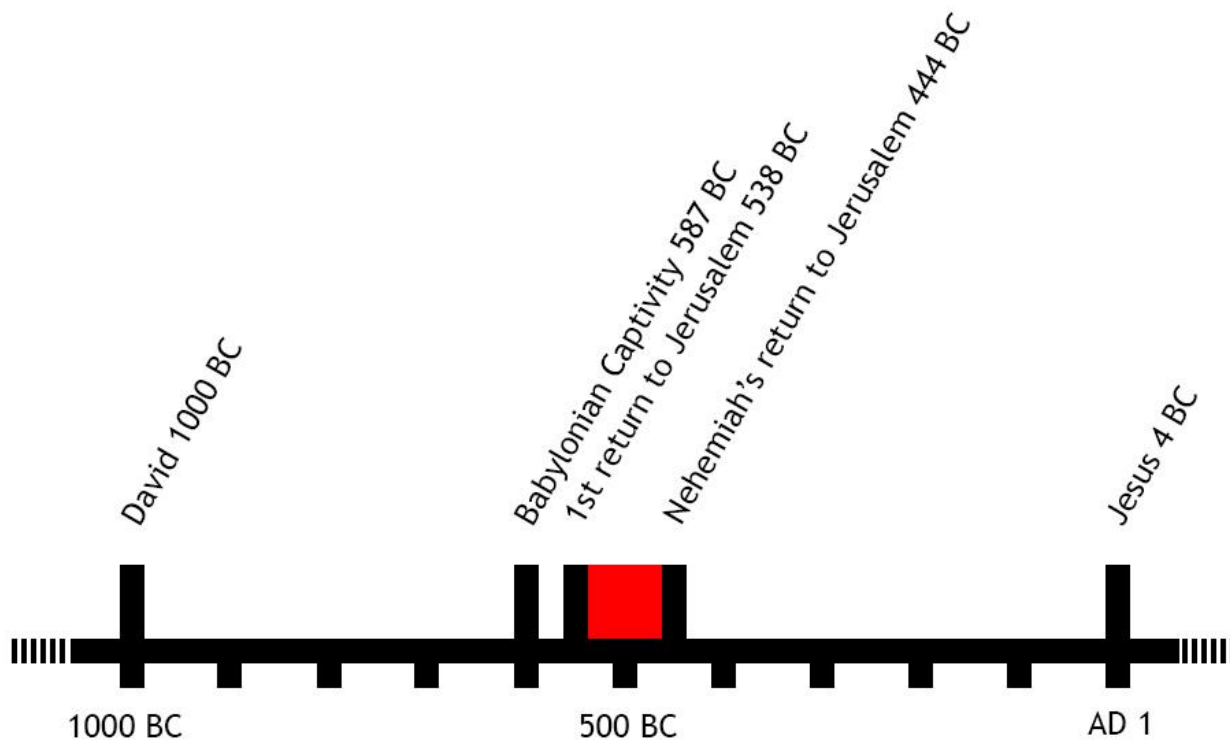


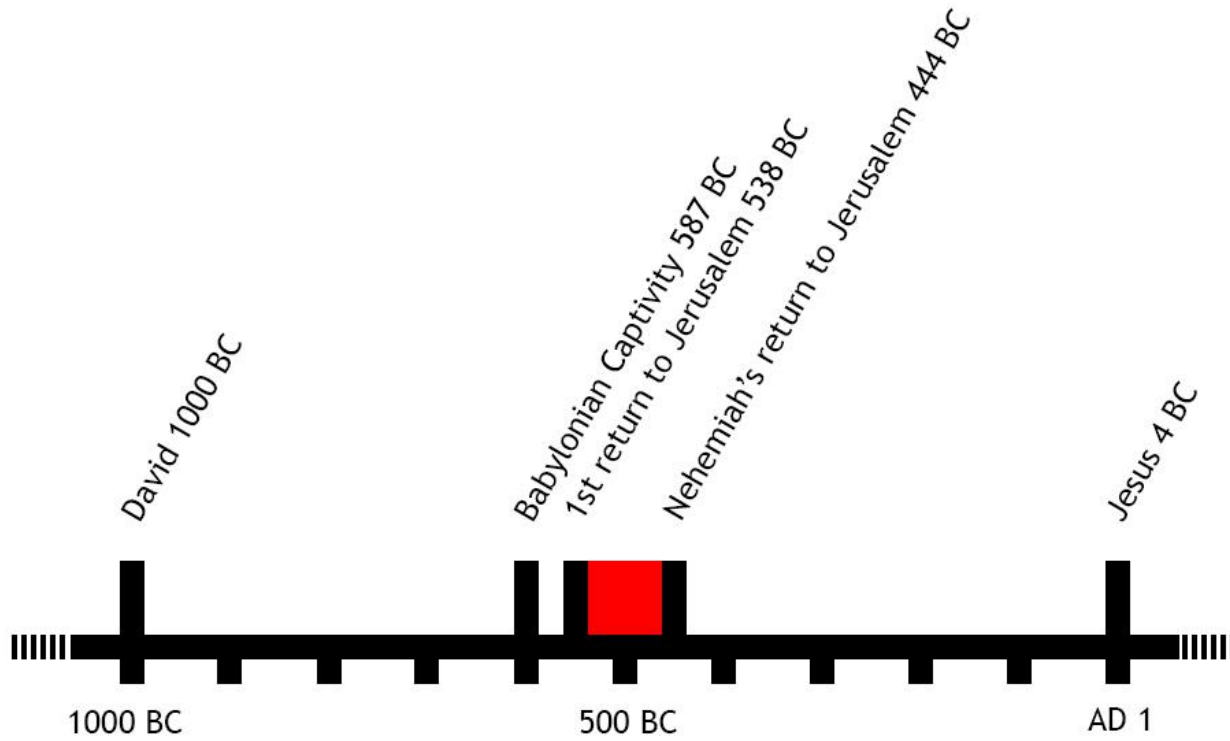
The Story of Esther



The story of Esther takes place in Sushan, the winter palace of the Persian kings, during the reign of King Ahasuerus.



“The events described in Esther occurred between 483-473 BC, and fit between chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra.”



This book tells of the Jews who chose to remain in Babylon rather than return to Jerusalem.

The story of Esther is built around 5 irreversible edicts authorized by the king of Persia:

The first, to establish order in every house.

Chapter One: The Fall of Queen Vashti

