

ESTHER

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A verse can express a spiritual truth even though it is in a story which may not be historical.

Each time the subject of a verse changes from “Yahweh” to
“God” and vice versa, there is a new line.

(Because of Microsoft software problems, verses can independently move from where they have been placed. A ` has been placed on each vacant line in order to try to stop the verses from moving so much from where they have been placed.)

1769 King James Version	2019 King James Version
<p>`</p> <p>1:1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)</p> <p>2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,</p> <p>`</p> <p>3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:</p> <p>4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.</p> <p>5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;</p>	<p>Xerxes I is emperor of Persia</p> <p>1:1 Now this came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (Xerxes I),¹ emperor of Persia, who reigned, from India to Ethiopia, over one hundred twenty-seven provinces.</p> <p>2 In those days, Emperor Xerxes I sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in the palace at Shushan (Susa).²</p> <p>`</p> <p>Xerxes I makes a feast</p> <p>3 In the third year of his reign, Xerxes I made a feast for all his princes and his officials, bringing all the power of Persia and Media, and the nobles and princes of the provinces before him.</p> <p>4 He showed them the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty during one hundred eighty days.</p> <p>5 And when these days were over, the emperor made a feast for all the people who were present in the palace at Susa, both great and small, for seven days, in the court of the garden of the emperor's</p>

6 Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.

8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.

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12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

14 And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)

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15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to

palace.

6 In the court were white, green, and blue tapestries, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble. The beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, blue, white, and black marble.

7 And the drink was served in vessels of gold, the vessels being diverse one from another; and there was royal wine in abundance worthy of an emperor.

8 And the drinking was according to the law; no one was compelled to drink a certain amount, for the emperor had told all the officers of his palace that they should comply with every person's pleasure.

9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to Emperor Xerxes I.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the emperor was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carcas, the seven chamberlains who served in the presence of Emperor Xerxes I,

11 to bring Vashti the queen before him, wearing her royal crown, to show the people and the princes her beauty, for she was beautiful to look at.

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Because Vashti refuses to come to the feast, she is deposed by the emperor

12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the emperor's command by his chamberlains.

Therefore, the emperor was very angry, and his anger burned in him.

13 Then the emperor spoke to the sages who knew the laws, for this was the emperor's custom regarding all who knew law and judgment.

14 And the ones closest to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the emperor's face, and who were considered first in the kingdom.

15 And the emperor asked, "What shall we do to Queen Vashti according to law because she has not obeyed a command of the emperor through the chamberlains?"

16 And Memucan answered before the emperor and the princes, "Vashti the queen has not wronged only

<p>the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.</p> <p>17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.</p> <p>18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.</p> <p>19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.</p> <p>20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.</p> <p>21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:</p> <p>22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.</p>	<p>the emperor, but also the princes and all the people who are in all the provinces of Emperor Xerxes I.</p> <p>17 "For this deed of the queen will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes when it is reported that Emperor Xerxes I commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, and she did not come.</p> <p>18 "The ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's conduct will likewise this day despise all the emperor's princes. Thus there will arise much contempt and wrath.</p> <p>19 "If it pleases the emperor, let a royal commandment go from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it cannot be altered, that Vashti will not come anymore before Emperor Xerxes I. And let the emperor give her royal estate to another who is better than she.</p> <p>20 "And when the emperor's decree which he makes is published throughout all his great empire, all wives will honor their husbands, whether they are great or small."</p> <p>21 And the saying pleased the emperor and the princes, and the emperor did according to the word of Memucan.</p> <p>22 For he sent letters to all the emperor's provinces, into every province according to the language in it, and to every people according to their language, that every man should rule in his own house, and that this decree should be published according to the language of every people.</p>
<p>2:1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.</p> <p>2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:</p> <p>3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given</p>	<p>A replacement is sought for Queen Vashti</p> <p>2:1 After these things, when the wrath of Emperor Xerxes I was appeased, he remembered Vashti, what she had done and what was decreed against her.</p> <p>2 Then the emperor's servants that ministered to him said, "Let fair young virgins be sought for the emperor.</p> <p>3 "And let the emperor appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom so that they may gather together beautiful young virgins to the palace at Susa, to the harem, to the custody of Hege the emperor's chamberlain, keeper of the women. And let them be given beauty treatments.</p>

them:

4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)

13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's

4 And let the young woman who pleases the emperor be queen instead of Vashti." And the plan pleased the emperor, and he so ordered.

