The Book of Esther

**Esther 1:1-22**

I. ESTHER WAS CHOSEN BY PROVIDENCE TO BE QUEEN OF PERSIA, 1:1-2:23

A. The King of Persia Ahasuerus (Xerxes) divorced His Queen: Unrestrained yet intolerant, 1:1-22

1. The king’s great kingdom & wealth: Proud and self-exalting

a. King Ahasuerus’ kingdom

1) Ruled over 127 provinces: From India to Ethiopia 1:1

2) Ruled from Shushan the palace 1:2

b. The king’s wealth and power celebrated at a special feast

1) The king’s guests were “all his princes and his servants”

military “powers… Nobles” (High ranking officers)

2) One hundred and eighty days of exhibition of riches, honor and magesty

3) The celebration ended with a feast for all great and small.

· It lasted seven days

· It was held “in the court of the garden of the king's palace”

4) The king pridefully shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty.

Beautiful, white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings on marble pillars.

The beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble. (Mosaic pavement of costly stone lay throughout the huge courtyard)

They drank in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance

5) The king’s abundance was shown by allowing everyone to drink as much wine as they desired.

6) The king’s wife, Queen Vashti, made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus (wives of the officer’s)

**2. The king’s order to show the queen’s beauty: no morals and drunkenness**

a. The demand of the drunken, lustful king

1) He ordered seven eunuchs to bring Queen Vashti to the celebration

2) He wanted to display Vashti’s beauty to all the guests: So they could gaze upon her & envy him

b. The refusal by Queen Vashti

1) She defied the king’s order

2) The king became furious, burned with anger

**3. The king’s divorce & dethroning of the queen: A picture of unbridled anger & revenge**

a. The consultation between the drunken king & his advisors

1) He sought their legal counsel

· Their names

[· Their position: They were the highest ranking & closest advisors to the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[2) He charged the queen with insubordination, defying the direct order of the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[b. The counsel of the advisors: Presented by Memucan](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[1) The queen’s defiance had wronged not only the king but also all Persians](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[· Her defiance would encourage all women to rebel against their husbands](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[· The defiance of women would spread throughout the nation: There would be no way to stop the disrespect & contempt of women for men](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[2) The king should issue a royal decree that could not be repealed or revoked](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[· That Queen Vashti be dethroned & banished forever from the king’s presence](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[· That the king choose another queen more worthy than Vashti](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[3) The desired result would be achieved: Throughout the empire, all the women would honor & respect their husbands](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[c. The royal decree issued by the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[1) He accepted the counsel of the advisors](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[2) He issued the royal decree](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[· That dethroned & banished Queen Vashti from his presence forever, v.19](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[· That every man should be the ruler over his own household](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=43_esther1a_5)

[**B. The Persian King Chooses Esther to Become His New Queen: A Picture of a Morally Corrupt Man Contrasted with True Believers of Strong Character, 2:1-23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_0)

[**1. The proposal for a new queen: A picture of selfishness & moral corruption in seeking true love**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[a. The king’s emotions: Missed Vashti, longing for true love](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[b. The concern of the king’s personal attendants & their proposal: To secure a new wife](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[1) By appointing agents in each province to search for beautiful young virgins](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[2) By bringing the beautiful virgins into the king’s harem at Susa, his palace](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[3) By placing the virgins under Hegai’s care & giving them beauty treatments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[4) By seeing which virgin pleased the king the most & making her queen](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[c. The sensual, fleshly proposal accepted by the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_1)

[**2. The selection of Esther to be queen: A picture of moral purity & strong character**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_2)

[a. The background of Mordecai & Esther](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_3)

[1) Mordecai was a Jew, the great-grandson of Kish: Kish had been taken captive by the Babylonians in 597 b.c., about 120 years earlier, 2 Kings 24:1-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_3)

[2) Esther was adopted by Mordecai when her mother & father died](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_3)

[· She & Mordecai were cousins](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_3)

[· She grew to be a beautiful & shapely young woman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_3)

