

26 ^aDid not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? ^bYet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign woman caused even him to sin.

27 [“]Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil ^aby acting unfaithfully against our God by ²marrying foreign women?”

28 Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of ^aSanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me.

29 ^aRemember them, O my God, ¹because they have defiled the priesthood and the ^bcovenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

30 ^aThus I purified them from everything foreign and appointed duties for the priests and the Levites, each in his task,

31 and *I arranged* ^afor the supply of wood at appointed times and for the first fruits. ^bRemember me, O my God, for good.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

The Banquets of Ahasuerus.

NOw it took place in the days of ^aAhasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned ^bfrom India to ¹Ethiopia over ^c127 provinces,

2 in those days as King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne which was in ^aSusa the capital,

3 in the third year of his reign, ^ahe gave a banquet for all his princes and attendants, the army *officers* of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of his provinces being in his presence,

4 when he displayed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor of his great majesty for many days, 180 days.

5 And when these days were completed, the king gave a banquet lasting seven days for all the people who were present in Susa the capital, from the greatest to the least, in the court of ^athe garden of the king's palace.

6 *There were hangings* of fine white and violet linen held by cords of fine purple linen on silver rings and marble columns, ^aand couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of prophry, marble, mother-of-pearl, and precious stones.

7 Drinks were served in golden vessels of various kinds, and the royal wine was plentiful ^aaccording to the king's ¹bounty.

8 And the drinking was *done* according to the law, there was no compulsion, for so the king had given orders to each official of his household that he should do according to the desires of each person.

26 ^aKin. 11:1 ^bKin. 3:13;
²Chr. 1:12

27 ¹Or, *Is it reported* ²Lit.,
giving dwelling to
^aNeh. 13:23; Ezra 10:2

28 ^aNeh. 2:10, 19

29 ¹Lit., *for the defilings of*
^aNeh. 6:14 ^bNum. 25:13

30 ^aNeh. 10:30

31 ^aNeh. 10:34 ^bNeh. 13:14,
22

¹Lit., house ²Chr. 11:12
³Esth. 2:3, 13

⁴ ¹Lit., portions
^aNeh. 2:13, 12

⁵ ¹Lit. gold ²Chr. 11:12

¹Lit., Cush
^aEzra 4:6; Dan. 9:1 ^bEsth. 8:9
^cEsth. 9:30

2 ^aNeh. 1:1

3 ^aEsth. 2:8

5 ^aEsth. 7:7-8

6 ^aEzek. 23:41; Amos 6:4

⁷ ¹Lit., hand
^aEsth. 2:18

Tithes

Queen Vashti Refuses to Attend the Feast. She Is Deposed.

Esther 1, 2

9 ¹Lit., royal house

10 ^aJudg. 16:25

11 ^aEsth. 2:17; 6:8

13 ^aJer. 10:7; Dan. 2:2
^b1 Chr. 12:32

14 ¹Lit., saw the face of the king
^a2 Kin. 25:19; Matt. 18:10

15 ¹Lit., do

17 ¹Or, contended with
Lit., and
Neh. 13:1, 25

18 ¹Lit., go forth
²Lit., to despise . . . in their eyes

19 ¹Lit., word go forth from
²Lit., pass away
³Lit., her neighbor
^aEsth. 8:8; Dan. 6:8

20 ¹Lit., for great is it
^aEph. 5:22; Col. 3:18

21 ¹Lit., according to the word of

22 ^aEsth. 3:12; 8:9

1 ^aEsth. 7:10 ^bEsth. 1:19,
20

9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the ¹palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was ^amerry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king with *her* royal ^acrown in order to display her beauty to the people and the princes, for she was beautiful.

12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry and his wrath burned within him.

13 Then the king said to ^athe wise men ^bwho understood the times—for it was the custom of the king so *to speak* before all who knew law and justice,

14 and were close to him: Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media ^awho ^bhad access to the king's presence and sat in the first place in the kingdom—

15 “According to law, what is to be done with Queen Vashti, because she did not ¹obey the command of King Ahasuerus *delivered* by the eunuchs?”