5 Now at Susa there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite.

6 Mordecai had been carried away from Jerusalem with those who had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the emperor of Babylon had carried away.

7 And Mordecai brought up Hadassah, that is Esther his younger cousin, for she had neither father nor mother, and the young woman was fair and beautiful. When her father and mother had died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

8 So it came to pass when the emperor's command and his decree were heard, and when many young women were assembled to the palace at Susa to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was also brought to the emperor's harem, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 And Esther pleased Hegai, and he was kind to her and readily gave her things to beautify her and other things which belonged to her. Seven young women were chosen to be given to her, out of the emperor's palace. And he assigned her and her maids to the best place in the house of the women (the harem).

Esther joins the emperor's harem, her Jewish identity unknown

10 Esther had not told anyone in the emperor's palace that she was Jewish, for Mordecai had told her not to.

11 And Mordecai walked every day by the court of the harem, to learn how Esther was and what would become of her.

12 Now every young woman's turn came to go to Emperor Xerxes I, only after she had been given twelve months of beauty treatments, six months with oil of myrrh, six months with sweet odors, and with other things for the beautification of women.

13 When each young woman went to the emperor, whatever she desired was given her to take with her out of the harem to the emperor's palace.

14 In the evening she went, and the next morning she went into the second harem to the custody of

house.

14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

21 In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told

Shaashgaz, the emperor's chamberlain, who kept the concubines. She did not come to the emperor anymore, unless the emperor delighted in her and called for her by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, who was the young cousin of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, came to go to the emperor, she asked for nothing but what Hegai, the emperor's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, provided for her. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all those who looked upon her.

16 So Esther was taken into the royal palace of Emperor Xerxes I in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

The emperor loves Esther and makes her his queen

17 And the emperor loved Esther above all other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the other virgins. So he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then the emperor made a great feast, Esther's feast, for all his princes and his servants. And he declared a tax holiday for the provinces and gave gifts worthy of an emperor.

19 And when the young women were assembled the second time, Mordecai was working for the emperor.

Esther had not told anyone she was Jewish

20 Esther had not yet told anyone in the palace that she was Jewish because Mordecai had told her not to. And Esther did the bidding of Mordecai as she always had, being brought up by him.

21 In those days, while Mordecai was working for the emperor, two of the emperor's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, who guarded the doors to the emperor's private rooms, became angry and sought to assassinate Emperor Xerxes I.

Esther informs the emperor that she was told by her cousin Mordecai of a plot to assassinate the emperor

22 And the plot became known to Mordecai, who

<p>it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.</p> <p>23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.</p>	<p>told it to Esther the queen, and Esther informed the emperor and said that she had been told by Mordecai.</p> <p>23 And when the matter was investigated, the plot was found out; and the two chamberlains were both hanged on a gallows. And it was written in the book of the chronicles of the emperor.</p>
<p>3:1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.</p> <p>2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.</p> <p>3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?</p> <p>4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.</p> <p>5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.</p> <p>6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.</p> <p>7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.</p> <p>8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.</p>	<p>The emperor promotes Haman, but Mordecai, because he is Jewish, refuses to bow to Haman</p> <p>3:1 After these things, Emperor Xerxes I promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, advanced him, and set his seat above all the officials who were with him.</p> <p>2 And all the emperor's servants bowed and revered Haman, for the emperor had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow or reverence him.</p> <p>3 Then the emperor's servants said to Mordecai, "Why do you not obey the emperor's commands?"</p> <p>4 Now when they spoke daily to him, and he did not listen to them, they told Haman to see whether Haman would tolerate Mordecai not honoring him. For Mordecai had told them that, because he was a Jew, he would not bow to Haman.</p> <p>5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow nor reverence him, Haman was full of wrath.</p> <p>Haman determines to kill all Jews in the realm of the emperor</p> <p>6 And Haman was not satisfied to punish Mordecai alone, for the servants had told him that Mordecai was a Jew. Therefore, Haman wanted to destroy all the Jews, all of Mordecai's people, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes I.</p> <p>7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of the emperor's reign, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day and from month to month to the twelfth month, the month Adar.</p> <p>8 And Haman said to the emperor, "There is a certain group scattered among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; and their laws are different from the laws of all other people. They do not keep the emperor's laws; therefore, it is not in the emperor's interest to allow them to live.</p>

