

Spirit of Prophecy Version™

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10

Translator:
Jeffrey Ho

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This work of translation is
DEDICATED TO

- 1) God, the Eternal Father, the Creator and Sustainer of all existence
- 2) The Holy Spirit, the seven Spirits of God who are before his throne,
who continually convict us of sin, righteousness, and the coming Judgment
- 3) Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, the Lord and Savior of all mankind

Without these Three, this work would never have been possible.

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 1

1 Now it happened in the days of Ahasuerus (that is, Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia¹ [over] a hundred and twenty-seven provinces),

2 in those days when the king Ahasuerus sat upon his royal throne², which [was] in Susa the citadel,

3 in [the] third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all his officials and his servants. The army of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces [were] before him,

4 while he showed the riches of his royal glory³ and the honor of the splendor of his greatness [for] many days, a hundred and eighty days.

5 And when these days were fulfilled, the king gave a banquet for all the people who were found in Susa the citadel, both great and small, [for] seven days, in the court of the garden of the palace of the king.

6 [There were hangings of] white fabric and fine linen and blueish purple wool held by cords of byssus and purple wool on rings of silver and pillars of alabaster; couches of gold and silver [were] on a mosaic pavement of porphyry and alabaster and mother of pearl and mineral.

7 And they provided drinks in vessels of gold, and vessels were different from vessels, and royal wine⁴ [was in] abundance, according to the bounty of the king.

8 And the drinking [was] according to the law; there was no one who compelled, for thus the king had appointed upon every officer of his house that [they] should do according to the pleasure of each man.

9 Vashti the queen also gave a banquet for women [in] the royal house⁵ which belonged to the king Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, as soon as the heart of the king was joyful with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of the king Ahasuerus,

11 to bring Vashti the queen before the king with a royal crown⁶, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she [was] beautiful in appearance.

12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the command of the king which [was] by the hand of the eunuchs. Then the king became very furious, and his anger burned within him.

13 And the king said to the wise [men] who knew the times (for thus [was] the manner of the king before all who knew law and judgment,

14 and those who were near to him [were] Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media who saw the face of the king, who sat first in the kingdom),

15 "According to law, what should [we] do with the queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of the king Ahasuerus by the hand of the eunuchs?"

16 Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the princes, "Vashti the queen has done wrong not only against the king, but [also] against all the princes and against all the peoples who [are] in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

17 "For the conduct of the queen will go forth to all the women, with the result of causing [them] to despise their husbands in their eyes, when they say, 'The king Ahasuerus commanded to bring Vashti the queen before him, but she did not come.'

18 "And this day the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the conduct of the queen will say [the same] to all the princes of the king, and [there will be] contempt and wrath in plenty⁷.

19 "If [it is] pleasing to the king, let a royal edict⁸ go forth from his presence, and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media in order that it may not pass away, that Vashti should not come into the presence of the king Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who [is] better than she.

20 "When the decree of the king which he will make is heard throughout all his kingdom (for it [is] great), then all the wives will give honor to their husbands, both great and small."

21 And the word was pleasing in the eyes of the king and the princes, so the king did according to the word of Memucan.

1) lit, "Cush"

2) lit, "the throne of his royalty"

3) lit, "the glory of his royalty"

4) lit, "wine of royalty"

5) lit, "house of royalty"

6) lit, "crown of royalty"

7) lit, "as enough"

8) lit, "edict of royalty"

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.

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.

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.

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:)

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 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.

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.

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

22 And he sent letters to all the provinces of the king, to each province according to its writing and to each people according to their language, in order that every man should be ruling in his house and be speaking according to the language of his people.

CHAPTER 1

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 2

1 After these things, when the wrath of the king Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her.

2 Then the servants of the king who ministered to him said, "Let them seek for the king young women, virgins, beautiful in appearance.

3 "And let the king appoint administrators in all the provinces of his kingdom in order that they may gather every young woman, virgin, beautiful in appearance, to Susa the citadel, to the house of the women into the care of Hegai the eunuch of the king, the keeper of the women; and let him give [them] their cleansings and anointings.

4 "Then let the young woman who is pleasing in the eyes of the king be queen in place of Vashti." And the thing was pleasing in the eyes of the king, and he did so.

5 A Jewish man was in Susa the citadel, and his name [was] Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite man,

6 who had been carried away into exile from Jerusalem with the exiles who had been carried away into exile with Jeconiah the king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away into exile.

7 And he was bringing up Hadassah (that is, Esther), the daughter of his uncle, for she did not have a father or a mother. And the young woman [was] beautiful in form and beautiful in appearance. And when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

8 And it happened when the command of the king and his decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered to Susa the citadel into the care of Hegai, that Esther was taken to the house of the king into the care of Hegai, the keeper of the women.

