

以斯帖记

Esther

第一章

王设大筵席

- 1 亚哈随鲁作王、从印度直到古实统管一百二十七省。
- 2 亚哈随鲁王在书珊城的宫登基、
- 3 在位第三年、为他一切首领臣仆设摆筵席、有波斯和玛代的权贵、就是各省的贵胄与首领、在他面前、

- 4 他把他荣耀之国的丰富、和他美好威严的尊贵、给他们看了许多日、就是一百八十四日。
- 5 这日子满了、又为所有住书珊城的大小人民、在御园的院子里设摆筵席七日。
- 6 有白色、绿色、蓝色的帐子、用细麻绳紫色绳从银环内系在白玉石柱上、有金銀的床榻、摆在红白黄黑玉石铺的石地上。
- 7 用金器皿赐酒、器皿各有不同、御酒甚多、足显王的厚意。
- 8 喝酒有例、不准勉强人、因王吩咐宫里的一切臣宰、让人各随己意。
- 9 王后瓦实提在亚哈随鲁王的宫内、也为妇女设摆筵席。

王后瓦实提被废

- 10 第七日、亚哈随鲁王饮酒心中快乐、就吩咐在他面前侍立的七个太监米户幔、比斯他、哈波拿、比革他、亚拔他、西达、甲迦、
- 11 请王后瓦实提头戴王后的冠冕到王面前、使各等臣民看他的美貌、因为他容貌甚美。
- 12 王后瓦实提却不肯遵太监所传的王命而来、所以王甚发怒、心如火烧。

The King Throws a Lavish Party

1:1 The following events happened in the days of Ahasuerus. (I speak of that Ahasuerus who used to rule over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces extending all the way from India to Ethiopia.) **1:2** In those days, as King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa the citadel, **1:3** in the third year of his reign he provided a banquet for all his officials and his servants. The army of Persia and Media was present, as well as the nobles and the officials of the provinces.

1:4 He displayed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor of his majestic greatness for a lengthy period of time—a hundred and eighty days, to be exact! **1:5** When those days were completed, the king then provided a seven-day banquet for all the people who were present in Susa the citadel, for those of highest standing to the most lowly. It was held in the court located in the garden of the royal palace. **1:6** The appointments included linen and purple curtains hung by cords of the finest linen and purple wool on silver rings, alabaster columns, gold and silver couches displayed on a surface made of valuable stones of alabaster, mother-of-pearl, and mineral stone. **1:7** Drinks were served in golden containers, all of which differed from one another. Royal wine was available in abundance at the king's expense. **1:8** There were no restrictions on the drinking, for the king had instructed all of his supervisors that they should do as everyone so desired. **1:9** Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in King Ahasuerus' royal palace.

Queen Vashti is Removed from Her Royal Position

1:10 On the seventh day, as King Ahasuerus was feeling the effects of the wine, he ordered Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who attended him, **1:11** to bring Queen Vashti into the king's presence wearing her royal high turban. He wanted to show the people and the officials her beauty, for she was very attractive. **1:12** But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's bidding conveyed through the eunuchs. Then the king became extremely angry, and his rage consumed him.

- 13 那时、在王左右常见王面、国中坐高位的、有波斯和玛代的七个大臣、就是甲示拿、示达、押珥他、他施斯、米力、玛西拿、米母干、都是达时务的明哲人、按王的常规、办事必先询问知例明法的人、王问他们说、
- 14 王后瓦实提不遵太监所传的王命、照例应当怎样办理呢、
- 16 米母干在王和众首领面前回答说、王后瓦实提、这事不但得罪王、并且有害于王各省的臣民、
- 17 因为王后这事必传到众妇人的耳中、说、亚哈随鲁王吩咐王后瓦实提到王面前、他却不来、他们就藐视自己的丈夫、
- 18 今日波斯和玛代的众夫人听见王后这事、必向王的大臣照样行、从此必大开藐视和忿怒之端。
- 19 王若以为美、就降旨写在波斯和玛代人的例中、永不更改、不准瓦实提再到王面前、将他王后的位分赐给比他还好的人、
- 20 所降的旨意传遍通国、（国度本来广大）所有的妇人、无论丈夫贵贱都必尊敬他。
- 21 王和众首领都以米母干的话为美、王就照这话去行、
- 22 发诏书、用各省的文字、各族的方言、通知各省、使为丈夫的在家中作主、各说本地的方言。

1:13 The king then inquired of the wise men who were discerners of the times—for it was the royal custom to confer with all those who were proficient in laws and legalities. **1:14** Those who were closest to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan. These men were the seven officials of Persia and Media who saw the king on a regular basis and had the most prominent offices in the kingdom. **1:15** The king asked, “By law, what should be done to Queen Vashti in light of the fact that she has not obeyed the instructions of King Ahasuerus conveyed through the eunuchs?”

1:16 Memucan then replied to the king and the officials, “The wrong of Queen Vashti is not against the king alone, but against all the officials and all the people who are throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. **1:17** For the matter concerning the queen will spread to all the women, leading them to treat their husbands with contempt, saying, ‘When King Ahasuerus gave orders to bring Queen Vashti into his presence, she would not come.’ **1:18** And this very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media who have heard the matter concerning the queen will respond in the same way to all the royal officials, and there will be more than enough contempt and anger! **1:19** If the king is so inclined, let a royal edict go forth from him, and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media that cannot be repealed, that Vashti may not come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king convey her royalty to another who is more deserving than she. **1:20** And let the king’s decision which he will enact be disseminated throughout all his kingdom, vast though it is. Then all the women will give honor to their husbands, from the most prominent to the lowly.”