16 And in the presence of the king and the princes Memucan said, “Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king but *also* all the princes and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

17 “For the queen's conduct will ¹become known to all the women causing them ²to look with contempt on their husbands by saying, ‘King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in to his presence, but she did not come.’

18 “And this day the ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's conduct will speak in *the same way* to all the king's princes, and there will be plenty of contempt and anger.

19 “If it pleases the king, let a royal ¹edict be issued by him and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media so ^athat it cannot ²be repealed, that Vashti should come no more into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king give her royal position to ³another who is more worthy than she.

20 “And when the king's edict which he shall make is heard throughout all his kingdom, ¹great as it is, then ^aall women will give honor to their husbands, great and small.”

21 And *this* word pleased the king and the princes, and the king did ¹as Memucan proposed.

22 So he sent letters to all the king's provinces, ^ato each province according to its script and to every people according to their language, that every man should be the master in his own house and the one who speaks in the language of his own people.

CHAPTER 2

AFTER these things ^awhen the anger of King Ahasuerus had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and ^bwhat had been decreed against her.

A Replacement for Vashti Is Sought. Esther Finds Favor.

Esther 2

2 Then the king's attendants, who served him, said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king."

^aEsth. 1:1, 2 ^bEsth. 2:8,
^cEsth. 2:9, 12

3 "And let the king appoint overseers in ^aall the provinces of his kingdom that they may gather every beautiful young virgin to Susa the capital, to the harem, into the custody of ^bHegai, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the women; and ^clet their cosmetics be given *them*.

4 "Then let the young lady who pleases the king be queen in place of Vashti." And the matter pleased the king, and he did accordingly.

5 Now there was a Jew in Susa the capital whose name was ^aMordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjaminite,

6 ^bwho had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been exiled with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled.

7 And he was bringing up Hadassah, that is ^aEsther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. Now the young lady was beautiful of form and ¹face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

8 So it came about when the command and decree of the king were heard and ^amany young ladies were gathered to Susa the capital into the custody of ^bHegai, that Esther was taken to the king's ¹palace into the custody of Hegai, who was in charge of the women.

9 Now the young lady pleased him and found favor with him. So he quickly provided her with her ^acosmetics and ¹food, gave her seven choice maids from the king's palace, and transferred her and her maids to the best place in the harem.

10 ^aEsther did not make known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make them known.

11 And every day Mordecai walked back and forth in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and how she fared.

12 Now when the turn of each young lady came to go in to King Ahasuerus, after the end of her twelve months under the regulations for the women—for the days of their beautification were completed as follows: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and the cosmetics for women—

13 the young lady would go in to the king in this way: anything that she ¹desired was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

14 In the evening she would go in and in the morning she would return to the second harem, to the ¹custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not again go in to the king unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, ^athe daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her as his daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request anything except what ^bHegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the women, ¹advised. And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus to his royal

^aEsth. 3:2

^a2 Kin. 24:14, 15

^aEsth. 2:3; ^bEsth. 2:3, 15

^aEsth. 2:3, 12

^aEsth. 2:20

^aEsth. 2:13

^aEsth. 2:14

^aEsth. 2:7; 9:29

Esther Is Crowned Queen. Mordecai Saves the King Refuses Homage to Haman.

Esther 2, 3

17 ^aEsth. 1:11

18 ^aEsth. 1:3 ^bEsth. 1:7

19 ^aEsth. 2:3, 4 ^bEsth. 2:21; 3:2

20 ¹Lit., *the word of Mordecai*
^aEsth. 2:10 ^bEsth. 2:7

21 ¹Lit., *send a hand against*
^aEsth. 6:2

22 ¹Lit., *matter*, so also v.
23 ²Lit., *told*
^aEsth. 6:1, 2

23 ¹Lit., *tree*
^aEsth. 10:2

1 ¹Lit., *set his seat*
^aEsth. 5:11 ^bEsth. 3:10; 8:3
^cEsth. 5:11

2 ¹Lit., *and prostrated themselves before*
^aEsth. 5:9

3 ^aEsth. 2:19 ^bEsth. 3:2

6 ¹Lit., *despised in his eyes*
²Lit., *send a hand against*

7 ¹Lit., *he cast Pur... before* ²Gk., *and the lot fell on the thirteenth day of*
^aEsth. 9:24-26 ^bEzra 6:15

8 ^aEzra 4:12-15; Acts 16:20, 21

palace in the tenth month which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that ^ahe set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then ^athe king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his princes and his servants; he also made a holiday for the provinces and gave gifts ^baccording to the king's bounty.