The story of Esther is built around 5 irreversible edicts authorized by the king of Persia:

The second, to find a new queen.

Chapter Two: The Rise of Esther

The story of Esther is built around 5 irreversible edicts authorized by the king of Persia:

The third, to facilitate Haman's revenge.

Chapter Three: The Rise of Haman

Chapter Four: Mordecai's instruction to Esther

Chapter Five: Esther approaches the king

Chapter Six: The King's restless night

Chapter Seven: The Fall of Haman

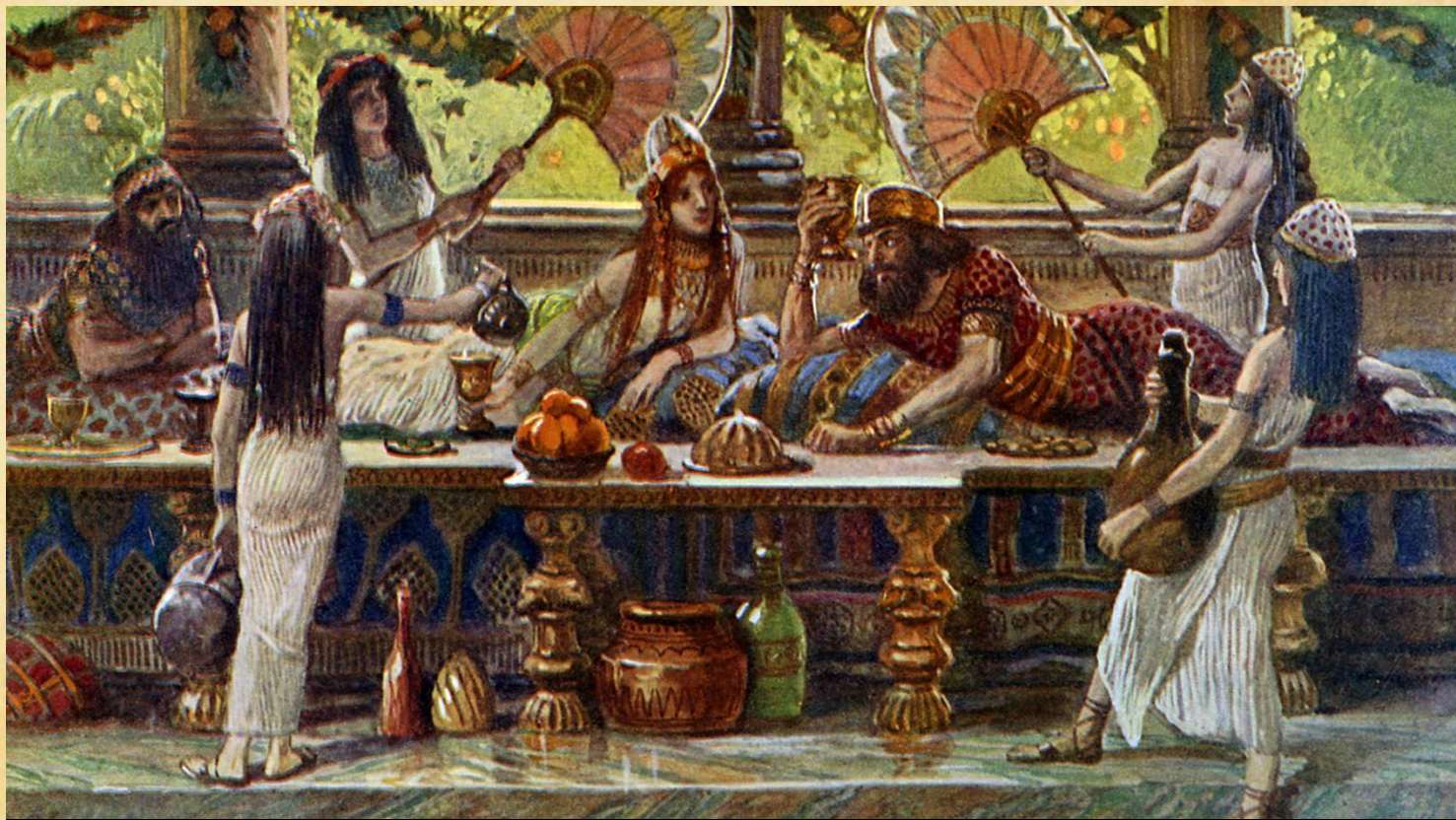
The story of Esther is built around 5 irreversible edicts authorized by the king of Persia:

And the 4th and 5th, to provide for the Jews' defense.

Chapter Eight: The Days of Vengeance

Chapter Nine: The New Celebration

Chapter Ten: The Ascent of Mordecai



Chapter One: How Queen Vashti lost her crown



The King of Persia held a 180-day feast to celebrate his vast empire.

Esther 1:1-4

- 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:)
- 2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the
throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,
- 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:
- 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.

He followed it with a seven-day feast for everyone in the palace.

Esther 1:5-8

- 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;
- 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.



Meanwhile, the Queen was hosting her own party for the women.

Esther 1:9

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



The king summoned her so he could show her off to his guests.

Esther 1:10-12

- 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.
- 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.



The king asked his counselors how to answer her insubordination.

Esther 1:13-15

- 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;)
- 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?



The king asked his counselors how to answer her insubordination.

Esther 1:13-15

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 king said unto his counselors, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment; and which sat the first in the kingdom;) It is notable in this story that every decision made by the king is under the advisement of others.

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?

His advisors knew that either the king or the queen would set a precedent for husbands and wives throughout the empire.

Esther 1:16-18

- ¹⁶ And Memucan answered before the king and the princes,
Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the
princes, and to all the people that *are* in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.
- 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.
- 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.



They recommended that Vashti be banished and replaced.

Esther 1:19-20

- 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.
- 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.



Esther 1:19-20

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 Vachti come no more before king Ahasuerus:

and let it be written, that the king's
is better. It is key to this story that any edict bearing the king's
seal could by no means be rescinded.

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.

The king approved a law establishing the man as the ruler of his house.

Esther 1:21-22

- ²¹ And the saying pleased the king and the princes;
and the king did according to the word of Memucan:
- 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.



Chapter Two: How Esther became the new queen



Sometime later, a plan was launched to find a new wife for the king.

Esther 2:1

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.

A new edict was made to help select a new wife for the king:

Esther 2:2-4

- ² Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him,
Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:
- 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 *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.



Here we are introduced to a Jew named Mordecai, and his young cousin Hadassah, whose Persian name was Esther.

Esther 2:5-7

- 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.



Three generations had passed since the siege of Jerusalem.

Esther 2:5-7

- 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.

Esther was one of the girls taken to the palace to be prepared to meet the king.



Esther 2:8-9

- 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.



Mordecai had instructed Esther to conceal her ethnicity – even though there was yet no apparent reason for this.

Esther 2:10-11

- 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.



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- 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.

As a result, no one else knew he and she were related.

After a year-long preparation, each girl was given one night to impress the king.