1:21 The matter seemed appropriate to the king and the officials. So the king acted on the advice of Memucan. **1:22** He sent letters throughout all the royal provinces, to each province according to its script and to each people according to its language, that every man should be ruling his family and should be speaking the language of his own people.

第二章

以斯帖被选为王后

- 1 这事以后、亚哈随鲁王的忿怒止息、就想念瓦实提和他所行的、并怎样降旨办他。
- 2 于是王的侍臣对王说、不如为王寻找美貌的处女、
- 3 王可以派官在国中的各省招聚美貌的处女到书珊城〔或作宫〕的女院、交给掌管女子的太监希该、给他们当用的香品、

Esther Becomes Queen in Vashti's Place

2:1 When these things had been accomplished and the rage of King Ahasuerus had diminished, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decided against her. **2:2** The king’s servants who attended him said, “Let a search be conducted in the king’s behalf for attractive young women. **2:3** And let the king appoint officers throughout all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the attractive young women to Susa the

- 4 王所喜爱的女子、可以立为王后、代替瓦实提·王以这事为美、就如此行。
- 5 书珊城有一个犹大人、名叫末底改、是便雅悯人基士的曾孙、示每的孙子、睚珥的儿子。
- 6 从前巴比伦王尼布甲尼撒将犹大王耶哥尼雅（又名约雅斤）和百姓从耶路撒冷掳去、末底改也在其内。
- 7 末底改抚养他叔叔的女儿哈大沙、（后名以斯帖）·因为他没有父母·这女子又容貌俊美·他父母死了·末底改就收他为自己的女儿。
- 8 王的谕旨传出、就招聚许多女子到书珊城、交给掌管女子的希该、以斯帖也送入王宫、交付希该。
- 9 希该喜悦以斯帖、就恩待他、急忙给他需用的香品、和他所当得的分、又派所当得的七个宫女服事他、使他和他的宫女搬入女院上好的房屋。
- 10 以斯帖未曾将籍贯宗族告诉人、因为末底改嘱咐他不可叫人知道。
- 11 末底改天天在女院前边行走、要知道以斯帖平安不平安、并后事如何。
- 12 众女子照例先洁净身体十二个月、六个月用没药油、六个月用香料和洁身之物、满了日期、然后挨次进去见亚哈随鲁王。
- 13 女子进去见王是这样、从女院到王宫的时候、凡他所要的、都必给他。
- 14 晚上进去、次日回到女子第二院、交给掌管妃嫔的太监沙甲·除非王喜爱他、再提名召他、就不再进去见王。
- 15 末底改叔叔亚比孩的女儿、就是末底改收为自己女儿的以斯帖、按次序当进去见王的时候、除了掌管女子的太监希该所派定给他的、他别无所求·凡看见以斯帖的都喜悦他。

citadel, to the harem under the authority of Hegai, the king's eunuch who oversees the women, and let him provide whatever cosmetics they desire. 2:4 Let the young woman whom the king finds most attractive become queen in place of Vashti." This seemed like a good idea to the king, so he acted accordingly.

2:5 Now there happened to be a Jewish man in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai. He was the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjaminite, 2:6 who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried into exile with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile. 2:7 Now he was acting as the guardian of Hadassah (that is, Esther), the daughter of his uncle, for neither her father nor her mother was alive. This young woman was very attractive and had a beautiful figure. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had raised her as if she were his own daughter.

2:8 It so happened that when the king's edict and his law became known many young women were taken to Susa the citadel to be placed under the authority of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the royal palace to be under the authority of Hegai, who was overseeing the women. 2:9 This young woman pleased him, and she found favor with him. He quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her rations; he also provided her with the seven special young women who were from the palace. He then transferred her and her young women to the best part of the harem.

2:10 Now Esther had not disclosed her people or her lineage, for Mordecai had instructed her not to do so. 2:11 And day after day Mordecai used to walk back and forth in front of the court of the harem in order to learn how Esther was doing and what might happen to her.

2:12 At the end of the twelve months that were required for the women, when the turn of each young woman arrived to go to King Ahasuerus—for in this way they had to fulfill their time of cosmetic treatment: six months in oil of myrrh, and six months in perfume and various ointments used by women—2:13 the woman would go to the king in the following way: Whatever she asked for would be provided for her to take with her from the harem to the royal palace. 2:14 In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to a separate part of the harem, to the authority of Shaashgaz the king's eunuch who was overseeing the concubines. She would not go back to the king unless the king was pleased with her and she was requested by name.

2:15 When it became the turn of Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai (who had raised her as if she were his own daughter) to go to the king, she did not request any thing except for what Hegai the king's eunuch, who was overseer of the women, had recommended. Yet Esther met with the

- 16 亚哈随鲁王第七年十月、就是提别月、以斯帖被引入宫见王·
 17 王爱以斯帖过于爱众女、他在王眼前蒙宠爱比众处女更甚·王就把王后的冠冕戴在他头上、立他为王后、代替瓦实提·
 18 王因以斯帖的缘故给众首领和臣仆设摆大筵席、又豁免各省的租税、并照王的厚意大颁赏赐。

末底改揭发害王的阴谋

- 19 第二次招聚处女的时候、末底改坐在朝门。
 20 以斯帖照著末底改所嘱咐的还没有将籍贯宗族告诉人、因为以斯帖遵末底改的命、如抚养他的时候一样。
 21 当那时候、末底改坐在朝门、王的太监中有两个守门的辟探和提列恼恨亚哈随鲁王、想要下手害他·
 22 末底改知道了、就告诉王后以斯帖·以斯帖奉末底改的名、报告于王·
 23 究察这事、果然是实、就把二人挂在木头上、将这事在王面前写于历史上。

approval of all who saw her. 2:16 Then Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus at his royal residence in the tenth month (that is, the month of Tebeth) in the seventh year of his reign. 2:17 And the king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she met with his loving approval more than all the other young women. So he placed the royal high turban on her head and appointed her queen in place of Vashti. 2:18 Then the king prepared a large banquet for all his officials and his servants—it was actually Esther's banquet. He also set aside a holiday for the provinces, and he provided for offerings at the king's expense.