[b. The taking of Esther into the king’s palace](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[1) She & many other virgins were placed under the care of Hegai: He was the eunuch in charge of the king’s harem](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[2) She impressed Hegai with her lovely, gracious character: He immediately gave Esther special care](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[· Additional attention, beauty treatments, & choice food](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[· Seven maids](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[· The best room in the harem](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[3) She had kept her nationality & family a secret since childhood (v.20): Mordecai had warned her not to risk discrimination, anti-Semitism](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[4) She was deeply loved by Mordecai: Daily he walked by the courtyard of the harem to find out how she was](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_4)

[c. The procedure used to please the sensual, lustful cravings of the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_5)

[1) Each girl was given 12 months of beauty treatments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_5)

[2) Each girl was then selected to spend a night with the king: Each was given whatever clothing or jewelry she wanted](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_5)

[3) Each girl was then transferred to the permanent harem where the king’s wives lived: She never again returned to the king unless she was summoned by him](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_5)

[d. The selection of Esther to be queen](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[1) Esther was summoned to go to the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[· She asked for nothing other than what Hegai suggested, trusting his judgment](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[· Her graciousness & humility as well as her beauty impressed everyone](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[2) Esther was taken to the king: The 10th month, the month of Tebeth (Dec‑Jan), in the 7th year of the king’s reign](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[3) Esther’s striking beauty, poise, & behavior attracted the king more so than did any of the other young ladies: She was sweet, kind, & loving](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[4) Esther was crowned as the new queen of the Persian empire](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[5) Esther was given a great banquet to celebrate her coronation](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[· A holiday was proclaimed](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6) [· Gifts were generously distributed](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_6)

[e. The nationality of Esther still kept secret](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_7)

[1) She kept it secret even after Mordecai sat at the king’s gate, that is, was appointed a palace official](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_7)

[2) She was even now warned by Mordecai: She must still fear discrimination, anti-Semitism, 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_7)

[3) She had been an obedient child—all her life](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_7)

[**3. The forewarning of death given to the king by Mordecai: A picture of believers warning others to prepare for death**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[a. Mordecai overheard two officers plotting to assassinate King Ahasuerus or Xerxes](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[b. Mordecai informed Queen Esther](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[1) Esther told the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[2) Esther gave credit to Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[c. Mordecai’s report was investigated](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[1) It was found to be true](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[2) It was the basis for hanging the guilty](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

[3) It was recorded in the king’s records](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=44_esther1b_8)

**[II. THE JEWS MARKED FOR EXTERMINATION BY HAMAN:](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=EstDiv2Overview)**

**[A PICTURE OF EXTREME PREJUDICE & HORRIFYING EVIL, 3:1-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=EstDiv2Overview)**

[1. Haman’s anger against Mordecai & the Jews: Picture of extreme prejudice & hatred](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_1)

[a. The background of Haman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_2)

[1) He was an Agagite](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_2)

[2) He was promoted to prime minister](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_2)

[3) He was honored by all royal officials: By order of the king they were to bow when Haman passed by](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_2)

[b. The defiance of Mordecai: He refused to bow lest he dishonor the Lord](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_3)

[c. The officials’ questioning of Mordecai about his disrespect](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_4)

[1) They encouraged him to honor Haman: He refused because he was a Jew—such reverence belonged to God alone, for no man was divine](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_4)

[2) They informed Haman that Mordecai was a Jew](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_4)

[d. The violent rage of Haman: He decided to take revenge](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_5)

[1) To kill Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_5)

[2) To slaughter all the Jews throughout the entire Persian empire](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_5)

[**2. Haman’s plot to exterminate the Jews: A picture of brutality & horrifying evil**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_6)

[a. The day chosen for the attack against the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_7)

[1) Was chosen by lot](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_7)

[2) Fell on the 12th month, a year later](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_7)

