

以斯帖記

Esther

第一章

王設大筵席

- 1 亞哈隨魯作王、從印度直到古實統管一百二十七省。
- 2 亞哈隨魯王在書珊城的宮登基、
- 3 在位第三年、爲他一切首領臣僕設擺筵席、有波斯和瑪代的權貴、就是各省的貴冑與首領、在他面前。
- 4 他把他榮耀之國的豐富、和他美好威嚴的尊貴、給他們看了許多日、就是一百八十日。
- 5 這日子滿了、又爲所有住書珊城的大小人民、在御園的院子裡設擺筵席七日。
- 6 有白色、綠色、藍色的帳子、用細麻繩紫色繩從銀環內繫在白玉石柱上、有金銀的床榻、擺在紅白黃黑玉石鋪的石地上。
- 7 用金器皿賜酒、器皿各有不同、御酒甚多、足顯王的厚意。
- 8 喝酒有例、不准勉強人、因王吩咐宮裡的一切臣宰、讓人各隨己意。
- 9 王后瓦實提在亞哈隨魯王的宮內、也爲婦女設擺筵席。

王后瓦實提被廢

- 10 第七日、亞哈隨魯王飲酒心中快樂、就吩咐在他面前侍立的七個太監米戶幔、比斯他、哈波拿、比革他、亞拔他、西達、甲迦、
- 11 請王后瓦實提頭戴王后的冠冕到王面前、使各等臣民看他的美貌、因爲他容貌甚美。
- 12 王后瓦實提卻不肯遵太監所傳的王命而來、所以王甚發怒、心如火燒。

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 那時、在王左右常見王面、國中坐高位的、有波斯和瑪代的七個大臣、就是甲示拿、示達、押瑪他、他施斯、米力、瑪西拿、米母干、都是達時務的明哲人。按王的常規、辦事必先詢問知例明法的人。王問他們說、
- 14 王后瓦實提不遵太監所傳的王命、照例應當怎樣辦理呢。
- 15 米母干在王和眾首領面前回答說、王后瓦實提、這事不但得罪王、並且有害於王各省的臣民。
- 16 因為王后這事必傳到眾婦人的耳中、說、亞哈隨魯王吩咐王后瓦實提到王面前、他卻不來、他們就藐視自己的丈夫。
- 17 今日波斯和瑪代的眾夫人聽見王后這事、必向王的大臣照樣行。從此必大開藐視和忿怒之端。
- 18 王若以為美、就降旨寫在波斯和瑪代人的例中、永不更改、不准瓦實提再到王面前、將他王后的位分賜給他還好的人。
- 19 所降的旨意傳遍通國、(國度本來廣大)所有的婦人、無論丈夫貴賤都必尊敬他。
- 20 王和眾首領都以米母干的話為美、王就照這話去行、
- 21 發詔書、用各省的文字、各族的方言、通知各省、使為丈夫的在家中作主、各說本地的方言。

第二章

以斯帖被選為王后

- 1 這事以後、亞哈隨魯王的忿怒息、就想念瓦實提和他所行的、並怎樣降旨辦他。
- 2 於是王的侍臣對王說、不如為王尋找美貌的處女。
- 3 王可以派官在國中的各省招聚美貌的處女到書珊城〔或作宮〕的女院、交給掌管女子的太監希該、給他們當用的香品。

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.

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 王所喜愛的女子、可以立為王后、代替瓦實提·王以這事為美、就如此行。
- 5 書珊城有一個猶大人、名叫末底改、是便雅憫人基士的曾孫、示每的孫子、暱珥的兒子·
- 6 從前巴比倫王尼布甲尼撒將猶大王耶哥尼雅（又名約雅斤）和百姓從耶路撒冷擄去、末底改也在其內。
- 7 末底改撫養他叔叔的女兒哈大沙、（後名以斯帖）、因為他沒有父母·這女子又容貌俊美、他父母死了、末底改就收他為自己的女兒。
- 8 王的諭旨傳出、就招聚許多女子到書珊城、交給掌管女子的希該、以斯帖也送入王宮、交付希該·
- 9 希該喜悅以斯帖、就恩待他、急忙給他需用的香品、和他所當得的分、又派所當得的七個宮女服事他、使他和他的宮女搬入女院上好的房屋。
- 10 以斯帖未曾將籍貫宗族告訴人、因為末底改囑咐他不可叫人知道。
- 11 末底改天天在女院前邊行走、要知道以斯帖平安不平安、並後事如何。
- 12 眾女子照例先潔淨身體十二個月、六個月用沒藥油、六個月用香料和潔身之物、滿了日期、然後挨次進去見亞哈隨魯王·
- 13 女子進去見王是這樣、從女院到王宮的時候、凡他所要的、都必給他·
- 14 晚上進去、次日回到女子第二院、交給掌管妃嬪的太監沙甲·除非王喜愛他、再提名召他、就不再進去見王。
- 15 末底改叔叔亞比孩的女兒、就是末底改收為自己女兒的以斯帖、按次序當進去見王的時候、除了掌管女子的太監希該所派定給他的、他別無所求·凡看見以斯帖的都喜悅他。