Mordecai Learns of a Plot against the King

2:19 Now when the young women were being gathered again, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. 2:20 Esther was still not divulging her lineage or her people, just as Mordecai had instructed her. Esther continued to do whatever Mordecai said, just as she had done when he was raising her.

2:21 In those days while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who protected the entrance, got angry and plotted to assassinate King Ahasuerus. 2:22 When Mordecai learned of the conspiracy, he informed Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in Mordecai's behalf. 2:23 The king then had the matter investigated and, finding it to be so, had the two conspirators hanged on a gallows. It was then recorded in the daily chronicles in the king's presence.

第三章

哈曼图谋灭绝犹大人

- 1 这事以后、亚哈随鲁王抬举亚甲族哈米大的儿子哈曼、使他高升、叫他的爵位超过与他同事的一切臣宰。
 2 在朝门的一切臣仆、都跪拜哈曼、因为王如此吩咐、惟独末底改不跪不拜·
 3 在朝门的臣仆问末底改说、你为何违背王的命令呢·
 4 他们天天劝他、他还是不听、他们就告诉哈曼、要看末底改的事站得住站不住、因他已经告诉他们自己是犹大人·

Haman Conspires to Destroy the Jews

3:1 Sometime later King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, exalting him and setting his position above that of all the officials who were with him. 3:2 As a result, all the king's servants who were at the king's gate were bowing and paying homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded. However, Mordecai did not bow, nor did he pay him homage.

3:3 Then the servants of the king who were at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why are you violating the king's commandment?" 3:4 And after they had spoken to him day after day without his paying any attention to them, they informed Haman to see whether this attitude on Mordecai's part would be permitted. Furthermore, he had disclosed to them that he was a Jew.

- 5 哈曼见末底改不跪不拜、他就怒气填胸·
6 他们已将末底改的本族告诉哈曼、他以为
下手册末底改一人是小事、就要灭绝亚哈
随鲁王通国所有的犹大人、就是末底改的
本族。
- 7 亚哈随鲁王十二年正月、就是尼散月、人
在哈曼面前、按日日月月掣普珥、就是掣
签、要定何月何日为吉、择定了十二月、
就是亚达月。
- 8 哈曼对亚哈随鲁王说、有一种民、散居在
王国各省的民中、他们的律例、与万民的
律例不同、也不守王的律例、所以容留他
们与王无益·
- 9 王若以为美、请下旨意灭绝他们·我就捐
一万他连得银子、交给掌管国帑的人、纳
入王的府库·
- 10 于是王从自己手上摘下戒指、给犹大人的
仇敌、亚甲族哈米大的儿子哈曼·
11 王对哈曼说、这银子仍赐给你、这民也交
给你、你可以随意待他们。
- 12 正月十三日就召了王的书记来、照著哈曼
一切所吩咐的、用各省的文字、各族的方
言、奉亚哈随鲁王的名写旨意、传与总督
和各省的省长、并各族的首领、又用王的
戒指盖印·
- 13 交给驿卒传到王的各省、吩咐将犹大人、
无论老少妇女孩子、在一日之间、十二
月、就是亚达月十三日、全然剪除、杀戮
灭绝、并夺他们的财为掠物·
- 14 抄录这旨意、颁行各省、宣告各族、使他
们豫备等候那日·
- 15 驿卒奉王命急忙起行、旨意也传遍书珊
城。王同哈曼坐下饮酒、书珊城的民却都
慌乱。

3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing or paying homage to him, he was filled with rage. 3:6 But the thought of striking out against Mordecai alone was repugnant to him, for he had been informed of the identity of Mordecai's people. So Haman sought to destroy all the Jews (that is, the people of Mordecai) who were in all the kingdom of Ahasuerus.

3:7 In the first month (that is, the month of Nisan), in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus' reign, *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast before Haman in order to determine a day and a month. It turned out to be the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar).

3:8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a particular people that is dispersed and spread throughout the inhabitants in all the provinces of your kingdom whose laws differ from those of all other peoples. Furthermore, they do not observe the king's laws. It is not appropriate for the king to provide a haven for them. 3:9 If the king is so inclined, let an edict be issued to destroy them. I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to be conveyed to the king's treasuries for the officials who carry out this business."

3:10 So the king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, who was hostile toward the Jews. 3:11 The king replied to Haman, "Keep your money, and do with those people whatever you wish."

3:12 So the royal scribes were summoned in the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month. Everything Haman commanded was written to the king's satraps and governors who were in every province and to the officials of every people, province by province according to its script and people by people according to its language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written and sealed with the king's signet ring. 3:13 Letters were sent by the runners to all the king's provinces stating that they should destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jews, from youth to elderly, both women and children, on a particular day, namely the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar), and to loot and plunder their possessions. 3:14 A copy of this edict was to be presented as law throughout every province; it was to be made known to all the inhabitants, so that they would be prepared for this day. 3:15 The messengers scurried forth with the king's order. The edict was issued in Susa the citadel. While the king and Haman sat down to drink, the city of Susa was in an uproar!