Esther 2:12-14

- 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 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.

At her turn, Esther showed her modesty.

Esther 2:15-16

- 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.





Esther 2:17

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.

A feast was held to celebrate the new queen:



Esther 2:18-20

- 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.

Sometime later, Mordecai foiled a plot against the king's life.



Esther 2:21-23

- 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 it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king *thereof* in Mordecai's name.
- 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.



Chapter Three: Haman's rise to power



We are now introduced to the antagonist of the story:

Esther 3:1-2

- 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.
- 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.

Esther 3:2b-3

² But Mordecai bowed not,
nor did *him* reverence.

³ Then the king's servants,
which were in the king's
gate, said unto Mordecai,
Why transgressest thou the
king's commandment?





Haman's wounded pride spurred him to take extreme measures:

Esther 3:4-6

- 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.**
- ⁵ And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.
- 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.



In certain eastern monarchies, rulers were considered deities, and bowing was a required form of worship. Being a Jew, Mordecai would worship none but God. It is likely that Haman believed all the Jews in the empire would follow Mordecai's example, and so he determined to rid himself of them all.



Haman and his men rolled dice to discern the best day to slaughter the Jews.

Esther 3:7

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.



Five years had passed since Esther's coronation.

Esther 3:7

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.



“The way of divination,
then in use among the eastern people,
was by casting *lots*;
and therefore having tried in this
manner, first each month, and then each
day in every month,
they came to a determination at last,
that the thirteenth day of the twelfth
month would be most fortunate for the
bloody execution.”

Benson Commentary

Esther 3:7

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.





Next, Haman sought the king's permission to carry out his plan, even offering to finance it himself.

Esther 3:8-9

- 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.
- 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.



Esther 3:8-9

⁸ And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus,
There is **a certain people** scattered abroad and
dispersed among the people in all the provinces of the

Had Haman been clear that these “certain people” were the Jews,
he probably would not have received the king’s support.

neither keep they the king's laws:
therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.

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.



The king approved Haman's plan.

Esther 3:10-11

- ¹⁰ **And the king took his ring from his hand,**
and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha
the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.
- 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.

The edict was authorized in the 1st month to be carried out the 12th month.

Esther 3:12

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.

The edict was authorized in the 1st month to be carried out the 12th month.

Esther 3:13

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.

Esther 3:13

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.*

All the Jews' lands and goods could be seized by their dispatchers.



Esther 3:14-15

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.

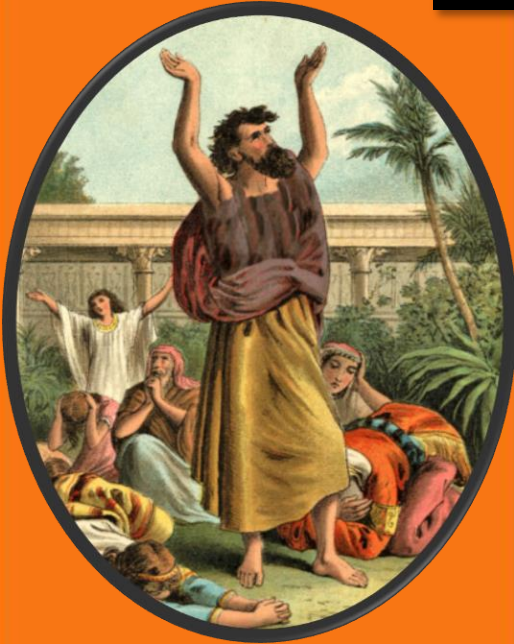
¹⁵ The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace.

And the king and Haman sat down to drink;
but the city Shushan was perplexed.



Chapter Four: Mordecai's warning to Esther

Mordecai and the Jews anguished over the coming genocide.



Esther 4:1-3

- 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;
- ² And came even before the king's gate: for none *might* enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.
- ³ And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, *there was* great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.



Esther knew nothing about the decree, so his behavior mystified her.

Esther 4:4

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.



She sent her servant to get an explanation.

Esther 4:5-6

- 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.



Via her messenger, Mordecai told Esther what she must do.

Esther 4:7-9

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



Esther reminded him that she did not have free access to the king.

Esther 4:10-11

- 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.



He reminded her what would happen if she kept quiet.