<p>9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.</p> <p>10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.</p> <p>11 And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.</p> <p>12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.</p> <p>13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.</p> <p>14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.</p> <p>15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.</p>	<p>9 "If it pleases the emperor, let it be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay three hundred seventy-five tons of silver³ into the emperor's treasury."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The emperor agrees to the destruction of all Jews</p> <p>10 And the emperor took his ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.</p> <p>11 And the emperor said to Haman, "The silver is given to you,⁴ the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."</p> <p>12 Then the emperor's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month. And it was written according to all that Haman had commanded to the emperor's lieutenants, to the governors that were over every province, to the rulers of every people, and to every people in their language. This was written in the name of the emperor and sealed with the emperor's ring.</p> <p>13 And the letters were sent by messengers into all the emperor's provinces to kill all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take their possessions as a reward.</p> <p>14 The copy of the command to be given in every province was published to all people so that they would be ready for that day.</p> <p>15 The messengers went out, being hastened by the emperor's command, and the decree was given in the palace at Susa. And the emperor and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into turmoil.</p>
<p>4:1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;</p> <p>2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.</p> <p>3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and</p>	<p>4:1 When Mordecai learned of the decree, Mordecai rent⁵ (tore) his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, went out into the city and cried out with a loud and bitter cry.</p> <p>2 And he came to the emperor's gate, but he did not go in; for no one was allowed to enter into the emperor's gate clothed with sackcloth.</p> <p>3 And in every province where the emperor's decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, fasting, weeping, and wailing. And many lay in</p>

weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not.

5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was.

6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.

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7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

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9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

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13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther,

sackcloth and ashes.

4 Esther's female servants and her eunuchs came and told her of Mordecai's appearance. Then the queen was exceedingly grieved, and she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and to take away his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them.

5 Then Esther called for Hatach, one of the emperor's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and sent him to ask Mordecai why he was mourning.

6 So Hatach went to Mordecai in the city square which was before the emperor's gate.

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Mordecai send a message to Esther informing her of the decree and asking her to plead for her people to the emperor

7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him and the money that Haman had promised to pay to the emperor's treasury for being given the right to destroy the Jews.

8 Also, Mordecai gave Hatach the copy of the decree that was given in the palace at Susa to destroy the Jews, to show it to Esther and to declare it to her. And Mordecai told him to tell her that she should go in to the emperor to make supplication to him and to plead before him for her people.

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Esther sends a reply explaining how such boldness could cost her her life

9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 Esther spoke to Hatach again and gave him this message for Mordecai.

11 "All the emperor's servants and the people of the emperor's provinces know that whoever, whether man or woman, comes into the inner court to the emperor without being called shall be put to death, except those to whom the emperor holds out the golden scepter so that the person may live. But I have not been called to come in to the emperor for a number of days."

12 And the messenger told Esther's words to Mordecai.

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Esther is told that she may have been placed in the kingdom for such a time as this

13 Then Mordecai commanded the messenger to

<p>Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.</p> <p>14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?</p> <p>15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,</p> <p>16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.</p> <p>17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.</p>	<p>tell Esther, "Do not think that you shall escape in the emperor's palace more than all the other Jews.</p> <p>14 "For if you do not speak at this time, then rescue and deliverance shall arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house shall be destroyed. And who knows whether you have been placed in this kingdom for such a time as this?"</p> <p>Esther is determined to plead for the Jews before the emperor, even if it means risking her life</p> <p>15 Then Esther told Hatach to give Mordecai this answer,</p> <p>16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are present in Susa, and fast for me and do not eat for three days night or day. My young women and I will fast also, and then I will go in to the emperor, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."</p> <p>17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther had told him.</p>
<p>5:1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.</p> <p>2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.</p> <p>3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.</p> <p>4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.</p> <p>5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.</p>	<p>Esther obtains the emperor's favor and proceeds with a plan</p> <p>5:1 On the third day, Esther put on her royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the emperor's palace. And the emperor sat on his royal throne in the royal palace.</p> <p>2 And when the emperor saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight. And the emperor held out to her the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near and touched the top of the scepter.</p> <p>3 Then the emperor said to her, "What do you want, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you even to the half of the kingdom."</p> <p>4 And Esther answered, "If it seems good to the emperor, let the emperor and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared."</p> <p>5 Then the emperor said, "Cause Haman to make haste and do as Esther has said." So the emperor and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.</p> <p>6 And the emperor said to Esther at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition? It shall be granted to</p>