第四章

以斯帖决定冒死救同胞

- 1 末底改知道所作的这一切事、就撕裂衣服、穿麻衣、蒙灰尘、在城中行走、痛哭哀号。
 - 2 到了朝门前停住脚步、因为穿麻衣的不可进朝门。
 - 3 王的谕旨所到的各省各处、犹大人大大悲哀、禁食哭泣哀号、穿麻衣躺在灰中的甚多。
 - 4 王后以斯帖的宫女和太监来把这事告诉以斯帖、他甚是忧愁、就送衣服给末底改穿、要他脱下麻衣、他却不受。
 - 5 以斯帖就把王所派伺候他的一个太监、名叫哈他革召来、吩咐他去见末底改、要知道这是甚么事、是甚么缘故。
 - 6 于是哈他革出到朝门前的宽阔处见末底改。
 - 7 末底改将自己所遇的事、并哈曼为灭绝犹大人应许捐入王库的银数、都告诉了他。
 - 8 又将所抄写传遍书珊城要灭绝犹大人的旨意交给哈他革、要给以斯帖看、又要给他说明、并嘱咐他进去见王、为本族的人、在王面前恳切祈求。
 - 9 哈他革回来、将末底改的话告诉以斯帖。
-
- 10 以斯帖就吩咐哈他革去见末底改说、
王的一切臣仆、和各省的人民、都知道有一个定例、若不蒙召、擅入内院见王的、无论男女必被治死、除非王向他伸出金杖、不得存活、现在我没有蒙召进去见王已经三十日了。

 - 12 人就把以斯帖这话告诉末底改。
 - 13 末底改托人回覆以斯帖说、你莫想在王宫里强过一切犹大人、得免这祸。
 - 14 此时你若闭口不言、犹大人必从别处得解脱、蒙拯救、你和你父家、必致灭亡、焉知你得了王后的位分、不是为现今的机会么。

Esther Decides to Risk Everything in order to Help Her People

4:1 Now when Mordecai became aware of all that had been done, he tore his garments and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went out into the city, crying out in a loud and bitter voice. **4:2** But he went no further than the king's gate, for no one was permitted to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. **4:3** Throughout each and every province where the king's edict and law were announced there was considerable mourning among the Jews, along with fasting, weeping, and sorrow. Sackcloth and ashes were characteristic of many. **4:4** When Esther's female attendants and her eunuchs came and informed her about Mordecai's behavior, the queen was overcome with anguish. Although she sent garments for Mordecai to put on so that he could remove his sackcloth, he would not accept them. **4:5** So Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been placed at her service, and instructed him to find out the cause and reason for Mordecai's behavior. **4:6** So Hathach went to Mordecai at the plaza of the city in front of the king's gate. **4:7** Then Mordecai related to him everything that had happened to him, even the specific amount of money that Haman had offered to pay to the king's treasures for the Jews to be destroyed. **4:8** He also gave him a written copy of the law that had been disseminated in Susa for their destruction so that he could show it to Esther and talk to her about it. He also gave instructions that she should go to the king to implore him and petition him in behalf of her people. **4:9** So Hathach returned and related Mordecai's instructions to Esther.

4:10 Then Esther replied to Hathach with instructions for Mordecai: **4:11** "All the servants of the king and the people of the king's provinces know that there is only one law applicable to any man or woman who comes uninvited to the king in the inner court—that person will be put to death, unless the king extends to him the gold scepter, permitting him to be spared. Now I have not been invited to come to the king for some thirty days!"

4:12 When Esther's reply was conveyed to Mordecai, **4:13** he said to take back this answer to Esther: **4:14** "Don't imagine that because you are part of the king's household you will be the one Jew who will escape. If you keep quiet at this time, liberation and protection for the Jews will appear from another source, while you and your father's household perish. It may very well be that you have achieved royal status for such a time as this!"

- 15 以斯帖就吩咐人回报末底改说、
 16 你当去招聚书珊城所有的犹大人、为我禁食三昼夜、不吃不喝、我和我的宫女、也要这样禁食、然后我违例进去见王、我若死就死罢。
 17 于是末底改照以斯帖一切所吩咐的去行。

第五章

以斯帖求救于王

- 1 第三日、以斯帖穿上朝服、进王宫的内院、对殿站立、王在殿里坐在宝座上、对著殿门。
 2 王见王后以斯帖站在院内、就施恩于他、向他伸出手中的金杖、以斯帖便向前摸杖头。
 3 王对他说、王后以斯帖阿、你要甚么、你求甚么、就是国的一半、也必赐给你。
 4 以斯帖说、王若以为美、就请王带著哈曼今日赴我所豫备的筵席。
 5 王说、叫哈曼速速照以斯帖的话去行、于是王带著哈曼赴以斯帖所豫备的筵席。
 6 在酒席筵前、王又问以斯帖说、你要甚么、我必赐给你、你求甚么、就是国的一半、也必为你成就。
 7 以斯帖回答说、我有所要、我有所求、
 8 我若在王眼前蒙恩、王若愿意赐我所要的、准我所求的、就请王带著哈曼再赴我所要豫备的筵席、明日我必照王所问的说明。

哈曼恼怒末底改

- 9 那日哈曼心中快乐、欢欢喜喜地出来、但见末底改在朝门不站起来、连身也不动、就满心恼怒末底改。
 10 哈曼暂且忍耐回家、叫人请他朋友和他妻子细利斯来。
 11 哈曼将他富厚的荣耀、众多的儿女、和王抬举他使他超乎首领臣仆之上、都述说给他们听。

4:15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: **4:16** “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa and fast in my behalf. Don’t eat and don’t drink for three days, night or day. My female attendants and I will also fast in the same way. Afterward I will go to the king, even though it violates the law. If I perish, I perish!”

4:17 So Mordecai set out to do everything that Esther had instructed him.