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 亞哈隨魯王第七年十月、就是提別月、以斯帖被引入宮見王。
 17 王愛以斯帖過於愛眾女、他在王眼前蒙寵愛比眾處女更甚、王就把王后的冠冕戴在他頭上、立他為王后、代替瓦實提。
 18 王因以斯帖的緣故給眾首領和臣僕設擺大筵席、又豁免各省的租稅、並照王的厚意大頒賞賜。

末底改揭發害王的陰謀

- 19 第二次招聚處女的时候、末底改坐在朝門。
 20 以斯帖照著末底改所囑咐的還沒有將籍貫宗族告訴人、因為以斯帖遵末底改的命、如撫養他的時候一樣。
 21 當那時候、末底改坐在朝門、王的太監中有兩個守門的辟探和提列惱恨亞哈隨魯王、想要下手害他。
 22 末底改知道了、就告訴王后以斯帖、以斯帖奉末底改的名、報告於王。
 23 究察這事、果然是實、就把二人挂在木頭上、將這事在王面前寫於歷史上。

第三章

哈曼圖謀滅絕猶大人

- 1 這事以後、亞哈隨魯王抬舉亞甲族哈米大他的兒子哈曼、使他高升、叫他的爵位超過與他同事的一切臣宰。
 2 在朝門的一切臣僕、都跪拜哈曼、因為王如此吩咐、惟獨末底改不跪不拜。
 3 在朝門的臣僕問末底改說、你為何違背王的命令呢。
 4 他們天天勸他、他還是不聽、他們就告訴哈曼、要看末底改的事站得住站不住、因他已經告訴他們自己是猶大人。

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.

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 哈曼見末底改不跪不拜、他就怒氣填胸、
- 6 他們已將末底改的本族告訴哈曼、他以為下手害末底改一人是小事、就要滅絕亞哈隨魯王通國所有的猶大人、就是末底改的本族。
- 7 亞哈隨魯王十二年正月、就是尼散月、人在哈曼面前、按日日月月掣普珥、就是掣籤、要定何月何日為吉、擇定了十二月、就是亞達月。
- 8 哈曼對亞哈隨魯王說、有一種民、散居在王國各省的民中、他們的律例、與萬民的律例不同、也不守王的律例、所以容留他們與王無益、
- 9 王若以為美、請下旨意滅絕他們、我就捐一萬他連得銀子、交給掌管國帑的人、納入王的府庫、
- 10 於是王從自己手上摘下戒指、給猶大人的仇敵、亞甲族哈米大他的兒子哈曼、
- 11 王對哈曼說、這銀子仍賜給你、這民也交給你、你可以隨意待他們。
- 12 正月十三日就召了王的書記來、照著哈曼一切所吩咐的、用各省的文字、各族的方言、奉亞哈隨魯王的名寫旨意、傳與總督和各省的省長、並各族的首領、又用王的戒指蓋印、
- 13 交給驛卒傳到王的各省、吩咐將猶大人、無論老少婦女孩子、在一日之間、十二月、就是亞達月十三日、全然剪除、殺戮滅絕、並奪他們的財為掠物、
- 14 抄錄這旨意、頒行各省、宣告各族、使他們豫備等候那日、
- 15 驛卒奉王命急忙起行、旨意也傳遍書珊城。王同哈曼坐下飲酒、書珊城的民卻都慌亂。