[b. The plan of extermination presented to King Ahasuerus (Xerxes)](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[1) Haman charged the Jews with a false—but very serious—offense: Rebellion, breaking the king’s laws](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[2) Haman proposed a decree to exterminate the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[· He promised the king 375 tons of silver](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[· He expected to secure the money & more from the plunder](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[3) The king gave his royal permission](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[· Handed his ring to Haman, a symbol of his authority](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[· Politely rejected the money, expecting Haman to insist: An Oriental custom, 4:7; 7:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_8)

[c. The decree of extermination formulated by Haman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[1) Haman summoned the royal secretaries](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[· He dictated the decree to all the leaders of every province in all the necessary languages](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[· He sealed the decree with the king’s ring](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[2) Haman sent the decree by couriers to all the provinces: Ordered the people to kill all the Jews, including women & children](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[· To kill them on a single day: The 13th day of the 12th month](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[· To plunder their goods](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[3) Haman had copies sent & published in every district: So all the people would be ready to carry out the decree](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_9)

[d. The apathy of Haman & the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_10)

[1) They sat down to drink: Callous, insensitive, uncaring](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_11)

[2) The people of Susa were perplexed, bewildered](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=45_esther2whole_12)

[**III. THE JEWS SAVED BY THE COURAGEOUS ACTION OF ESTHER, 4:1-10:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=EstDiv3Overview)

[**A. The Courageous Decision of Esther: A Look at Two Desperate Needs, 4:1-17**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_0)

[**1. The deep anguish of Mordecai over the *Decree of Extermination* & his appeal to Queen Esther: A picture of the desperate need for an intercessor who can plead for mercy**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_1)

[a. Mordecai & the Jews’ intense grief](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_2)

[1) Mordecai put on sackcloth & ashes & walked into the city, crying loudly & bitterly: Went to the palace gate](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_2)

[2) The Jews mourned deeply throughout the empire](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_2)

[· They fasted, wept, & prayed](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_2)

[· Many lay in sackcloth & ashes](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_2)

[b. Esther’s concern over news of Mordecai’s deep distress](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_3)

[1) She sent Mordecai clothing to allow him to enter the palace, 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_3)

[2) Mordecai refused to change](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_3)

[c. Esther’s distress over her adoptive father’s grief](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_4)

[1) She sent her trusted aide Hathach to find out what was troubling Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_4)

[2) Hathach found Mordecai in the open square of the city: Was in front of the palace gate](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_4)

[d. Mordecai’s explanation of the decree & his appeal to Esther](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_5)

[1) He stated that money—the plunder of Jewish property—was one of reasons for the decree](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_5)

[2) He gave the aide a copy of the royal decree so Esther could see the proof herself](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_5)

[3) He instructed the aide to urge Esther to seek an audience with the king, to plead for mercy for her people](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_5)

[e. Mordecai’s message delivered to Esther by Hathach](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_6)

[**2. The courageous decision of Esther to risk her life: A picture of the desperate need for courage, prayer, & fasting**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_7)

[a. Esther’s dilemma & her desire for Mordecai’s guidance](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_8)

[1) Persian law prohibited anyone from approaching the king without first being summoned, upon penalty of death](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_8)

[2) Esther had not been summoned for 30 days: Perhaps he no longer favored her](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_8)

[b. Mordecai’s insistence that Esther be courageous](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_9)

[1) Because being queen would not protect her, for she too was a Jew](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_9)

[2) Because if she kept silent during this crisis, God would raise up another deliverer: Still she & her family would perish](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_9)

[3) Because God had raised her up for this very purpose](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_9)

[c. Esther’s courageous decision sent to Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_10)

[1) He must mobilize the Jews to fast & pray for her for three days—night & day](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_10)

[2) She would then disobey the law & go to the king: She would risk her life to save her people](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_10)

[d. Esther’s request for prayer & fasting carried out by Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=46_esther3a_11)

[**B. The Courageous Approach of Esther into the King’s Presence: A Contrast Between a Believer’s Trust in God & an Unbeliever’s Pride, 5:1-14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_0)

[**1. Esther’s daring, forbidden approach before the king: A bold example of a believer’s trust in the Lord**](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_1)