9 And the young woman was pleasing in his eyes and obtained favor in his presence. Then he made haste to give her her cleansings and anointings and her portions, and to give her the seven maids who were chosen from the house of the king. And he transferred her and her maids to the best place of the house of the women.

10 Esther did not make her people or her relatives known, for Mordecai had commanded her that she should not make [them] known.

11 And in each and every day Mordecai was walking about in front of the court of the house of the women, to know the welfare of Esther and what was being done with her.

12 Now when the turn of each young woman came to go in to the king Ahasuerus, at the end of treating¹ her [for] twelve months according to the regulation for the women (for thus the days of their cosmetic treatment were fulfilled: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with balsam oil and with the purifications and anointings for the women),

13 the young woman was going in this [way] to the king: all that she desired was given her to go with her from the house of the women to the house of the king.

14 In the evening she was going, and in the morning she was returning to the second house of the women into the care of Shaashgaz the eunuch of the king, the keeper of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken as his own daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request a thing except [that] which Hegai the eunuch of the king, the keeper of the women, advised. And Esther was obtaining favor in the eyes of all those who were looking at her.

16 So Esther was taken to the king Ahasuerus to his royal house² in the tenth month, which [is] the month of Tebeth, in [the] seventh year of his reign.

CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 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.

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.

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 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.

1) lit, "happening to"

2) lit, "house of royalty"

17 And the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she obtained favor and kindness in his presence more than all the virgins, with the result that he set a royal crown³ upon her head and made her queen in place of Vashti.

18 Then the king gave a great banquet, the banquet of Esther, for all his princes and his servants. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts according to the bounty of the king.

19 Now when [the] virgins were gathered together [for the] second [time], Mordecai was sitting at the gate of the king.

20 Esther was not making her relatives or her people known, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther was doing the command of Mordecai, as she had done in his upbringing⁴.

21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the gate of the king, Bigthan and Teresh, the two eunuchs of the king, of the keepers of the door, became furious and sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus.

22 And the plot became known to Mordecai, and he told [it] to Esther the queen, and Esther told [it] to the king in the name of Mordecai.

23 And the plot was investigated, and it was discovered. Then the two of them were hanged upon a gallows. And it was written in the book of the accounts of the days in the presence of the king.

CHAPTER 3

1 After these things the king Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and exalted him and set his seat above all the princes who [were] with him.

2 And all the servants of the king who [were] at the gate of the king were bowing down and prostrating themselves before Haman, for the king had thus commanded concerning him. But Mordecai was not bowing down and was not prostrating himself.

3 Then the servants of the king who [were] at the gate of the king said to Mordecai, "Why are you transgressing the command of the king?"

4 And it happened when they spoke to him day after day and he did not listen to them, that they told Haman in order to see whether the words of Mordecai would stand, for he had told them that he [was] a Jew.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down or prostrating himself before him, Haman was filled with fury.

6 And in his eyes he despised laying hands on Mordecai alone, for they had made the people of Mordecai known. Therefore Haman sought to annihilate all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who [were] throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

7 In the first month (that is, the month of Nisan), in [the] twelfth year of the 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 of Adar).

8 Then Haman said to the king Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and separated among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; and their laws are different from every people and they are not keeping the laws of the king, therefore it is not suitable for the king to allow them to remain.

9 "If [it is] pleasing to the king, let it be written to destroy them, and I will weigh out ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, in order that [they] may bring [it] into the treasuries of the king."

10 Then the king removed his signet ring from upon his hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

11 And the king said to Haman, "The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them according to that which is good in your eyes."

12 Then the scribes of the king were summoned in the first month, on [the] thirteenth day of it, and it was written, according to all that Haman had commanded, to the satraps of the king and to the governors who [were] over each province and to the princes of each people, each province according to its writing and each people according to their language; [it] was written in the name of the king Ahasuerus and sealed with the signet ring of the king.

CHAPTER 2

3) lit, "crown of royalty"

4) lit, "been in upbringing with him"

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 *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 3

CHAPTER 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

13 And letters were sent by the hand of the messengers to all the provinces of the king, to annihilate, to exterminate, to destroy all the Jews, both youth and elderly, little ones and women, on one day, on [the] thirteenth [day] of [the] twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar), and to plunder their spoil.

14 The copy of the writing to be issued [as] a decree in each and every province was published to all the peoples in order that [they] might be ready for this day.

15 The messengers went forth, hastened by the word of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city Susa was in confusion.