19 And ^awhen the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai ^bwas sitting at the king's gate.

20 ^aEsther had not yet made known her kindred or her people, even as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther did ¹what Mordecai told her as she had done ^bwhen under his care.

21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, ^aBithan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to ¹lay hands on king Ahasuerus.

22 But the ¹plot became known to Mordecai, and ^ahe told Queen Esther, and Esther ²informed the king in Mordecai's name.

23 Now when the plot was investigated and found to be so, they were both hanged on a ¹gallows; and it was written in ^athe Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence.

CHAPTER 3

AFTER these events King Ahasuerus ^apromoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha ^bthe Agagite, and ^cadvanced him and ^destablished his authority over all the princes who *were* with him.

2 And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down ¹and paid homage to Haman; for so the king had commanded concerning him. But ^aMordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage.

3 Then the king's servants who were at ^athe king's gate said to Mordecai, "^bWhy are you transgressing the king's command?"

4 Now it was when they had spoken daily to him and he would not listen to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage.

6 But he ¹disdained to ²lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him *who* the people of Mordecai *were*; therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

7 In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, ¹Pur, that is the lot, was ^acast before Haman from day to day and from month to month, ²until the twelfth month, that is ^bthe month Adar.

8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; ^atheir laws are different from

those of all other people, and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain.

9 "If it is pleasing to the king, let it be ¹decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king's business, to put into the king's treasuries."

10 Then ^athe king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hamedatha ^bthe Agagite, the enemy of ^cthe Jews.

11 And the king said to Haman, "The silver is ¹yours, and the people ^aalso, to do with them as you please."

12 ^aThen the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and it was written just as Haman commanded to ^bthe king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, and to the princes of each people, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, being written ^cin the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring.

13 And letters were sent by ^acouriers to all the king's provinces ^bto destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children, ^cin one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to ^dseize their possessions as plunder.

14 ^aA copy of the edict to be ^bissued as law in every province was published to all the peoples so that they should be ready for this day.

15 The couriers went out impelled by the king's command while the decree was ^bissued in Susa the capital, and while the king and Haman sat down to drink, ^athe city of Susa was in confusion.

CHAPTER 4

WHEN Mordecai learned ^aall that had been done, ^bhe tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly.

2 And he went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

3 And in each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with ^afasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

4 Then Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, and the queen writhed in great anguish. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them.

5 Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king's eunuchs whom ^bthe king had appointed to attend her and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the city square in front of the king's gate.

7 And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and ^athe exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

8 He also gave him ^aa copy of the text of the edict which

9 ^aLit., written
^bAccording to the law of the land
^cKing
^dEsth. 3:12

10 ^aEsth. 8:2; Gen. 41:42
^bEsth. 3:1 ^cEsth. 7:6

11 ^aOr, move for
^bEsth. 3:1 ^cEsth. 8:6

12 ^aEsth. 8:8; 1 Kin. 21:8

13 ^aEsth. 8:10, 14; 2 Chr.
30:6 ^bEsth. 7:4 ^cEsth. 8:12
^dEsth. 8:11; 9:10

14 ^aLit., given
^bEsth. 8:13, 14

15 ^aLit., given
^bEsth. 8:15

1 ^aLit., Mordecai
^bEsth. 3:8-10; 2 Sam. 1:11;
Jon. 3:5, 6

3 ^aEsth. 4:16

5 ^aLit., he

7 ^aEsth. 3:9

8 ^aEsth. 3:14

Esther 4, 5

11 ^aEsth. 5:1; 6:4 ^bDan. 2:9
^cEsth. 5:2; 8:4

16 ^aEsth. 5:1

use of money, ^aEsth. 11

20 ^aEsth. 1:1; ^bEsth. 2:21
^cEsth. 2:10; ^dEsth. 2:7

1 ¹Lit., house ²Lit., royal
house
^aEsth. 4:16 ^bEsth. 4:11; 6:4

2 ^aEsth. 2:9 ^bEsth. 4:11;
8:4

3 ^aEsth. 7:2; Mark 6:23

5 ¹Lit., the word of Esther
^aEsth. 6:14

6 ¹Lit., at the banquet of
wine
^aEsth. 7:2 ^bEsth. 5:3

had been issued in Susa for their destruction that he might show Esther and inform her, and to order her to go in to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people.