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

以斯帖決定冒死救同胞

- 1 末底改知道所作的這一切事、就撕裂衣服、穿麻衣、蒙灰塵、在城中行走、痛哭哀號。
- 2 到了朝門前停住腳步、因為穿麻衣的不可進朝門。
- 3 王的諭旨所到的各省各處、猶大人大大悲哀、禁食哭泣哀號、穿麻衣躺在灰中的甚多。
- 4 王后以斯帖的宮女和太監來把這事告訴以斯帖、他甚是憂愁、就送衣服給末底改穿、要他脫下麻衣、他卻不受。
- 5 以斯帖就把王所派伺候他的一個太監、名叫哈他革召來、吩咐他去見末底改、要知道這是甚麼事、是甚麼緣故。
- 6 於是哈他革出到朝門前的寬闊處見末底改。
- 7 末底改將自己所遇的事、並哈曼為滅絕猶大人應許捐入王庫的銀數、都告訴了他。
- 8 又將所抄寫傳遍書珊城要滅絕猶大人的旨意交給哈他革、要給以斯帖看、又要給他說明、並囑咐他進去見王、為本族的人、在王面前懇切祈求。
- 9 哈他革回來、將末底改的話告訴以斯帖。
- 10 以斯帖就吩咐哈他革去見末底改說、
- 11 王的一切臣僕、和各省的人民、都知道有一個定例、若不蒙召、擅入內院見王的、無論男女必被治死、除非王向他伸出金杖、不得存活、現在我沒有蒙召進去見王已經三十日了。
- 12 人就把以斯帖這話告訴末底改。
- 13 末底改託人回覆以斯帖說、你莫想在王宮裡強過一切猶大人、得免這禍。
- 14 此時你若閉口不言、猶大人必從別處得解脫、蒙拯救、你和你父家、必致滅亡、焉知你得了王后的位分、不是為現今的機會麼。

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 treasuries 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 以斯帖就吩咐人回報末底改說、
 16 你當去招聚書珊城所有的猶大人、爲我禁食三晝三夜、不喫不喝、我和我的宮女、也要這樣禁食、然後我違例進去見王、我若死就死罷。
 17 於是末底改照以斯帖一切所吩咐的去行。

第五章

以斯帖求救於王

- 1 第三日、以斯帖穿上朝服、進王宮的內院、對殿站立、王在殿裡坐在寶座上、對著殿門。
 2 王見王后以斯帖站在院內、就施恩於他、向他伸出手中的金杖、以斯帖便向前撲杖頭。
 3 王對他說、王后以斯帖阿、你要甚麼、你求甚麼、就是國的一半、也必賜給你。
 4 以斯帖說、王若以爲美、就請王帶著哈曼今日赴我所豫備的筵席。
 5 王說、叫哈曼速速照以斯帖的話去行、於是王帶著哈曼赴以斯帖所豫備的筵席。
 6 在酒席筵前、王又問以斯帖說、你要甚麼、我必賜給你、你求甚麼、就是國的一半、也必爲你成就。
 7 以斯帖回答說、我有所要、我有所求、
 8 我若在王眼前蒙恩、王若願意賜我所要的、准我所求的、就請王帶著哈曼再赴我所要豫備的筵席、明日我必照王所問的說明。

哈曼惱怒末底改

- 9 那日哈曼心中快樂、歡歡喜喜地出來、但見末底改在朝門不站起來、連身也不動、就滿心惱怒末底改。
 10 哈曼暫且忍耐回家、叫人請他朋友和他妻子細利斯來。
 11 哈曼將他富厚的榮耀、眾多的兒女、和王抬舉他使他超乎首領臣僕之上、都述說給他們聽。

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 哈曼又說、王后以斯帖豫備筵席、除了我之外不許別人隨王赴席。明日王后又請我隨王赴席。
- 13 只是我見猶大人末底改坐在朝門、雖有這一切榮耀、也與我無益。
- 14 他的妻細利斯和他一切的朋友對他說、不如立一個五丈高的木架、明早求王將末底改掛在其上、然後你可以歡歡喜喜地隨王赴席。哈曼以這話為美、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

轉換點：末底改得王的尊榮

- 1 那夜王睡不著覺、就吩咐人取歷史來、念給他聽。
- 2 正遇見書上寫著說、王的太監中有兩個守門的辟探和提列想要下手害亞哈隨魯王、末底改將這事告訴王后。
- 3 王說、末底改行了這事、賜他甚麼尊榮爵位沒有。伺候王的臣僕回答說、沒有賜他甚麼。
- 4 王說、誰在院子裡。（那時哈曼正進王宮的外院、要求王將末底改掛在他所豫備的木架上）
- 5 臣僕說、哈曼站在院內。王說、叫他進來。
- 6 哈曼就進去。王問他說、王所喜悅尊榮的人、當如何待他呢。哈曼心裡說、王所喜悅尊榮的不是我是誰呢。
- 7 哈曼就回答說、王所喜悅尊榮的人、
- 8 當將王常穿的朝服、和戴冠的御馬、
- 9 都交給王極尊貴的一個大臣、命他將衣服給王所喜悅尊榮的人穿上、使他騎上馬走遍城裡的街市、在他面前宣告說、王所喜悅尊榮的人、就如此待他。
- 10 王對哈曼說、你速速將這衣服和馬、照你所說的、向坐在朝門的猶大人末底改去行、凡你所說的、一樣不可缺。