Esther 4:12-14

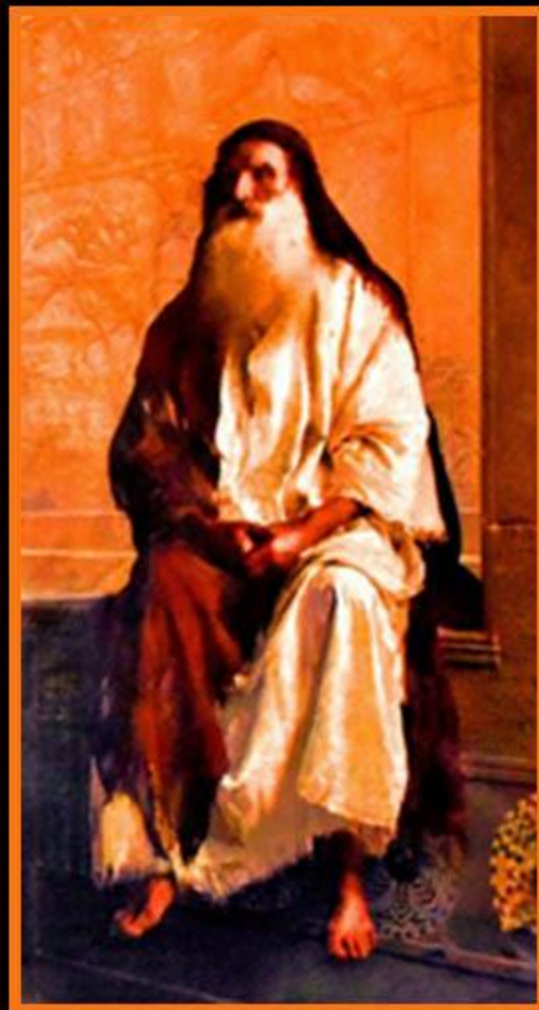
- ¹² And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.
- ¹³ Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther,
Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.
- ¹⁴ For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement [relief] and deliverance arise 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?



Esther made a brave but necessary decision.

Esther 4:15-16

- ¹⁵ Then Esther bade *them* return Mordecai *this answer*,
- 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.



Esther 4:17

¹⁷ So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.



Chapter Five: Esther approaches the king



When the fast was over, Esther made her move.

Esther 5:1

- 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.



Esther 5:1

- 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.

Would he summon her, or have her arrested?



Esther 5:2-3

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.

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.



What would she say?

Would she reveal identity and plea for mercy?

Esther 5:4-5a

- 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.
- 5 Then the king said,
Cause Haman to make haste,
that he may do as Esther hath said.

She said little, but invited them to a *second* banquet the next day.

Esther 5:5b-8

- ⁵ So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.
- 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.
- ⁷ Then answered Esther, and said,
My petition and my request is;
- 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.





Haman was very pleased... for a while.

Esther 5:9

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.



Esther 5:10-13

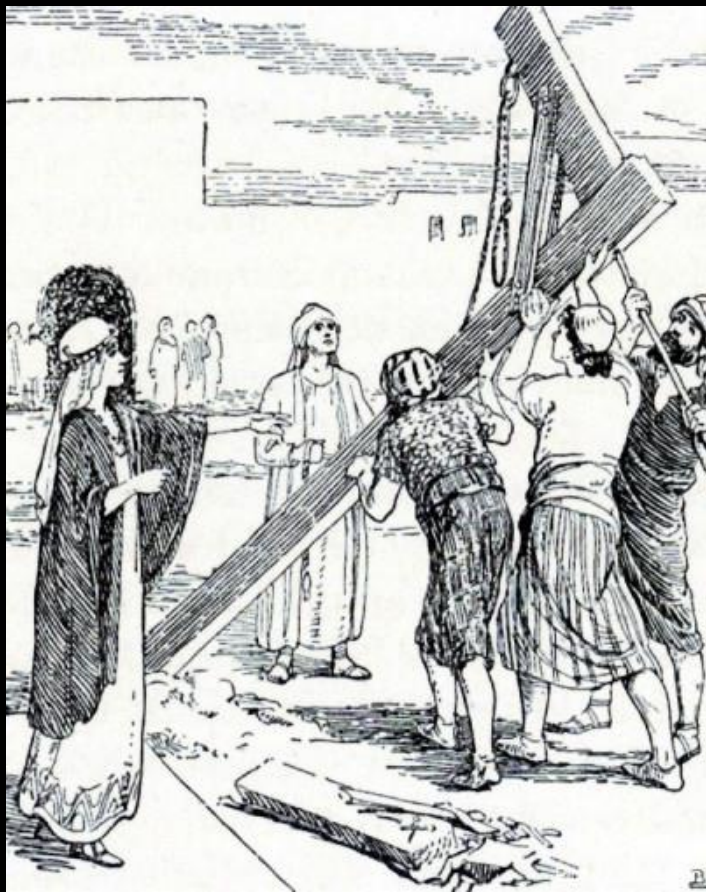
- ¹⁰ Nevertheless Haman refrained himself:
and when he came home,
he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.
- ¹¹ And Haman told them of the glory of his [the king's] riches,
and the multitude of his children,
and all *the things* wherein the king had promoted him,
and how he had advanced him above the princes and
servants of the king.
- 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.
- ¹³ Yet all this availeth me nothing,
so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.