9 And Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther.

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai:

11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who ^acomes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, ^bhe has but one law, that he be put to death; unless the king holds out ^cto him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days."

12 And they related Esther's words to Mordecai.

13 Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews.

14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai,

16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for ^athree days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

CHAPTER 5

NOW it came about ^aon the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood ^bin the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's ¹rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the ²throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.

2 And it happened when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, ^ashe obtained favor in his sight; and ^bthe king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter.

3 Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? ^aEven to half of the kingdom it will be given to you."

4 And Esther said, "If it please the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

5 Then the king said, "^aBring Haman quickly that we may do ¹as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

6 And, ¹as they drank their wine at the banquet, ^athe king said to Esther, "^bWhat is your petition, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

7 So Esther answered and said, "My petition and my request is:

The Feast with Esther. Haman Builds Gallows. The King Plans to Honor Mordecai.

Esther 5, 6

8 ^aIf I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and do ^bwhat I request, may the king and Haman come to ^bthe banquet which I shall prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do ^aas the king says."

9 Then Haman went out that day glad and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai ^ain the king's gate, and ^bthat he did not stand up or ^btremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai.

10 Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house, and ^asent for his friends and his wife ^aZeresh.

11 Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the ^anumber of his sons, and every ^binstance where the king had magnified him, and how he had ^bpromoted him above the princes and servants of the king.

12 Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and ^atomorrow also I am ^binvited by her with the king.

13 "Yet all of this ^bdoes not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at ^athe king's gate."

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "^aHave a ^bgallows fifty cubits high made and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it, then go joyfully with the king to the banquet." And the ^badvice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

CHAPTER 6

DURING that night ^bthe king ^acould not sleep so he gave an order to bring ^cthe book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

2 And it was found written what ^aMordecai had reported concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

4 So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just ^aentered the outer court of the king's palace in order to speak to the king about ^bhanging Mordecai on the gallows which he had prepared for him.

5 And the king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman is standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

6 So Haman came in and the king said to him, "What is to be done for the man ^awhom the king desires to honor?" And Haman said ^bto himself, "Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?"

7 Then Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king desires to honor,

8 let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and ^athe horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head ^ba royal crown has been placed;

9 and let the robe and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble princes and let them array the man whom the king desires to honor and lead him on horseback

^aLit., my request ^bLit., according to the word of the king
^aEsth. 7:3; 8:5 ^bEsth. 6:14

^aOr, move for
^aEsth. 2:19 ^bEsth. 3:5

^a1 Lit., sent and brought
^aEsth. 6:13

^a1 Lit., multitude ^bLit., lifted
^aEsth. 9:7-10 ^bEsth. 3:11-12

^a1 Lit., summoned to her
^aEsth. 5:8

^a1 Lit., is not suitable to me
^aEsth. 5:9

^a1 Lit., tree ^bLit., thing
^aEsth. 6:4; 7:9, 10

^a1 Lit., according to the sleep
^aEsth. 5:8 ^bDan. 6:18 ^cEsth. 2:23; 10:2

^a1 Lit., in it ^bLit., Cash
^aEst. 1:12 ^bEst. 11:12
^aEst. 2:21, 22

^a1 Lit., in his heart
^aEsth. 4:11; 5:1 ^bEsth. 5:14

^a1 Lit., in his heart
^aEsth. 6:7, 9, 11

^a1 Kin. 1:33 ^bEsth. 1:11;
2:17

⁹aGen. 41:43

10 aEsth. 5:5

12 a² Sam. 15:3013 ¹Lit., from the seed of
the Jews
^aEsth. 5:10

14 aEsth. 5:8

2 ¹Lit., at the banquet of
wine
^aEsth. 5:6; 9:12 bEsth. 5:3

3 aEsth. 5:8; 8:5

4 ¹Or, enemy could not
compensate for the loss ²Or,
damage
^aEsth. 3:19 bEsth. 3:135 ¹Lit., said and said to
²Lit., whose heart has been
filled