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 Bigthana 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 於是哈曼將朝服給末底改穿上、使他騎上馬走遍城裡的街市、在他面前宣告說、王所喜悅尊榮的人、就如此待他。
- 12 末底改仍回到朝門、哈曼卻憂憂悶悶地蒙著頭、急忙回家去了。
- 13 將所遇的一切事、詳細說給他的妻細利斯和他的眾朋友聽、他的智慧人和他的妻細利斯對他說、你在末底改面前始而敗落、他如果是猶大人、你必不能勝他、終必在他面前敗落。
- 14 他們還與哈曼說話的時候、王的太監來催哈曼快去赴以斯帖所豫備的筵席。

第七章

哈曼遭處決

- 1 王帶著哈曼來赴王后以斯帖的筵席。
- 2 這第二次在酒席筵前、王又問以斯帖說、王后以斯帖阿、你要甚麼、我必賜給你、你求甚麼、就是國的一半、也必為你成就。
- 3 王后以斯帖回答說、我若在王眼前蒙恩、王若以為美、我所願的、是願王將我的性命賜給我、我所求的、是求王將我的本族賜給我。
- 4 因我和我的本族被賣了、要剪除殺戮滅絕我們、我們若被賣為奴為婢、我也閉口不言、但王的損失、敵人萬不能補足。
- 5 亞哈隨魯王問王后以斯帖說、擅敢起意如此行的是誰、這人在哪裡呢。
- 6 以斯帖說、仇人敵人就是這惡人哈曼、哈曼在王和王后面前就甚驚惶。
- 7 王便大怒、起來離開酒席往御園去了、哈曼見王定意要加罪與他、就起來、求王后以斯帖救命。
- 8 王從御園回到酒席之處、見哈曼伏在以斯帖所靠的榻上、王說、他竟敢在宮內、在我面前、凌辱王后麼、這話一出王口、人就蒙了哈曼的臉。

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 伺候王的一個太監、名叫哈波拿、說、哈曼爲那救王有功的末底改、作了五丈高的木架、現今立在哈曼家裡。王說、把哈曼掛在其上。
- 10 於是人將哈曼掛在他爲末底改所豫備的木架上。王的忿怒這纔止息。

第八章

王下令保護猶大人

- 1 當日亞哈隨魯王把猶大人仇敵哈曼的家產賜給王后以斯帖。末底改也來到王面前、因爲以斯帖已經告訴王末底改是他的親屬。
- 2 王摘下自己的戒指、就是從哈曼追回的、給了末底改。以斯帖派末底改管理哈曼的家產。
- 3 以斯帖又俯伏在王腳前、流淚哀告、求他除掉亞甲族哈曼害猶大人的惡謀。
- 4 王向以斯帖伸出金杖。以斯帖就起來、站在王前、
- 5 說、亞甲族哈米大他的兒子哈曼、設謀傳旨、要殺滅在王各省的猶大人。現今王若願意、我若王眼前蒙恩、王若以爲美、若喜悅我、請王另下旨意廢除哈曼所傳的那旨意。
- 6 我何忍見我本族的人受害、何忍見我同宗的人被滅呢。
- 7 亞哈隨魯王對王后以斯帖和猶大人末底改說、因哈曼要下手害猶大人、我已將他的家產賜給以斯帖、人也將哈曼掛在木架上。
- 8 現在你們可以隨意奉王的名寫諭旨給猶大人、用王的戒指蓋印。因爲奉王名所寫用王戒指蓋印的諭旨、人都不能廢除。
- 9 三月、就是西彎月、二十三日、將王的書記召來、按著末底改所吩咐的用各省的文字、各族的方言、並猶大人的文字方言寫諭旨、傳給那從印度直到古實一百二十七省的猶大人、和總督省長首領。

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.