Esther 5:14a

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.



Esther 5:14b

¹⁴ ...And the thing pleased Haman;
and he caused the gallows to be made.



Chapter Six: The King's sleepless night



Esther 6:1-3

- 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.
- ² And it was found written,
that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh,
two of the king's 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.



Esther 6:4-5

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.



Esther 6:6a

⁶ So Haman came in.

And the king said unto him,
What shall be done unto the
man whom the king delighteth
to honour?



Esther 6:6b

⁶ Now Haman thought in his heart,
To whom would the king delight to do honour
more than to myself?



Esther 6:7-9

- 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.



Esther 6:10

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.

Esther 6:11

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.**





Everyone knew that Haman was now in serious trouble!

Esther 6:12a

¹² And Mordecai came again to the king's gate.



Everyone knew that Haman was now in serious trouble!

Esther 6:12b-13a

- ¹² But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.
- ¹³ And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every *thing* that had befallen him.



Everyone knew that Haman was now in serious trouble!

Esther 6:13b-14

- ¹³ 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 hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet
that Esther had prepared.



Chapter Seven: The Fall of Haman



Once again, the king asked his queen why she had approached his throne and sought his attention.

Esther 7:1-2

- 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.



She revealed that she was among those set for the slaughter.

Esther 7:3-4a

- 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...



If the Jews were sold into slavery, (she said) she would have accepted it silently – “for then our distress would not have been worth troubling the king.” NEW AMERICAN BIBLE

Esther 7:4b

⁴ ... But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail [offset] the king's damage.

The king demanded to know who had threatened her life.



Esther 7:5

- 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?

The king demanded to know who had threatened her life.



Esther 7:6

⁶ And Esther said, The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

When the king left the room, Haman stood up to beg for his life.



Esther 7:7

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.

The king returned and saw Haman lying on Esther's bed!

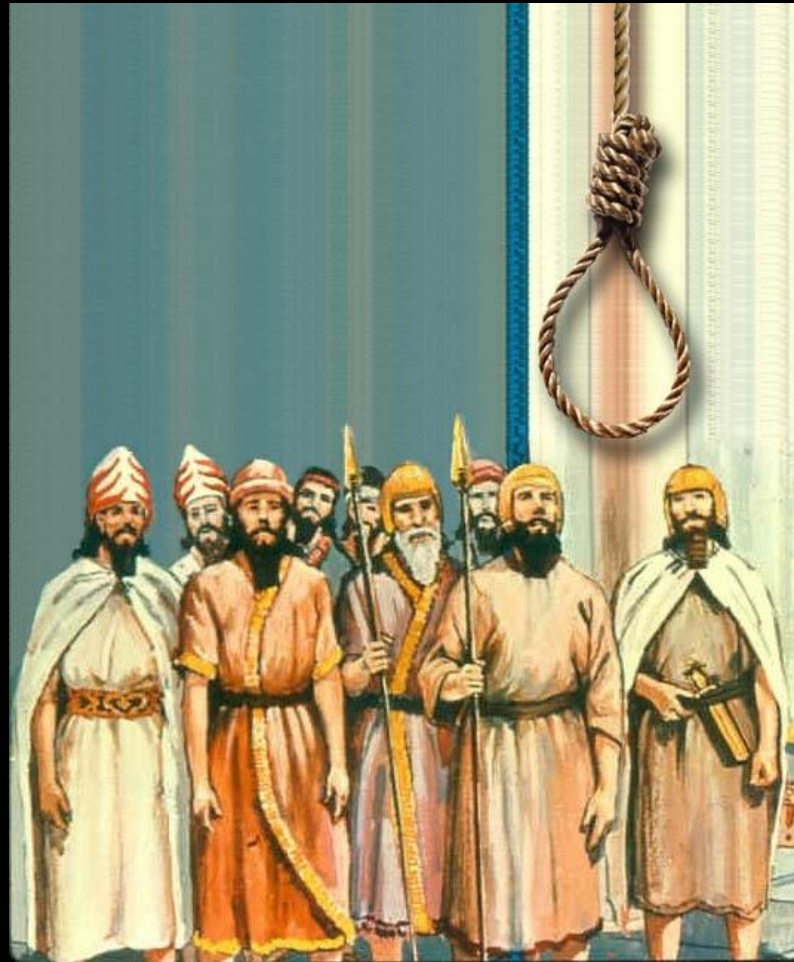


Esther 7:8

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.