[a. Esther’s entrance into the royal court of the king: She stood right at the entrance, in the palace’s inner court](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_2)

[b. The king’s favor & pardon](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_3)

[1) He saw Queen Esther & was pleased](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_3)

[2) He held out his scepter, pardoning the queen: She approached & touched the tip of the scepter](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_3)

[3) He asked Queen Esther what she wanted: Assured her she could receive whatever she wanted](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_3)

[c. Esther’s request: An invitation for the king to attend a banquet she had prepared for him & Haman that very day](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_4)

[d. The king’s quick acceptance of the invitation](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_5)

[1) He ordered Haman to be summoned](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_5)

[2) He & the prime minister went to the banquet](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_5)

[· He & Haman finished eating & were relaxing, drinking wine](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_5)

[· He again asked Esther what her request was, politely assuring her that it would be granted](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_5)

[e. Esther’s reverence for the king & her surprising, suspense-filled request](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_6)

[1) That if she pleased the king, let him & Haman attend another banquet with her](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_6)

[2) That she would then make her request known](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_6)

[2. Haman’s wicked pride & malice: A shameful example of an unbeliever’s boasting](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_7)

[a. Haman’s anger at Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_8)

[1) He was in high spirits leaving the banquet](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_8)

[2) He saw Mordecai not bowing & became furious](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_8)

[3) He restrained himself & went home](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_8)

[b. Haman’s social gathering with his wife & friends: His pride, arrogance, & boasting](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_9)

[1) About his vast wealth](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_9)

[2) About his children](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_9)

[3) About the honor given him](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_9)

[4) About his promotion: His position, authority, & power](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_9)

[5) About the distinctive recognition & honor given him by the queen](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_9)

[c. Haman’s only stated disappointment in life: Mordecai’s refusal to honor him](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_10)

[1) His wife & friend’s counsel](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_11)

[· To build gallows](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_11)

[· To ask the king the next day to hang Mordecai upon the gallows](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_11)

[· To then go to the dinner & be happy](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_11)

[2) His pleasure with the idea](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=47_esther3b_12)

[C. The Unexpected Honor Bestowed Upon Mordecai: A Picture of God’s Providence, Guidance, & Love for His People, 6:1-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_0)

[1. Mordecai unexpectedly honored: God moves, uses human events to save His people](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_1)

[a. The king’s sleepless night](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_2)

[b. The king’s decision to read the royal records](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_3)

[c. The king’s choice of records to be read](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_4)

[d. The king’s delay in rewarding Mordecai, 2:21-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_5)

[e. Haman’s early, timely arrival at the palace](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_6)

[f. The king’s vague question asked of Haman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_7)

[1) His question did not identify who the king wished to reward](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_7)

[2) His question stirred the prideful, evil Haman to think he was to be honored](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_7)

[g. Haman’s selfish, ambitious answer: The man should be second only to the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_8)

[1) Should be given a royal robe & stallion: The very authority of the king himself](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_8)

[2) Should be presented to the people as a member of royalty with royal authority, second only to the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_8)

[h. The king’s shocking order that reversed the fate, the destiny of both Haman & Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_9)

[1) The king stunned & horrified Haman: Charged him to so honor Mordecai the Jew](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_9)

[2) The king warned Haman: Neglect nothing](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_9)

[2. Haman unexpectedly humiliated: God humbles the prideful of this world](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_10)

[a. Haman’s obedience to the king: His humiliating experience, being forced to exalt the man he had despised](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_11)

[b. Haman’s disgrace: Rushed home with his head covered](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_12)

[c. Haman’s future predicted: By his wife & friends](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_13)

[1) His downfall had started](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_13)

[2) His plot against the Jews was doomed to failure](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_13)

[d. Haman’s call to attend the queen’s second banquet](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=48_esther3c_14)

[D. The Suspenseful Exposure & Downfall of Haman: A Picture of Reaping Exactly What One Sows—Justice, Measure for Measure, 7:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_0)

[1. Esther’s exposure of Haman’s evil: A surety—all sin will be exposed by God](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_1)