6 aEsth. 3:10

7 ¹Lit., the banquet of
wine
^aEsth. 1:12 bEsth. 1:58 ¹Lit., house of the
banquet of wine
^aEsth. 1:6

9 aEsth. 5:14

through the city square, ^aand proclaim before him, ‘Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.’”**10** Then the king said to Haman, “^aTake quickly the robes and the horse as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the king’s gate; do not fall short in anything of all that you have said.”**11** So Haman took the robe and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and led him *on horseback* through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.”**12** Then Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman hurried home, mourning, ^awith his head covered.**13** And Haman recounted ^ato Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is ¹of Jewish origin, you will not overcome him, but will surely fall before him.”**14** While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and hastily ^abrought Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

CHAPTER 7

NOW the king and Haman came to drink *wine* with Esther the queen.**2** And the king said to Esther on the second day also ¹as they drank their wine at the banquet, “^aWhat is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? ^bEven to half of the kingdom it shall be done.”**3** Then Queen Esther answered and said, “^aIf I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me as my petition, and my people as my request;**4** for ^awe have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, ^bto be killed and to be annihilated. Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent, for the ¹trouble would not be commensurate with the ²annoyance to the king.”**5** Then King Ahasuerus ¹asked Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, ²who would presume to do thus?”**6** And Esther said, “^aA foe and an enemy, is this wicked Haman!” Then Haman became terrified before the king and queen.**7** And the king arose ^ain his anger from ¹drinking wine and went into ^bthe palace garden; but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm had been determined against him by the king.**8** Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the ¹place where they were drinking wine, Haman was falling on ^athe couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.**9** Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who *were* before the king said, “Behold indeed, ^athe gallows standing at Haman’s house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for

**Haman Is Hanged. Mordecai Promoted.
Jews Permitted to Defend Themselves.**

Esther 7, 8

Mordecai ^bwho spoke good on behalf of the king!" And the king said, "Hang him on it."

10 ^aSo they hanged Haman on the ¹gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, ^band the king's anger subsided.

CHAPTER 8

ON that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of ^athe Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed ^bwhat he was to her.

2 ^aAnd the king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept, and implored him to avert the evil *scheme* of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews.

4 ^aAnd the king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king.

5 Then she said, "^aIf it pleases the king and if I have found favor before him and the matter *seems* proper to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let it be written to revoke the ^bletters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

6 "For ^ahow can I endure to see the calamity which shall befall my people, and how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?"

7 So King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, ^aI have given the house of Haman to Esther, and him they have hanged on the gallows because he had stretched out his hands against the Jews.

8 "Now you write to the Jews ¹as you see fit, in the king's name, and ^aseal *it* with the king's signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring ^bmay not be revoked."

9 ^aSo the king's scribes were called at that time in the third month (that is, the month Sivan), on the twenty-third ¹day; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces which *extended* ^bfrom India to ²Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to ^cevery province according to its script, and to every people according to their language, as well as to the Jews according to their script and their language.

10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on ^ahorses, riding on steeds sired by the royal stud.

11 ¹In them the king granted the Jews who were in each and every city *the right* ^ato assemble and to defend their lives, ^bto destroy, to kill, and to annihilate the entire army of any people or province which might attack them, including children and women, and ^cto plunder their spoil,

12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar).