<p>6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.</p> <p>7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;</p> <p>8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.</p> <p>9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.</p> <p>10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.</p> <p>11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.</p> <p>12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.</p> <p>13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.</p> <p>14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.</p>	<p>you. And what is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom, it shall be performed.”</p> <p>7 Then Esther answered, “My petition is this:</p> <p>8 “If I have found favor in the sight of the emperor and if it pleases the emperor to grant my petition, let the emperor and Haman come to the banquet that I will prepare for them.”</p> <p>9 Then Haman went forth that day joyful and with a glad heart, but when Haman saw Mordecai in the emperor's gate and that he did not stand up or bow to him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.</p> <p>10 Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself; and when he arrived home, he called for his friends and Zeresh his wife.</p> <p>11 And Haman boasted of the glory of his riches, the multitude of his children, all the things in which the emperor had promoted him and how the emperor had advanced him above the other officials and servants of the emperor.</p> <p>12 Haman said moreover, “Yes, Esther the queen did not let any man come in with the emperor to the banquet that she had prepared but myself. And tomorrow I am invited to her banquet with the emperor.</p> <p>13 “Yet all this does not satisfy me so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the emperor's gate.”</p> <p>、 、 、</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Haman determines to hang Mordecai</p> <p>14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows be made seventy-five feet high, and tomorrow request the emperor that Mordecai may be hanged on it. Then go in merrily with the emperor to the banquet.” And the plan pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.</p>
<p>、 、 、</p> <p>6:1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.</p> <p>2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bighthana and Teresh, two of the king's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">After the emperor is informed of Mordecai's assistance, the emperor decides to honor Mordecai</p> <p>6:1 On that night the emperor could not sleep, and he commanded that the book of records be brought, and they were read before the emperor.</p> <p>2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had reported that Bighthana and Teresh, two of the</p>

chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

4 And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.

6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having

emperor's chamberlains, the keepers of the door to the emperor's private rooms, sought to kill Emperor Xerxes I.

3 And the emperor said, "What honor and dignity has been given to Mordecai for this?" Then the emperor's servants that ministered to him said, "There has been nothing done for him."

4 And the emperor said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had come into the court of the king's palace to request that the emperor hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

5 And the emperor's officials said to him, "Behold, Haman stands in the court." And the emperor said, "Let him come in."

6 So Haman came in. And the emperor said to him, "What shall be done to the man whom the emperor delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, whom would the emperor delight to honor more than myself?

7 And Haman answered the emperor, "For the man whom the emperor delights to honor,

8 "let the royal apparel be brought which the emperor may himself wear, and the horse that the emperor rides on, and the crown royal which is set upon his head.

9 "And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the emperor's most noble officials so that he may array with it the man whom the emperor delights to honor and bring him on horseback through the street of the city. And let the official proclaim, "Thus shall be done to the man whom the emperor delights to honor."

10 Then the emperor said to Haman, "Make haste, take the apparel and the horse, and do as you have said to Mordecai the Jew who sits at the emperor's gate. Let nothing fail of all that you have spoken."

Haman is forced to honor Mordecai before all the city

11 Then Haman took the apparel and the horse, arrayed Mordecai, brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, "This shall be done to the man whom the emperor delights to honor."