Esther 7:9

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.



Esther 7:10

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.



Chapter Eight: The king's new command

All the honors held by Haman were transferred to Mordecai.

Esther 8:1-2

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.

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.





Haman was dead, but the slaughter he had set into motion was still on schedule.

Esther 8:3

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.



Esther 8:4-6

- 4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther.
So Esther arose, and stood before the king,
- 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:
- 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?



The king gave Esther and Mordecai the power and authority to remedy the situation however they say fit.

Esther 8:7-8

- 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.
- 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.



A new edict was published across the empire.

Esther 8:9

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.

Esther asked the king “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” (v. 5), but the king said, “the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse” (v.8).

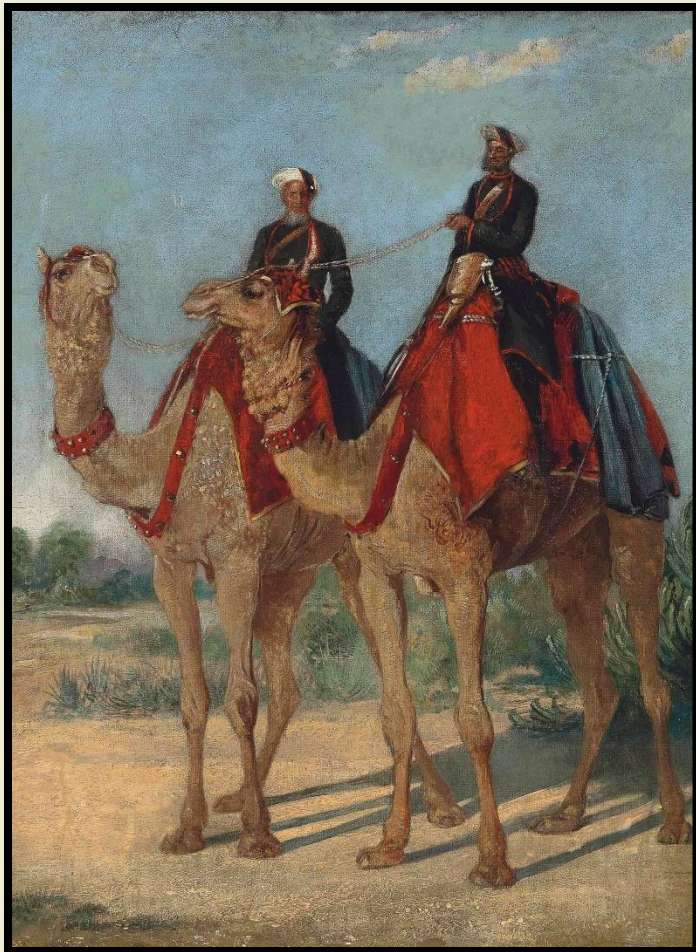
The law could *not* be undone.

The only way to remedy it was to offset it with a new one.

The king's 4th decree authorized the Jews to kill anyone who came against them.

Esther 8:10-12

- 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.



Esther 8:13-14

- 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.



Esther 8:15-17

- 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 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.



Chapter Nine: The new days of celebration



Esther 9:1-2

- 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.



Esther 9:3-4

- 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.




Esther 9:5-10

- 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.



Esther 9:11-12


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



Esther asked that the Jews in Shushan be given an additional day for their defense, and that the dead bodies of Haman's sons be hung on display.

Esther 9:13-14

- 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.



Esther asked that the Jews in Shushan be given an additional day for their defense, and that the dead bodies of Haman's sons be hung on display.

Esther 9:13-14

- 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.**

This was the king's *fifth* decree.

The Jews in Shushan fought on the 13th and 14th of Adar.