[a. The queen’s banquet](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_2)

[1) The guests were drinking wine following the meal](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_2)

[2) The king again asked for Esther’s request & repeated his offer to grant anything she wished, 5:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_2)

[b. The queen’s startling & perplexing request: That her life & the lives of her people be spared](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_3)

[c. The queen’s explanation](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_4)

[1) She reminded the king of his horrific decree, 3:1-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_4)

[2) She charged that a man—without mentioning his name—had committed a conspiracy against her & her people: Had sold them for extermination](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_4)

[d. The bewildered king’s question: Who is the man? Who would dare touch the queen?](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_5)

[e. The queen’s abrupt response: The culprit was present](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_6)

[1) Identified Haman as the man](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_6)

[2) Struck terror in Haman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_6)

[2. Haman’s execution: A surety—there is no escape from God’s judgment](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[a. The king’s burning rage: He hastily walked out to get alone](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[b. Haman’s plea to Esther for his life](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[c. The king’s return & verdict of death](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[1) He saw Haman, shockingly, at the feet of Esther where she was reclining on a couch](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[2) He angrily charged Haman with molesting his wife](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[3) The king’s guards covered Haman’s face: Signaled his doom](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[d. The eunuch’s report to the king: Informed him about the gallows built by Haman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[1) That it was 75 feet high](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[2) That it had been built for Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[e. The king’s order for Haman to be executed on the gallows](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[1) The order was carried out](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[2) The king’s fury calmed down](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=49_esther3d_7)

[E. The Desperate Intercession of Esther for the Deliverance of the Jews: A Picture of Being Delivered Through Prayer, 8:1-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_0)

[1. The reward given to Esther & the promotion of Mordecai by the king: A picture of the believer being rewarded for faithful service](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_1)

[a. Esther given Haman’s estate](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_1)

[b. Mordecai promoted to be prime minister](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_1)

[1) The king gave him the signet ring (full authority) of the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_1)

[2) Esther appointed him head of Haman’s estate](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_1)

[2. The anguish & plea of Esther for her people: A picture of the believer’s intercession](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[a. Esther’s second approach & request of the king: To stop the evil scheme of Haman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[1) She fell at his feet](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[2) He accepted, extended the gold scepter to her](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[3) She arose to present her request](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[b. Esther’s humble request](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[1) She based her request upon their relationship & the king’s wisdom](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[· If he favors her](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[· If he thought the request wise](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[2) She asked him to write a second decree to save her people: To reverse Haman’s *Decree of Extermination*](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[3) She shared her intense grief](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_2)

[3. The proclamation assuring the Jews’ deliverance: A picture of proclaiming the salvation of God’s people](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_3)

[a. The king’s answer to his dear wife’s plea: He immediately ordered a new decree](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_4)

[1) He gave Esther & Mordecai a free hand in its wording](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_4)

[2) He reminded them of Persian law: That no decree signed & sealed with his ring could ever be revoked](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_4)

[b. The proclamation prepared by the new prime minister, Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_5)

[1) Mordecai immediately summoned the royal secretaries: The 23rd day of Sivan](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_5)

[· He dictated the decree to them: Was then sent to the Jews & the leaders of Persia, to all 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush (Ethiopia)](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_5)

[· He wrote in the full authority of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes): Signed his name & sealed the letters with his ring](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_5)

[· He sent them by courier](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_5)

[c. The contents of the proclamation](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_6)

[1) It granted *the right of self-defense* to the Jews: They could assemble & protect themselves against any armed force of any nationality who attacked them](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_6)

[2) It limited the time conflict could be waged within the empire to just one day, the 13th day of Adar](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_6)

[3) It was to be issued as law in every province throughout the empire: So the Jews would be ready to defend themselves](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_6)

[d. The proclamation rushed out to the whole empire by couriers (messengers): They were stirred by the king’s command](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_7)

[e. The response to the proclamation: Great joy](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_8)

[1) The Jews rejoiced over Mordecai’s promotion: He now represented them](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_8)