CHAPTER 4

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his garments and put on sackcloth and ashes, and he went out into the midst of the city and cried out [with] a loud and bitter cry.

2 And he came up to the front of the gate of the king, for it was not possible to go into the gate of the king with a garment of sackcloth.

3 And in each and every province, the place to which the word of the king and his decree were reaching, [there was] great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and wailing; sackcloth and ashes were being spread out for the many.

4 And the maids of Esther and her eunuchs came in and told her. Then the queen writhed in great anxiety, and she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and to take away his sackcloth from upon him, but he did not accept [them].

5 Then Esther called for Hathach, [one] of the eunuchs of the king, whom he had caused to stand before her, and commanded him to Mordecai, to know what this [was] and why this [was].

6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the broad open place of the city which [was] in front of the gate of the king.

7 And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact amount of money which Haman had promised to weigh out to the treasuries of the king for the Jews to destroy them.

8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree which had been issued in Susa to annihilate them, to make Esther see [it] and to explain [it] to her, and to command her to go in to the king in order to implore compassion of him and to request of him on behalf of her people.

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

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to Mordecai,

11 "All the servants of the king and the people of the provinces of the king know that every man or woman who comes in to the king to the inner court, who is not called, [there is] one law for him: to put [him] to death, except [the one] to whom the king holds out the scepter of gold in order that he may live. Now I have not been called to come in to the king [for] these thirty days."

12 And they told Mordecai the words of Esther.

13 Then Mordecai commanded to return to Esther, "Do not imagine in your soul that [you] will escape [in] the house of the king more than all the Jews.

14 "For if you completely keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and the house of your father will perish. And who knows whether you came to the kingship for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther commanded to return to Mordecai,

16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast on my behalf, and do not eat and do not drink [for] three days, night or day. I also and my maids will fast in like manner, and then I will go in to the king, which [is] not according to the law, and when I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went away and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

CHAPTER 5

1 And it happened on the third day, that Esther put on royalty, and stood in the inner court of the house of the king, in front of the house of the king. Now the king was sitting upon his royal throne¹ in the royal house², opposite the door of the house.

CHAPTER 3

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.

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 4

CHAPTER 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;

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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?

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.

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

CHAPTER 5

CHAPTER 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.

1) lit, "the throne of his royalty"
2) lit, "house of royalty"

2 And it happened as soon as the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his eyes, and the king held out toward Esther the scepter of gold which [was] in his hand. Then Esther drew near and touched the top of the scepter.

3 And the king said to her, "What [is] it, Esther the queen? And what [is] your wish? Even to half of the kingdom, it will be given you."

4 And Esther said, "If [it is] pleasing to the king, let the king and Haman come [this] day to the banquet which I have prepared for him."

5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly in order to carry out the word of Esther." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

6 And the king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, "What [is] your request? It will be granted you. And what [is] your wish? Even to half of the kingdom, it will be done."

7 Then Esther answered and said, "My request and my wish [is]:

8 "If I have found favor in the eyes of the king, and if [it is] pleasing to the king to grant my request and to fulfill my wish, let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do according to the word of the king."

9 Then Haman went out on that day joyful and glad of heart, but as soon as Haman saw Mordecai at the gate of the king, and he did not arise or tremble before him, Haman was filled with rage against Mordecai.

10 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went to his house. And he sent and brought his friends and Zeresh his wife.

11 And Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his sons, and all [the things] with which the king had promoted him, and how he had exalted him above the princes and the servants of the king.

12 And Haman said, "Moreover Esther the queen did not bring in [anyone] with the king to the banquet which she had prepared, except me. And also for tomorrow I am invited by her with the king.

13 "Yet all this is really not sufficient for me, at all times when I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the gate of the king."

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Let them prepare a gallows, fifty cubits high, and in the morning say to the king that they should hang Mordecai upon it. Then go joyful with the king to the banquet." And the thing was pleasing before Haman, so he prepared the gallows.

CHAPTER 6

1 On that night the sleep of the king fled. And he commanded to bring the book of memorable deeds, the accounts of the days, and they were read¹ before the king.

2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, the two eunuchs of the king, of the keepers of the door, who had sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, "What honor or greatness has been done to Mordecai on account of this?" And the servants of the king who were ministering to him said, "Nothing has been done with him."

4 And the king said, "Who [is] in the court?" Now Haman had come in to the outer court of the house of the king in order to command the king to hang Mordecai upon the gallows which he had set up for him.

5 And the servants of the king said to him, "Haman is here standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

6 So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What should be done with the man in whose honor the king delights?" Then Haman said in his heart, "To whom would the king delight to do honor more than me?"