12 And Mordecai came again to the emperor's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning and

<p>his head covered. 13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him. 14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.</p>	<p>with his head covered in shame and rage. 13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had befallen him. Then his sages and Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai is one of the Jews, before whom you have begun to fall, you will not prevail against him, but shall surely fall before him." 14 And while they were talking with Haman, the emperor's chamberlains arrived to quickly bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.</p>
<p>7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. 3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4 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. 5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.</p>	<p>Esther pleads successfully for the lives of the Jews and tells the king of Haman's wickedness 7:1 So the emperor and Haman came to the banquet with Esther the queen. 2 And the emperor said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted to you. And what is your request? It shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom." 3 Then Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O emperor, and if it pleases the emperor, let my life be given me at my petition and my people at my request. 4 "For we have been sold, I and my people, to be killed. If we were only being sold to be bondmen and bondwomen, I would have held my tongue. But we are being sold to be killed." 5 Then Emperor Xerxes I said to Esther, "Who is he, who dared presume in his heart to do so?" 6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is the wicked Haman." Then Haman was afraid before the emperor and the queen. 7 And the emperor arose from the banquet in his wrath and went into the palace garden, and Haman stood up to plead for his life to Esther the queen. For he saw that harm was determined against him by the emperor. 8 Then the emperor returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet, and Haman had fallen upon the bed on which Esther sat. Then the emperor said, "Will he also abuse the queen in front of me in my palace?" As the word went out of the emperor's mouth, servants covered Haman's face. 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said to</p>

<p>9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.</p> <p>10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.</p>	<p>the emperor, "Behold, the gallows seventy-five feet high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had saved the emperor's life, stands at the house of Haman." Then the emperor said, "Hang him on it."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Haman is hanged on the gallows he had prepared to hang Mordecai on</p> <p>10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the emperor's rage subsided.</p>
<p>8:1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.</p> <p>2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.</p> <p>3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.</p> <p>4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,</p> <p>5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:</p> <p>6 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?</p> <p>7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The emperor gives the Jews the right to destroy those who would destroy the Jews</p> <p>8:1 On that day, Emperor Xerxes I gave the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, to Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the emperor, for Esther had told the emperor what Mordecai was to her.</p> <p>2 And the emperor took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.</p> <p>3 And Esther spoke again before the emperor, fell down at his feet, and begged him with tears to put an end to the terrible plan of Haman the Agagite and the campaign he had tried to carry out against the Jews.</p> <p>4 Then the emperor held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose, stood before the emperor,</p> <p>5 and said, "If it pleases the emperor, if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the emperor, let him reverse the orders written by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews in all the emperor's provinces.</p> <p>6 "For how can I endure seeing the evil that shall come upon my people? Or how can I endure seeing the destruction of my relatives?"</p> <p>7 Then the emperor said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman. And they have hanged him upon the gallows because he laid his hand upon the Jews.</p>

8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:

11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,

12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and

Though a decree from the emperor cannot be reversed, the emperor decrees that the Jews may fight back and take plunder

8 "Write for the Jews, as you like in the emperor's name, and seal it with the emperor's ring. For the writing which is written in the emperor's name and sealed with the emperor's ring no one may reverse."

9 Then the emperor's scribes were called at that time, on the twenty-third day of Sivan, which is the third month of the year. And it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, to the lieutenants, the deputies, and rulers of the provinces which are from India to Ethiopia. It was written to one hundred twenty-seven provinces, to every province according to its writing, to every people according to their language, and to the Jews according to their writing and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the name of Emperor Xerxes I, sealed it with the emperor's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and fast horses.

11 In his proclamation, the emperor granted the Jews who were in every city the right to assemble, to fight for their lives, to destroy, slay, and to annihilate all the power of the people and province that would assault them, including little ones and women. And the Jews were given the right to take the plunder of their possessions for prey.

12 Emperor Xerxes I granted this right one day in all his provinces upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar.

13 The proclamation was published in every province to all people that the Jews should be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 So the messengers who rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened by the emperor's command. And the decree was given at the palace in Susa.

Mordecai is honored by the emperor

15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the emperor in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple. And the city of Susa rejoiced and was glad.

16 The Jews had light, gladness, joy and honor.

<p>honour. 17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.</p>	<p>17 And in every province and every city, wherever the emperor's command and his decree came, the Jews had joy, gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews, for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.</p>
<p>9:1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;) 2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. 5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. 6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. 7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha, 8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha, 9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha, 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand. 11 On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king. 12 And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's</p>	<p>The Jews destroy those who would destroy them 9:1 Now on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, the twelfth month, the emperor's command and his decree were about to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, all was turned to the contrary. And the Jews had rule over those who hated them. 2 For the Jews assembled in their cities throughout the provinces of Emperor Xerxes I to lay their hands on any who sought to harm them. And no one could withstand the Jews, for the fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, the deputies, and officers of the emperor helped the Jews because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the emperor's palace, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces, for this man Mordecai grew greater and greater. 5 Thus the Jews struck all their enemies with the stroke of the sword and slaughter, being freed to strike those who hated them. 6 And at Susa the Jews killed five hundred men. 7 And Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vajezatha, 10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, were captured by the Jews, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder. 11 On that day, the number of those who were slain in Susa was brought before the emperor. 12 And the emperor said to Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain five hundred men in Susa and have captured the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the emperor's provinces? Now, what is your petition? And it shall be granted you. What is your further request? It shall be done."</p>

provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done.

