit, if not in other areas also. Today, God Himself is holding out “**the golden scepter**” for you.