Esther Appeals to the King for Help

5:1 It so happened that on the third day Esther put on her royal attire and stood in the inner court of the palace, opposite the king’s quarters. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the palace, opposite the entrance. **5:2** When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she met with his approval. The king extended to Esther the gold scepter that was in his hand, and Esther approached and touched the end of the scepter.

5:3 The king said to her, “What is on your mind, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even as much as half the kingdom will be given to you!”

5:4 Esther replied, “If the king is so inclined, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him.” **5:5** The king replied, “Find Haman quickly so that we can do as Esther requests.”

So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared. **5:6** While at the banquet of wine, the king said to Esther, “What is your request? It shall be given to you. What is your petition? Ask for as much as half the kingdom, and it shall be done!”

5:7 Esther responded, “My request and my petition is this: **5:8** If I have found favor in the king’s sight and if the king is inclined to grant my request and perform my petition, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet that I will prepare for them. At that time I will do as the king wishes.”

Haman Expresses His Hatred of Mordecai

5:9 Now Haman went forth that day pleased and very much encouraged. But when Haman saw Mordecai at the king’s gate, and he did not rise nor tremble in his presence, Haman was filled with rage toward Mordecai. **5:10** But Haman restrained himself and went on to his home.

He then sent for his friends to join him, along with his wife Zeresh. **5:11** Haman then recounted to them his fabulous wealth, his many sons, and how the king had magnified him and exalted him over the king’s other officials and servants. **5:12** Haman

- 12 哈曼又说、王后以斯帖豫备筵席、除了我之外不许别人随王赴席·明日王后又请我随王赴席·
- 13 只是我见犹大人末底改坐在朝门、虽有这一切荣耀、也与我无益。
- 14 他的妻细利斯和他一切的朋友对他说、不如立一个五丈高的木架、明早求王将末底改挂在其上、然后你可以欢欢喜喜地随王赴席·哈曼以这话为美、就叫人作了木架。

said, "Furthermore, Esther the queen invited only me to accompany the king to the banquet that she prepared! And also tomorrow I am invited along with the king. 5:13 Yet all of this fails to satisfy me so long as I have to see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

5:14 Haman's wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows seventy-five feet high built, and in the morning tell the king that Mordecai should be hanged on it. Then go satisfied with the king to the banquet."

It seemed like a good idea to Haman, so he had the gallows built.

第六章

转捩点：末底改得王的尊荣

- 1 那夜王睡不著觉、就吩咐人取历史来、念给他听。
- 2 正遇见书上写著说、王的太监中有两个守门的辟探和提列想要下手害亚哈随鲁王·末底改将这事告诉王后。
- 3 王说、末底改行了这事、赐他甚么尊荣爵位没有·伺候王的臣仆回答说、没有赐他甚么。
- 4 王说、谁在院子里·（那时哈曼正进王宫的外院、要求王将末底改挂在他所豫备的木架上）
- 5 臣仆说、哈曼站在院内·王说、叫他进来。
- 6 哈曼就进去·王问他说、王所喜悦尊荣的人、当如何待他呢·哈曼心里说、王所喜悦尊荣的不是我是谁呢。
- 7 哈曼就回答说、王所喜悦尊荣的人、
- 8 当将王常穿的朝服、和戴冠的御马、
- 9 都交给王极尊贵的一个大臣、命他将衣服给王所喜悦尊荣的人穿上、使他骑上马走遍城里的街市、在他面前宣告说、王所喜悦尊荣的人、就如此待他。
- 10 王对哈曼说、你速速将这衣服和马、照你所说的、向坐在朝门的犹大人末底改去行·凡你所说的、一样不可缺。

The Turning Point: The King Honors Mordecai

6:1 Throughout that night the king was unable to sleep, so he asked for the book containing the historical records to be brought. As the records were being read in the king's presence, **6:2** it was found written that Mordecai had disclosed that Bithana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the entrance, had plotted to assassinate King Ahasuerus.

6:3 The king asked, "What great honor was bestowed on Mordecai because of this?" The king's attendants who served him responded, "Not a thing was done for him."

6:4 Then the king said, "Who is that in the courtyard?" Now Haman had come to the outer courtyard of the palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had constructed for him. **6:5** The king's attendants said to him, "It is Haman who is standing in the courtyard." The king said, "Let him enter."

6:6 So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What should be done for the man whom the king wishes to honor?" Haman thought to himself, "Who is it that the king would want to honor more than me?" **6:7** So Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king wishes to honor, **6:8** let them bring royal attire which the king himself has worn and a horse on which the king himself has ridden—one bearing the royal insignia! **6:9** Then let this clothing and this horse be given to one of the king's noble officials. Let him then clothe the man whom the king wishes to honor, and let him lead him about through the plaza of the city on the horse, calling before him, 'So shall it be done to the man whom the king wishes to honor!'"

6:10 The king then said to Haman, "Go quickly! Take the clothing and the horse, just as you have described, and do as you just indicated to Mordecai the Jew who sits at the king's gate. Don't neglect a single thing of all that you have said."