13 ^aA copy of the edict to be ¹issued as law in each and every province, was published to all the peoples, so that the

⁹ ^bEsth. 2:22

¹⁰ ¹Lit., *tree*
^aPs. 7:16; 94:23 ^bEsth. 7:7, 8

¹ ^aEsth. 7:6 ^bEsth. 2:7, 15

² ^aEsth. 3:10

⁴ ^aEsth. 4:11; 5:2

⁵ ^aEsth. 5:8; 7:3 ^bEsth. 3:13

⁶ ^aEsth. 7:4; 9:1

⁷ ^aEsth. 8:1

⁸ ¹Lit., *according to the good in your eyes*
^aEsth. 8:10; 3:12 ^bEsth. 1:19

⁹ ¹Lit., *in it* ²Lit., *Cush*
^aEsth. 3:12 ^bEsth. 1:1 ^cEsth. 1:22; 3:12

¹⁰ ^a1 Kin. 4:28

¹¹ ¹Lit., *Which*
^aEsth. 9:2 ^bEsth. 3:13 ^cEsth. 9:10

¹³ ¹Lit., *given*
^aEsth. 3:14

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15 ^aOr, violet
^bEsth. 5:11; Gen. 41:42
^cEsth. 3:15

17 ^aLit., good day
^bEsth. 9:19 ^cEsth. 9:27

1 ^aLit., day in it ^bLit., drew
near
^aEsth. 8:12 ^bEsth. 9:17 ^cEsth.
3:13

2 ^aEsth. 9:15-18; 8:11
^bEsth. 8:17

3 ^aLit., lifted up
^bEzra 8:36

4 ^a2 Sam. 3:1

5 ^aLit., the stroke of
^bEsth. 3:13

10 ^aEsth. 5:11 ^bEsth. 8:11

11 ^aLit., came

12 ^aEsth. 7:2

13 ^aEsth. 9:15; 8:11

Jews should be ready for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 The couriers, hastened and impelled by the king's command, went out, riding on the royal steeds; and the decree was given out in Susa the capital.

15 Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king ^ain royal robes of ¹blue and white, with a large crown of gold and ^ba garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

16 For the Jews there was light and gladness and joy and honor.

17 And in each and every province, and in each and every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree arrived there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a ¹holiday. And ^bmany among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

CHAPTER 9

NOW ^ain the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar), on ^bthe thirteenth ¹day ^cwhen the king's command and edict ²were about to be executed, on the day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, it was turned to the contrary so that the Jews themselves gained the mastery over those who hated them.

2 ^aThe Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm; and no one could stand before them, ^bfor the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples.

3 Even all the princes of the provinces, ^athe satraps, the governors, and those who were doing the king's business ^bassisted the Jews, because the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them.

4 Indeed, Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai ^abecame greater and greater.

5 Thus ^athe Jews struck all their enemies with ¹the sword, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

6 And in Susa the capital the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men,

7 and Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha,

10 ^athe ten sons of Haman the son of Hamedatha, the Jews' enemy; but they did not lay their hands ^bon the plunder.

11 On that day the number of those who were killed in Susa the capital ¹was reported to the king.

12 And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in Susa the capital. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! ^aNow what is your petition? It shall even be granted you. And what is your further request? It shall also be done."

13 Then said Esther, "If it pleases the king, ^alet tomorrow also be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do according to

The Jews Destroy Their Enemies. Feast of Purim Instituted.

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the edict of today; and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

14 So the king commanded that it should be done so; and an edict was issued in Susa, and Haman's ten sons were hanged.

15 And the Jews who were in Susa assembled also on the fourteenth day of the month Adar and killed ^athree hundred men in Susa, but they did not lay their hands ^bon the plunder.

16 Now ^athe rest of the Jews who ^{were} in the king's provinces assembled, to defend their lives and ^brid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

17 *This was done* on ^athe thirteenth day of the month Adar, and ^bon the fourteenth ¹day they rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

18 But the Jews who were in Susa ^aassembled on the thirteenth and ^bthe fourteenth ¹of the same month, and they rested on the fifteenth ¹day and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

19 Therefore the Jews of the rural areas, who live in ^athe rural towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar ^a^{1b}holiday for rejoicing and feasting and ^csending portions of food to one another.

20 Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

21 obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day ¹of the same month, annually,

22 because on those days the Jews ^brid themselves of their enemies, and *it was a* month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a ²holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

23 Thus the Jews undertook what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them.

24 For Haman the son of Hamedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them, and ^ahad cast Pur, that is the lot, to disturb them and destroy them.