7 So Haman said to the king, "[The] man in whose honor the king delights,

8 "let them bring royal clothing² which the king has put upon himself, and [the] horse upon which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown³ has been set,

CHAPTER 5

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.

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. 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.

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.

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 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 Jew all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

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.

CHAPTER 6

1) or, "being read"

2) lit, "clothing of royalty"

3) lit, "crown of royalty"

CHAPTER 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.

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.

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 them give the clothing and the horse into [the] hand⁴ of [one] of the princes of the king, the nobles, and let them clothe the man in whose honor the king delights, and let them cause him to ride upon the horse through the broad open place of the city, and let them proclaim before him, 'Thus it will be done to the man in whose honor the king delights.'"

10 Then the king said to Haman, "Make haste, take the clothing and the horse as you have spoken, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the gate of the king. Do not cause a word of all that you have spoken to fall."

11 So Haman took the clothing and the horse, and clothed Mordecai, and caused him to ride through the broad open place of the city, and proclaimed before him, "Thus it will be done to the man in whose honor the king delights."

12 Then Mordecai returned to the gate of the king, while Haman hurried to his house, mourning and head covered⁵.

13 And Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and to all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise [men] and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, [is] from the seed of the Jews, you will not prevail against him, but you will certainly fall before him."

14 They were still speaking with him when the eunuchs of the king arrived and hurried to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

CHAPTER 6
4) lit. "hand of a man"

5) lit. "covered of 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 hasted 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. 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.

CHAPTER 7

1 So the king and Haman came in to drink with Esther the queen.

2 And the king said to Esther again on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What [is] your request, Esther the Queen? It will be granted you. And what [is] your wish? Even to half of the kingdom, it will be done."

3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, O king, and if [it is] pleasing to the king, let my life be granted me for my request, and my people for my wish.

4 "For we have been sold, I and my people, for annihilation, for extermination, and for destruction. Now if we had been sold as male slaves and as female slaves, I would have kept silent because the need is not sufficient for the injury of the king."

5 Then the king Ahasuerus spoke and said to Esther the queen, "Who [is] he, and where [is] he, whose heart has filled him to do so?"

6 And Esther said, "[The] man, an adversary and an enemy, [is] this wicked Haman!" Then Haman became terrified at the presence of the king and the queen.

7 Now the king rose up in his wrath from the banquet of wine to the garden of the palace, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Esther the queen, for he saw that harm had been determined against him from the king.

8 When the king returned from the garden of the palace to the house of the banquet of wine, Haman was lying on the couch upon which Esther [was]. Then the king said, "Will [he] even force the queen with me in the house?" The word went out from the mouth of the king when they covered the face of Haman.

9 Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs before the king, said, "Behold also, the gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman prepared for Mordecai who spoke good on behalf of the king, is standing at the house of Haman." And the king said, "Hang him upon it."

10 So they hanged Haman upon the gallows which he had set up for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king subsided.

CHAPTER 7

CHAPTER 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.

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.

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

CHAPTER 8

1 On that day the king Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he [was] to her.

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

3 Then Esther spoke again before the king. And she fell before his feet and wept and implored compassion of him to take away the evil of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king held out the scepter of gold toward Esther. And Esther arose and stood before the king.

CHAPTER 8

CHAPTER 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.

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.

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.

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

5 And she said, "If [it is] pleasing to the king, and if I have found favor before him, and the thing is proper before the king, and I [am] pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters, the plot of Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who [are] in all the provinces of the king.

6 "For how will I be able to look at the calamity which will come upon my people? Or how will I be able to look at the destruction of my relatives?"

7 Then the king Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given the house of Haman to Esther, and they have hanged him upon the gallows because he had lain his hands upon the Jews.

8 "You therefore, write to the Jews according to that which is good in your eyes, in the name of the king, and seal [it] with the signet ring of the king; for a writing which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the signet ring of the king, no one is able to revoke."

9 Therefore the scribes of the king were summoned at that time, in the third month (that is, the month of Sivan), on [the] twenty-third [day] of it. And it was written, according to all that Mordecai had commanded, to the Jews and to the satraps and the governors and the princes of the provinces which [were] from India to Ethiopia¹, a hundred and twenty-seven provinces, each province according to its writing and each 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 the king Ahasuerus and sealed [it] with the signet ring of the king. Then he sent letters by the hand of the messengers on horses, who rode the royal relay horses, the offsprings of the racing mares,

11 in which the king allowed the Jews who [were] in each and every city to assemble and to stand up for their lives, to annihilate and to exterminate and to destroy all armed forces of a people or a province which attacked them, little ones and women, and to plunder their spoil,

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

13 The copy of the writing to be issued [as] a decree in each and every province was published to all the peoples and in order that the Jews might be ready for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 The messengers who rode the royal relay horses went forth, hastened and hurried by the word of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel.