- 11 于是哈曼将朝服给末底改穿上、使他骑上马走遍城里的街市、在他面前宣告说、王所喜悦尊荣的人、就如此待他。
- 12 末底改仍回到朝门·哈曼却忧忧闷闷地蒙著头、急忙回家去了。
- 13 将所遇的一切事、详细说给他的妻细利斯和他的众朋友听·他的智慧人和他的妻细利斯对他说、你在末底改面前始而败落、他如果是犹大人、你必不能胜他、终必在他面前败落。
- 14 他们还与哈曼说话的时候、王的太监来催哈曼快去赴以斯帖所豫备的筵席。

第七章

哈曼遭处决

- 1 王带著哈曼来赴王后以斯帖的筵席·
- 2 这第二次在酒席筵前·王又问以斯帖说、王后以斯帖阿、你要甚么、我必赐给你、你求甚么、就是国的一半、也必为你成就。
- 3 王后以斯帖回答说、我若在王眼前蒙恩、王若以为美、我所愿的、是愿王将我的性命赐给我、我所求的、是求王将我的本族赐给我·
- 4 因我和我的本族被卖了、要剪除杀戮灭绝我们·我们若被卖为奴为婢、我也闭口不言、但王的损失、敌人万不能补足。
- 5 亚哈随鲁王问王后以斯帖说、擅敢起意如此行的是谁、这人在哪里呢。
- 6 以斯帖说、仇人敌人就是这恶人哈曼·哈曼在王和王后面前就甚惊惶。
- 7 王便大怒、起来离开酒席往御园去了·哈曼见王定意要加罪与他、就起来、求王后以斯帖救命。
- 8 王从御园回到酒席之处、见哈曼伏在以斯帖所靠的榻上·王说、他竟敢在宫内、在我面前、凌辱王后么·这话一出王口、人就蒙了哈曼的脸。

6:11 So Haman took the clothing and the horse, and he clothed Mordecai. He led him about on the horse throughout the plaza of the city, calling before him, “So shall it be done to the man whom the king wishes to honor!”

6:12 Then Mordecai again sat at the king’s gate, while Haman hurried away to his home, mournful and with a veil over his head. **6:13** Haman then related to his wife Zeresh and to all his friends everything that had happened to him. These wise men, along with his wife Zeresh, said to him, “If indeed this Mordecai before whom you have begun to fall is Jewish, you will not be adequate for him. No, you will surely fall before him!”

6:14 While they were still speaking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived. They quickly brought Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

The King Has Haman Executed

7:1 So the king and Haman came to dine with Queen Esther. **7:2** On the second day of the banquet of wine the king asked Esther, “What is your request, Queen Esther? It shall be granted to you. And what is your petition? Ask up to half the kingdom, and it shall be done!”

7:3 Queen Esther replied, “If I have met with your approval, O king, and if the king is so inclined, grant me my life as my request, and my people as my petition. **7:4** For we have been sold—both I and my people—to destruction and to slaughter and to annihilation! If we had simply been sold as male and female slaves, I would have remained silent, for such distress would not have been sufficient for troubling the king.”

7:5 Then King Ahasuerus responded to Queen Esther, “Who is this individual? Where is this person to be found who is presumptuous enough to act in this way?”

7:6 Esther replied, “The oppressor and enemy is this evil Haman!”

Then Haman became terrified in the presence of the king and queen. **7:7** In rage the king arose from the banquet of wine and withdrew to the palace garden. Meanwhile, Haman stood to beg Esther the queen for his life, for he realized that the king had now determined a catastrophic end for him.

7:8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet of wine, Haman was throwing himself down on the couch where Esther was lying. The king exclaimed, “Will he also attempt to rape the queen while I am still in the building!”

As these words left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. **7:9** Harbona, one of the king’s

- 9 伺候王的一个太监、名叫哈波拿、说、哈曼为那救王有功的末底改、作了五丈高的木架、现今立在哈曼家里。王说、把哈曼挂在其上。
- 10 于是人将哈曼挂在他为末底改所豫备的木架上。王的忿怒这才止息。

eunuchs, said, “Indeed, there is the gallows that Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke out in the king’s behalf. It stands near Haman’s home and is seventy-five feet high.”

The king said, “Hang him on it!” 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the very gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. The king’s rage then abated.

第八章

王下令保护犹大人

- 1 当日亚哈随鲁王把犹大人仇敌哈曼的家产赐给王后以斯帖。末底改也来到王面前、因为以斯帖已经告诉王末底改是他的亲属。
- 2 王摘下自己的戒指、就是从哈曼追回的、给了末底改、以斯帖派末底改管理哈曼的家产。
- 3 以斯帖又俯伏在王脚前、流泪哀告、求他除掉亚甲族哈曼害犹大人的恶谋。
- 4 王向以斯帖伸出金杖、以斯帖就起来、站在王前、
- 5 说、亚甲族哈米大他的儿子哈曼、设谋传旨、要杀灭在王各省的犹大人、现今王若愿意、我若在王眼前蒙恩、王若以为美、若喜悦我、请王另下旨意废除哈曼所传的那旨意。
- 6 我何忍见我本族的人受害、何忍见我同宗的人被灭呢。
- 7 亚哈随鲁王对王后以斯帖和犹大人末底改说、因哈曼要下手害犹大人、我已将他的家产赐给以斯帖、人也将哈曼挂在木架上。
- 8 现在你们可以随意奉王的名写谕旨给犹大人、用王的戒指盖印、因为奉王名所写用王戒指盖印的谕旨、人都不能废除。
- 9 三月、就是西弯月、二十三日、将王的书召来、按著末底改所吩咐的用各省的文字、各族的方言、并犹大人的文字方言写谕旨、传给那从印度直到古实一百二十七省的犹大人、和总督省长首领。

The King Acts to Protect the Jews

8:1 On that same day King Ahasuerus gave the estate of Haman, that adversary of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Now Mordecai had come before the king, for Esther had revealed how he was related to her. 8:2 The king then removed his signet ring (the very one he had taken back from Haman) and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther designated Mordecai to be in charge of Haman’s estate.

8:3 Then Esther again spoke with the king, falling at his feet. She wept and begged him for mercy, that he might nullify the evil of Haman the Agagite which he had intended against the Jews. 8:4 When the king extended to Esther the gold scepter, she arose and stood before the king.