25 But ^awhen it came ¹to the king's attention, he commanded by letter ^bthat his wicked scheme which he had ^cdevised against the Jews, ^dshould return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the ³gallows.

26 Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. ¹And ^abecause of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them,

27 the Jews established and ^bmade a custom for themselves, and for their ²descendants, and for ^aall those who allied themselves with them, so that ³they should not fail ^bto celebrate these two days according to their ⁴regulation, and according to their appointed time annually.

28 So these days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and these days of Purim were not to ^bfail from

^aEsth. 9:12 ^bEsth. 9:10

16 ¹Lit., have rest from
^aEsth. 9:2

17 ¹Lit., in it
^aEsth. 9:1 ^bEsth. 9:21

18 ¹Lit., in it
^aEsth. 9:2; 8:11 ^bEsth. 9:21

19 ¹Lit., good day
^aDeut. 3:5; Zech. 2:4 ^bEsth. 9:22 ^cNeh. 8:10

20 ¹Lit., hand

21 ¹Lit., in it
^aExodus 12:15; Job 10:21

22 ¹Lit., had rest from ²Lit.,
good day
^aExodus 12:15; Job 10:21
^bNeh. 8:10

24 ^aEsth. 3:7

16 ^aGen. 19:21; Lev. 10:2
^bNeh. 11:3

25 ¹Lit., before the king, he
²Lit., schemed ³Lit., tree
^aEsth. 7:4-10 ^bEsth. 3:6-15
^cPs. 7:16

26 ¹Lit., Therefore because
of all the words
^aEsth. 9:20

27 ¹Lit., received ²Lit., seed
³Lit., it should not pass away
⁴Lit., writing
^aEsth. 8:17 ^bEsth. 9:20, 21

28 ¹Lit., pass away
^aExodus 12:45; Neh. 8:10

Esth. 9, 10, Job 1

28 ^aLit., end ^bLit., seed

29 ^aEsth. 2:15 ^bEsth. 9:20,
21

30 ^aEsth. 1:1

31 ^aLit., seed ^bLit., words
^aEsth. 4:3

32 ^aLit., words
^aEsth. 9:26

1 ^aIs. 11:11; 24:15

2 ^aLit., doing ^bLit., made
him great
^aEsth. 8:15; 9:4 ^bEsth. 2:23

3 ^aGen. 41:43, 44.
^bNeh. 2:10

1 ^aJer. 25:20; Lam. 4:21
^bEzek. 14:14, 20; James 5:11
^cGen. 6:9; 17:1; Deut. 18:13
^dGen. 22:12; 42:18; Ex. 18:21
^eJob 28:28

2 ^aJob 42:13

3 ^aLit., sons
^aJob 42:12 ^bJob 29:25; 31:37

5 ^aJob 42:8 ^bJob 8:4

6 ^aI.c., the adversary; so
through chaps. 1 & 2

among the Jews, or their memory ^bfade from their ^cdescendants.

29 Then Queen Esther, ^adaughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm ^bthis second letter about Purim.

30 And he sent letters to all the Jews, ^ato the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, namely, words of peace and truth,

31 to establish these days of Purim at their appointed times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established for them, and just as they had established for themselves and for their ^adescendants with ^binstructions ^cfor their times of fasting and their lamentations.

32 And the command of Esther established these ^acustoms for ^bPurim, and it was written in the book.

CHAPTER 10

NOw King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land and on the ^acoastlands of the sea.

2 And all the ^aaccomplishments of his authority and strength, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai, ^ato which the king ^badvanced him, are they not written in ^bthe Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

3 For Mordecai the Jew was ^asecond ^bonly to King Ahasuerus and great among the Jews, and in favor with the multitude of his kinsmen, ^bone who sought the good of his people and one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation.

THE BOOK OF JOB

Job's Character and Wealth.

THREE was a man in the land of ^aUz, whose name was ^bJob, and that man was ^cblameless, upright, ^dfearing God, and ^eturning away from evil.

2 ^aAnd seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

3 ^aHis possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was ^bthe greatest of all the ^cmen of the east.

4 And his sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

5 And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering ^aburnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, “^bPerhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, ^aSatan also came among them.