13 Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.

14 And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

15 For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.

16 But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,

17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,
21 To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,

22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto

At Esther's request, Haman's ten sons are hanged

13 Then Esther said, "If it pleases the emperor, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do tomorrow also according to this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows."

14 And the emperor commanded it to be done, and the decree was given in the palace at Susa; and Haman's ten sons were hanged.⁶

The Jews in Susa and in the provinces prevail over their enemies

15 For the Jews in Susa assembled on the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and killed three hundred men at Susa. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

16 But the other Jews who were in the emperor's provinces assembled, and defended their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their foes. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

17 This happened on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth day of the same month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

18 But the Jews who were at Susa assembled on the thirteenth day and the fourteenth. And on the fifteenth day, they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore, the Jews of the villages who dwelt in unwalled towns made the fourteenth day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending gifts to one another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of the emperor, both near and far

21 to establish this among them, that they should celebrate the fourteenth day and the fifteenth day of the month Adar yearly,

The Jews establish the feast of Purim to commemorate their victory

22 These were the days in which the Jews rested from their enemies and the month which was

them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;

24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;

25 But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

26 Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,

27 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;

28 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.

29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.

30 And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,

31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.

32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

turned from sorrow to joy for them and from mourning into gladness. Therefore, they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending gifts to one another, and gifts to the poor.

23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun and as Mordecai had written to them,

24 because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to determine when was the best month and day to destroy them.

25 But when Esther came before the emperor, he commanded by letters that the wicked plot which Haman devised against the Jews should return upon Haman's own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

26 Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore, because of Mordecai's letter and because of what had happened to them,

27 the Jews took upon themselves, upon their descendants, and upon all who had joined themselves to them, the decision that they would keep these two days without fail at their appointed time every year.

28 And they decided that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, and that these days of Purim should not be forgotten among the Jews, nor their descendants cease to commemorate them.

29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim.

30 And Mordecai sent the letters to all the Jews in the hundred twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Xerxes I with words of peace and truth

31 to confirm these days of Purim at their appointed times, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had urged, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their descendants, rules for fasting and mourning.

32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

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<p>10:1 And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.</p> <p>2 And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?</p> <p>3 For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mordecai the Jew is next to the emperor in power</p> <p>10:1 And Emperor Xerxes I laid a tribute upon the land and upon the isles of the sea.</p> <p>2 And all the acts of his power and his might and the declaration of the greatness to which the emperor advanced Mordecai, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the emperors of Media and Persia?</p> <p>3 For Mordecai the Jew was next to the emperor and great among the Jews and honored by all his relatives. And Mordecai sought to enhance the welfare of his people and security and peace for all his descendants.</p>
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¹ 1:1 Xerxes I ruled over the large Persian empire from around 490 to 470 B.C.E.

² 1:2 Although the heavens seem to be working on behalf of the Jews in the book of Esther, neither God or Yahweh is mentioned in the book. The Jews are miraculously supported by some heavenly source which is not named.

³ 3:9 The exaggerated amount of silver mentioned makes the historicity of this book questionable.

⁴ 3:11 Several verses earlier, Haman offered to give the silver into the emperor's treasury. Does the king give the money back to Haman, thereby exonerating himself from the guilt of accepting a bribe? Moore [a commentator] translates, "Well, it is your money" – in other words do with it what you will. It seems unlikely that the king gave the money back to Haman; In 4:7 Mordecai tells Esther how much Haman paid for the destruction of the Jews, implying that the king accepted it. In 7:4 Esther declares that the Jews have been "sold" into destruction.

⁵ 4:1 Jewish culture, as reported in the 1769 KJV, has people rending their clothes at times of emotional distress.

⁶ 9:14 To hang the sons of Haman was not in accord with later Jewish theology. According to several later prophets in Israel, Yahweh said that children should not be punished for the sins of their father nor should a father be punished for the sins of his children. Esther was being very vengeful.