8:5 She said, “If the king is so inclined and if I have met with his approval and if the matter is agreeable to the king and if I am attractive to him, let an edict be written rescinding those recorded intentions of Haman the son of Hamedatha, the Agagite, which he wrote in order to destroy the Jews who are throughout all the king’s provinces. 8:6 For how can I watch the calamity that will befall my people, and how can I watch the destruction of my relatives?”

8:7 King Ahasuerus replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Look, I have already given Haman’s estate to Esther, and he has been hanged on the gallows because he struck out against the Jews. 8:8 Now you write in the king’s name whatever in your opinion is appropriate concerning the Jews and seal it with the king’s signet ring. Any decree that is written in the king’s name and sealed with the king’s signet ring cannot be rescinded.

8:9 The king’s scribes were quickly summoned—in the third month (that is, the month of Sivan), on the twenty-third day. They wrote out everything that Mordecai instructed to the Jews and to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces all the way from India to Ethiopia—a hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all—to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language, and to the Jews according to their own script and their own language. 8:10 Mordecai

- 10 末底改奉亚哈随鲁王的名写谕旨、用王的戒指盖印、交给骑御马圈快马的驿卒传到各处。
- 11 谕旨中王准各省各城的犹大人在一日之间、十二月、就是亚达月、十三日、聚集保护性命、剪除杀戮灭绝那要攻击犹大人的一切仇敌、和他们的妻子儿女、夺取他们的财为掠物。
- 12 13 抄录这谕旨、颁行各省、宣告各族、使犹大人豫备等候那日、在仇敌身上报仇。
- 14 于是骑快马的驿卒、被王命催促、急忙起行、谕旨也传遍书珊城。
- 15 末底改穿著蓝色白色的朝服、头戴大金冠冕、又穿紫色细麻布的外袍、从王面前出来、书珊城的人民、都欢呼快乐。
- 16 犹大人有光荣欢喜快乐而得尊贵。
- 17 王的谕旨所到的各省各城、犹大人都欢喜快乐、设摆筵宴、以那日为吉日。那国的人民、有许多因惧怕犹大人、就入了犹大籍。

第九章

犹大人胜过仇敌

- 1 十二月、乃亚达月、十三日、王的谕旨将要举行、就是犹大人的仇敌盼望辖制他们的日子、犹大人反倒辖制恨他们的人。
- 2 犹大人在亚哈随鲁王各省的城里聚集、下手击杀那要害他们的人、无人能敌挡他们、因为各族都惧怕他们。
- 3 各省的首领总督省长和办理王事的人、因惧怕末底改、就都帮助犹大人。
- 4 末底改在朝中为大、名声传遍各省、日渐昌盛。

wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. He then sent letters by couriers on horses, who rode royal horses that were very swift.

8:11 The king thereby allowed the Jews who were in every city to assemble and to stand up for themselves—to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any army of whatever people or province that should become their adversaries, including their women and children, and to confiscate their property. **8:12** This was to take place on a certain day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus—namely, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar). **8:13** A copy of the edict was to be presented as law throughout each and every province and made known to all peoples, so that the Jews might be prepared on that day to avenge themselves from their enemies.

8:14 The couriers who were riding the royal horses went forth with the king's edict without delay. And the law was presented in Susa the citadel as well.

8:15 Now Mordecai went out from the king's presence in purple and white royal attire, with a large golden crown and a purple linen mantle. The city of Susa shouted with joy. **8:16** For the Jews there was radiant happiness and joyous honor. **8:17** Throughout every province and throughout every city where the king's edict and his law came, the Jews experienced happiness and joy, banquets and holidays. Many of the resident peoples pretended to be Jews, because the fear of the Jews had overcome them.

The Jews Prevail over Their Enemies

9:1 In the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar), on its thirteenth day, the edict of the king and his law were to be executed. It was on this day that the enemies of the Jews had supposed that they would gain power over them. But contrary to expectations, the Jews gained power over their enemies. **9:2** The Jews assembled themselves in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to strike out against those who were seeking their harm. No one was able to stand before them, for dread of them fell on all the peoples. **9:3** All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and those who performed the king's business were assisting the Jews, for the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them. **9:4** Mordecai was high ranking in the king's palace, and word about him was spreading throughout all the provinces. His influence continued to become greater and greater.

- 5 犹大人用刀击杀一切仇敌、任意杀灭恨他们的人·
 6 在书珊城、犹大人杀灭了五百人·
 7 又杀巴珊大他、达分、亚斯帕他、
 8 破拉他、亚大利雅、亚利大他、
 9 帕玛斯他、亚利赛、亚利代、瓦耶撒他·
 10 这十人都是哈米大他的孙子、犹大人仇敌哈曼的儿子· 犹大人却没有下手夺取财物。
 11 当日将书珊城被杀的人数、呈在王前·
 12 王对王后以斯帖说、犹大人在书珊城杀灭了五百人、又杀了哈曼的十个儿子· 在王的各省不知如何呢· 现在你要甚么、我必赐给你、你还求甚么、也必为你成就。
 13 以斯帖说、王若以为美、求你准书珊的犹大人、明日也照今日的旨意行、并将哈曼十个儿子的尸首、挂在木架上。
 14 王便允准如此行· 旨意传在书珊· 人就把哈曼十个儿子的尸首挂起来了。
 15 亚达月十四日、书珊的犹大人又聚集在书珊、杀了三百人· 却没有下手夺取财物。
 16 在王各省其馀的犹大人也都聚集保护性命、杀了恨他们的人七万五千· 却没有下手夺取财物· 这样、就脱离仇敌、得享平安。
 17 亚达月十三日、行了这事· 十四日安息、以这日为设筵欢乐的日子·