15 Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in a royal garment² of bluish purple wool and white fabric, and [with] a great crown of gold, and a robe of byssus and purple wool; and the city Susa shouted and rejoiced.

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

17 And in each and every province and in each and every city, the place to which the word of the king and his decree were reaching, the Jews had gladness and joy, a banquet and a good day. And many of the peoples of the land were professing to be Jews, because the dread of the Jews had fallen upon them.

CHAPTER 9

1 Now in [the] twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar), on [the] thirteenth day of it, on which the word of the king and his decree were approaching to be carried out, on the day on which the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain power over them (yet it turned the other way around with the result that the Jews themselves gained power over those who hated them),

2 the Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. But no man stood before them, because the dread of them had fallen upon all the peoples.

3 And all the princes of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and those who did the work who belonged to the king were supporting the Jews, because the dread of Mordecai had fallen upon them.

4 For Mordecai [was] great in the house of the king, and the news of him was spreading throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai was becoming greater and greater.

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?

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.

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 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.

1) lit. "Cush"

2) lit. "garment of royalty"

CHAPTER 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 Therefore the Jews struck all their enemies [with] the blow of [the] sword, and [with] slaughter and destruction, and did with those who hated them according to their pleasure.

6 And in Susa the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.

7 They also killed Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha,

8 and Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha,

9 and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha,

10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

11 On that day the number of those who were killed in Susa the citadel came before the king.

12 And the king said to Esther the queen, "In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the provinces of the king? Now what [is] your request? It will be granted you. And what else [is] your wish? It will be done."

13 Then Esther said, "If [it is] pleasing to the king, let it be allowed tomorrow also for the Jews who [are] in Susa to do according to the decree of [this] day. And let them hang the ten sons of Haman upon the gallows."

14 And the king commanded [it] thus to be done. And a decree was issued in Susa, and they hanged the ten sons of Haman.

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

16 Now the rest of the Jews who [were] in the provinces of the king assembled and stood up for their lives, and had rest from their enemies and killed seventy-five thousand among those who hated them, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

17 [This was] on [the] thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and they rested on the fourteenth [day] of it and made it a day of banqueting and joy.

18 But the Jews who [were] in Susa assembled on [the] thirteenth [day] of it and on [the] fourteenth [day] of it, and they rested on [the] fifteenth [day] of it and made it a day of banqueting and joy.

19 Therefore the Jews, the residents of the open country who dwelled in the towns of the open country, were making [the] fourteenth day of the month of Adar [a day] of joy and banqueting, and a good day, and of sending of portions, each man to his neighbor.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews who [were] in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, who were near and who were far away,

21 to impose upon them that [they] should keep [the] fourteenth day of the month of Adar and [the] fifteenth day of it, in each and every year,

22 as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies and the month which turned for them from grief to joy and from mourning to a good day; that [they] should make them days of banqueting and joy, and of sending of portions, each man to his neighbor, and gifts to the poor.

23 Therefore the Jews accepted [that] which they had begun to do and [that] which Mordecai had written to them.

24 For 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 confound them and to destroy them.

25 But when she came in the presence of the king, he commanded, along with the letter, "Let his evil plot which he devised against the Jews return upon his own head, and let them hang him and his sons upon the gallows."

26 Therefore they called these days Purim, according to the name of Pur. Therefore because of all the words of this letter, and of what they had seen in this regard and of what had happened to them,

27 the Jews imposed and accepted upon themselves and upon their seed and upon all those who joined themselves to them, in order that it might not pass away, that [they] should keep these two days according to their writing and according to their appointed time, in each and every year.

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 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 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;

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28 and [that] these days should be remembered and kept in each and every generation, each clan, each province and each city, and [that] these days of Purim should not pass away from the midst of the Jews, and [that] the remembrance of them should not come to an end from their seed.

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

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

31 to establish these days of Purim at their appointed times, as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had imposed upon them, and as they had imposed upon their own lives and upon their seed the regulations of the fasts and their cry.

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

CHAPTER 9

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.

CHAPTER 10

1 And the king Ahasuerus imposed tax¹ upon the land and [upon] the islands of the sea.

2 And all the deeds of his power and his might, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king exalted him, are they not written in the book of the accounts of the days of the kings of Media and Persia?

3 For Mordecai the Jew [was] second-in-command to the king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and accepted by the multitude of his brothers, seeking [the] good of his people and speaking peace to all his seed.

CHAPTER 10

1) or, "forced labor"

CHAPTER 10

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.