Adar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

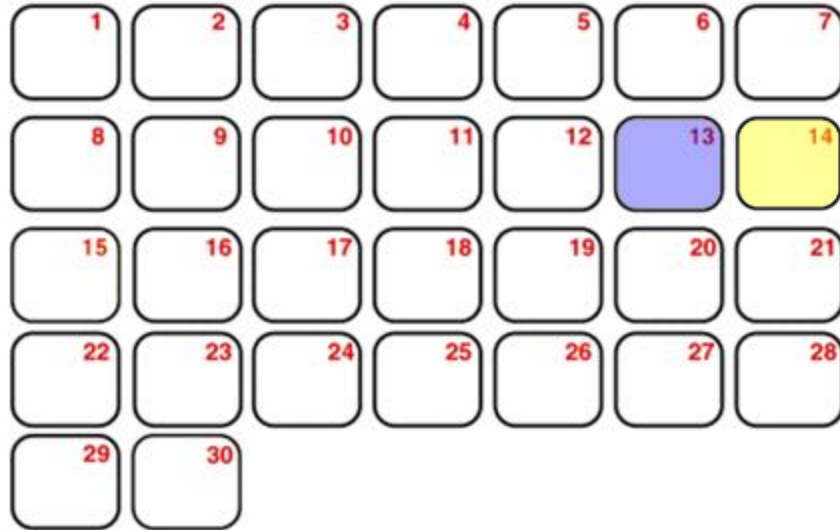
Esther 9:15

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.



In places beyond, they fought on the 13th according to the original decree.

Adar



Esther 9:16-17

- 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.

In Shushan, they celebrated on the 15th of Adar.

Adar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Esther 9:18

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.



But in places beyond, they celebrated on the 14th.

Adar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Esther 9:19

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.*





Now Mordecai made his own decree to unify the celebration.

Esther 9:20-21a

- 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...

Adar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Esther 9:21b-22

- ²¹ ... 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 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.



Esther 9:23-26a

- 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*...



Esther 9:26b-27

- ²⁶ 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;

Adar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Esther 9:28

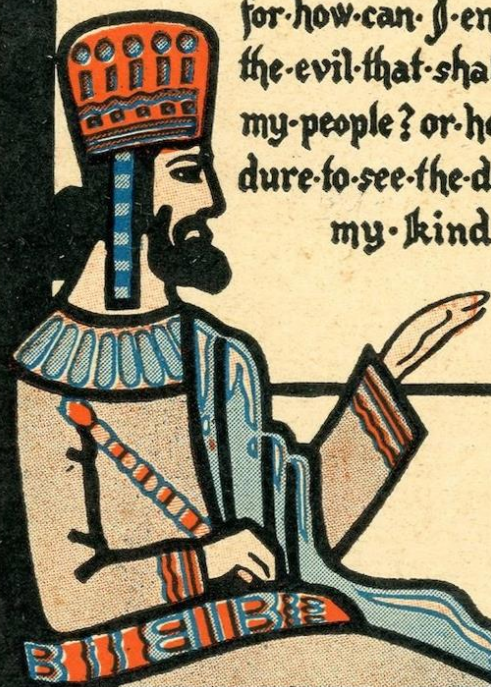
²⁸ And *that* these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and *that* these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.





Esther 9:29-32

- 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.



for-how-can-I-endure-to-see
the-evil-that-shall-come-unto
my-people? or-how-can-I-en-
dure-to-see-the-destruction-of
my-kindred?'

כִּי אֵיכָכָה אוֹכֵל
וְרָאִיתִי בְרָעָה אֲשֶׁר-
יִמָּצָא אֶת-עַמִּי וְאֵיכָכָה
אוֹכֵל וְרָאִיתִי בְּאֶבְרָן
מוֹלֵדֵי:

In 2023, Purim began at sundown on March 6 and ended at sundown March 7.

PURIM GREETINGS



Chapter Ten: Epilogue



Esther 10:1-3

- ¹ And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and *upon* the isles of the sea.
- 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?
- 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.



Esther 10:1-3

- ¹ And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and *upon* the isles of the sea.
- 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?
- 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.

The end of the book of Esther

Charles Spurgeon on Mordecai:

Mordecai was a true patriot, and therefore, being exalted to the highest position under Ahasuerus, he used his eminence to promote the prosperity of Israel. In this he was a type of Jesus, who, upon his throne of glory, seeks not his own, but spends his power for his people. It were well if every Christian would be a Mordecai to the church, striving according to his ability for its prosperity.

Some are placed in stations of affluence and influence, let them honour their Lord in the high places of the earth, and testify for Jesus before great men. Others have what is far better, namely, close fellowship with the King of kings, let them be sure to plead daily for the weak of the Lord's people, the doubting, the tempted, and the comfortless.



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