普珥日的由来

- 18 但书珊的犹大人这十三日十四日聚集杀戮仇敌· 十五日安息、以这日为设筵欢乐的日子·
 19 所以住无城墙乡村的犹大人、如今都以亚达月十四日为设筵欢乐的吉日、彼此馈送礼物。
 20 末底改记录这事、写信与亚哈随鲁王各省远近所有的犹大人、
 21 嘱咐他们每年守亚达月十四十五两日、
 22 以这月的两日、为犹大人脱离仇敌得平安、转忧为喜、转悲为乐的吉日· 在这两天设筵欢乐、彼此馈送礼物、周济穷人。

9:5 The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, bringing death and destruction, and they did as they pleased with their enemies. 9:6 In Susa the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. 9:7 In addition, they also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 9:8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9:9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha, 9:10 the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not confiscate their property.

9:11 On that same day the number of those killed in Susa the citadel was brought to the king's attention. 9:12 Then the king said to Queen Esther, "In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman! What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? What is your request? It shall be given to you. What other petition do you have? It shall be done."

9:13 Esther replied, "If the king is so inclined, let the Jews who are in Susa be permitted to act tomorrow also according to today's law, and let them hang the ten sons of Haman on the gallows."

9:14 So the king issued orders for this to be done. A law was passed in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged. 9:15 The Jews who were in Susa then assembled on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they killed three hundred men in Susa. But they did not confiscate their property.

9:16 The rest of the Jews who were throughout the provinces of the king assembled in order to stand up for themselves and to have rest from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of their adversaries, but they did not confiscate their property. 9:17 All of this happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. They then rested on the fourteenth day and made it a day for banqueting and happiness.

The Origins of the Feast of Purim

9:18 But the Jews who were in Susa assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth days, and rested on the fifteenth, making it a day for banqueting and happiness. 9:19 This is why the Jews who are in the rural country—those who live in rural cities—set aside the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a holiday for happiness, banqueting, holiday, and sending gifts to one another.

9:20 Mordecai wrote these matters down and sent letters to all the Jews who were throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 9:21 to have them observe the fourteenth and the fifteenth day of the month of Adar each year 9:22 as the time when the Jews gave themselves rest from their enemies—the month when their trouble was turned to happiness and their mourning to a holiday. These were to be days of banqueting, happiness, sending gifts to one another, and providing for the poor.

- 23 于是犹大人、按著末底改所写与他们的信、应承照初次所守的守为永例。
 24 是因犹大人的仇敌、亚甲族哈米大他的儿子哈曼、设谋杀害犹大人、掣普珥、就是掣签、为要杀尽灭绝他们。
 25 这事报告于王、王便降旨使哈曼谋害犹大人的恶事、归到他自己的头上、并吩咐把他和他的众子、都挂在木架上。
 26 照著普珥的名字、犹大人就称这两日为普珥日、他们因这信上的话、又因所看见所遇见的事、
 27 就应承自己与后裔、并归附他们的人、每年按时必守这两日、永远不废。
 28 各省各城、家家户户、世世代代、纪念遵守这两日、使这普珥日在犹大人中不可废掉、在他们后裔中也不可忘记。

- 29 亚比孩的女儿王后以斯帖和犹大人末底改以全权写第二封信、坚嘱犹大人守这普珥日。
 30 用和平诚实话、写信给亚哈随鲁王国中一百二十七省所有的犹大人、
 31 劝他们按时守这普珥日、禁食呼求、是照犹大人末底改和王后以斯帖所嘱咐的、也照犹大人为自己与后裔所应承的。
 32 以斯帖命定守普珥日、这事也记录在书上。

9:23 So the Jews committed themselves to continue what they had begun to do and to what Mordecai had written to them. **9:24** For Haman the son of Hamedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised plans against the Jews to destroy them. He had cast *pur* (that is, the lot) in order to afflict and destroy them. **9:25** But when the matter came to the king's attention, the king gave written orders that Haman's evil intentions that he had devised against the Jews should fall on his own head. He and his sons were hanged on the gallows. **9:26** For this reason these days are known as *Purim*, after the name of *pur*. **9:27** Therefore, because of the account found in this letter and what they had faced in this regard and what had happened to them, the Jews established as binding on themselves, their descendants, and all who joined their company that they should observe these two days without fail, just as written and at the appropriate time on an annual basis. **9:28** These days were to be remembered and to be celebrated in every generation and in every family, every province, and every city. The Jews were not to fail to observe these days of Purim; the remembrance of them was not to cease among their descendants.

9:29 So Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. **9:30** Letters were sent to all the Jews in the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the empire of Ahasuerus—words of true peace—**9:31** to establish these days of Purim in their proper times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established, and just as they had established both for themselves and their descendants, matters pertaining to fasting and lamentation. **9:32** Esther's command established these matters of Purim, and the matter was officially recorded.

第十章

末底改声名大振

- 1 亚哈随鲁王使旱地和海岛的人民都进贡。
 2 他以权柄能力所行的、并他抬举末底改使他高升的事、岂不都写在玛代和波斯王的历史上么。
 3 犹大人末底改作亚哈随鲁王的宰相、在犹大人中为大、得他众弟兄的喜悦、为本族的人求好处、向他们说和平的话。

Mordecai's Fame Increases

10:1 King Ahasuerus then imposed forced labor on the land and on the coastlands of the sea. **10:2** Now all the actions carried out under his authority and his great achievements, along with an exact statement concerning the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king promoted, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia? **10:3** Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus. He was the highest-ranking Jew, and he was admired by his numerous relatives. He worked enthusiastically for the good of his people and was an advocate for the welfare of all his descendants.