[2) The Jews in Susa rejoiced](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_8)

[3) The Jews throughout the empire rejoiced & celebrated](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=50_esther3e_8)

[F. The Triumph of the Jews & the Celebration of Purim: A Picture of Victory Over One’s Enemy, 9:1-10:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_0)

[1. The successful defense of the Jews: Being prepared for the attack of the enemy](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_1)

[a. The date of the fighting: 13th day of Adar](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_2)

[b. The attack by the enemies: They were overpowered by the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_3)

[1) Because the Jews had mobilized & were prepared in city after city](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_3)

[2) Because fear gripped the hearts of the enemies as well as all the other people](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_3)

[3) Because the Persian nobles & political leaders helped the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_3)

[· They feared Mordecai, their superior](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_3)

[· Mordecai had become more & more powerful since becoming prime minister](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_3)

[c. The summary of the Jews’ great victory against their enemies: They survived the holocaust launched against them](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_4)

[d. The defense of the Jews in Susa](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_5)

[1) They killed 500 men](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_5)

[2) They killed the 10 sons of Haman](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_5)

[3) They did not plunder the property of those they killed](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_5)

[4) The number of the slain in Susa was reported to the king](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_5)

[e. The grant of the king for one more day as a mopping up operation in Susa](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_6)

[1) He shared the report on the fighting with Esther](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_6)

[2) He was so pleased he asked her if she had any other requests:](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_6)

[· She requested the additional day to assure that all enemies were defeated](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_6)

[· She requested that Haman’s 10 sons be hanged on gallows as a warning, a deterrent to the public](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_6)

[3) He granted her requests](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_6)

[f. The resistance by the Jews on the additional day of fighting](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_7)

[a) They killed 300 more men in Susa](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_7)

[b) They again did not plunder the enemies’ property](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_7)

[g. The resistance by the Jews in the provinces throughout the rest of the empire](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_8)

[1) They killed 75,000 enemies](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_8)

[2) They did not plunder their property](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_8)

[h. The celebration of the Jews’ deliverance: Was celebrated the day after the victory](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_9)

[1) The Jews in Susa celebrated on the 15th day of Adar](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_9)

[2) The Jews in the provinces celebrated on the 14th day of Adar](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_9)

[2. The celebration of the deliverance (the Festival of Purim): Rejoicing over God’s wonderful deliverance](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_10)

[a. The letters of Mordecai establishing the festival](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_11)

[1) To be celebrated annually, the 14‑15th day of Adar](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_11)

[2) To be celebrated in honor of their wonderful deliverance from the enemies](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_11)

[· As a day of feasting & joy](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_11)

[· As a day for giving gifts to one another, including to the poor](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_11)

[b. The festival agreed to & instituted by the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[1) The reasons](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[· Because Haman had plotted to exterminate the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[· Because Esther had informed the king of the plot: He had issued a proclamation that caused Haman’s plot to fail & resulted in a great deliverance of the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[2) The name given to the Festival was Purim](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[3) The declaration of the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[· They would observe the celebration of Purim within every city & province or district](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[· They & their descendants would never fail to observe these two days](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[· They would never let the memory of their deliverance fade](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_12)

[c. The festival confirmed by Esther](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_13)

[1) She wrote a letter to put her full authority as queen behind the Festival of Purim](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_13)

[2) Mordecai sent a second round of letters to the Jews throughout the empire—all 127 provinces](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_13)

[· The festival was also to include fasting & mourning](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_13)

[· The decree of Esther confirmed these regulations as well](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_13)

[3. The greatness of King Ahasuerus & Mordecai: The steps to true greatness](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[a. The tax imposed by the king, 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[b. The power & wealth of the king & the greatness of Mordecai: Recorded in the official records, *The History of the Kings of Media & Persia*](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[c. The greatness of Mordecai](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[1) He was prime minister, next to the king in authority](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[2) He was held in high esteem by the Jews](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[3) He served his people:](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[· Worked for their good](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)

[· Spoke up for them](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=1189&bookmark=51_esther3f_14)