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 Hammedatha, 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 末底改奉亞哈隨魯王的名寫諭旨、用王的戒指蓋印、交給騎御馬圈快馬的驛卒傳到各處。
- 11 諭旨中王准各省各城的猶大人在一日之間、十二月、就是亞達月、十三日、聚集保護性命、剪除殺戮滅絕那要攻擊猶大人的一切仇敵、和他們的妻子兒女、奪取他們的財為掠物。
- 12
- 13 抄錄這諭旨、頒行各省、宣告各族、使猶大人豫備等候那日、在仇敵身上報仇。
- 14 於是騎快馬的驛卒、被王命催促、急忙起行、諭旨也傳遍書珊城。
- 15 末底改穿著藍色白色的朝服、頭戴大金冠冕、又穿紫色細麻布的外袍、從王面前出來、書珊城的人民、都歡呼快樂。
- 16 猶大人有光榮歡喜快樂而得尊貴。
- 17 王的諭旨所到的各省各城、猶大人都歡喜快樂、設擺筵宴、以那日為吉日。那國的人民、有許多因懼怕猶大人、就入了猶大籍。

第九章

猶大人勝過仇敵

- 1 十二月、乃亞達月、十三日、王的諭旨將要舉行、就是猶大人的仇敵盼望轄制他們的日子、猶大人反倒轄制恨他們的人、
- 2 猶大人在亞哈隨魯王各省的城裡聚集、下手擊殺那要害他們的人、無人能敵擋他們、因為各族都懼怕他們。
- 3 各省的首領總督省長和辦理王事的人、因懼怕末底改、就都幫助猶大人。
- 4 末底改在朝中為大、名聲傳遍各省、日漸昌盛。

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 猶大人用刀擊殺一切仇敵、任意殺滅恨他們的人。
 6 在書珊城、猶大人殺滅了五百人。
 7 又殺巴珊大他、達分、亞斯帕他、
 8 破拉他、亞大利雅、亞利大他、
 9 帕瑪斯他、亞利賽、亞利代、瓦耶撒他。
 10 這十人都是哈米大他的孫子、猶大人仇敵哈曼的兒子、猶大人卻沒有下手奪取財物。
 11 當日將書珊城被殺的人數、呈在王前。
 12 王對王后以斯帖說、猶大人在書珊城殺滅了五百人、又殺了哈曼的十個兒子、在王的各省不知如何呢、現在你要甚麼、我必賜給你、你還求甚麼、也必為你成就。
- 13 以斯帖說、王若以為美、求你准書珊的猶大人、明日也照今日的旨意行、並將哈曼十個兒子的屍首、挂在木架上。
 14 王便允准如此行、旨意傳在書珊、人就將哈曼十個兒子的屍首掛起來了。
 15 亞達月十四日、書珊的猶大人又聚集在書珊、殺了三百人、卻沒有下手奪取財物。
- 16 在王各省其餘的猶大人也都聚集保護性命、殺了恨他們的人七萬五千、卻沒有下手奪取財物、這樣、就脫離仇敵、得享平安。
 17 亞達月十三日、行了這事、十四日安息、以這日為設筵歡樂的日子。

普珥日的由來

- 18 但書珊的猶大人這十三日十四日聚集殺滅仇敵、十五日安息、以這日為設筵歡樂的日子。
 19 所以住無城牆鄉村的猶大人、如今都以亞達月十四日為設筵歡樂的吉日、彼此餽送禮物。
 20 末底改記錄這事、寫信與亞哈隨魯王各省遠近所有的猶大人、
 21 囑咐他們每年守亞達月十四五兩日、
 22 以這月的兩日、為猶大人脫離仇敵得平安、轉憂為喜、轉悲為樂的吉日、在這兩日設筵歡樂、彼此餽送禮物、賙濟窮人。

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 於是猶大人、按著末底改所寫與他們的信、應承照初次所守的守為永例。
- 24 是因猶大人的仇敵、亞甲族哈米大他的兒子哈曼、設謀殺害猶大人、掣普珥、就是掣籤、為要殺盡滅絕他們。
- 25 這事報告於王、王便降旨使哈曼謀害猶大人的惡事、歸到他自己的頭上、並吩咐把他和他的眾子、都挂在木架上。
- 26 照著普珥的名字、猶大人就稱這兩日為普珥日、他們因這信上的話、又因所看見所遇見的事、
- 27 就應承自己與後裔、並歸附他們的人、每年按時必守這兩日、永遠不廢。
- 28 各省各城、家家戶戶、世世代代、紀念遵守這兩日、使這普珥日在猶大人中不可廢掉、在他們後裔中也不可忘記。
- 29 亞比孩的女兒王后以斯帖和猶大人末底改以全權寫第二封信、堅囑猶大人守這普珥日。
- 30 用和平誠實話、寫信給亞哈隨魯王國中一百二十七省所有的猶大人、
- 31 勸他們按時守這普珥日、禁食呼求、是照猶大人末底改和王后以斯帖所囑咐的、也照猶大人為自己與後裔所應承的。
- 32 以斯帖命定守普珥日、這事也記錄在書上。

第十章

末底改聲名大振

- 1 亞哈隨魯王使旱地和海島的人民都進貢。
- 2 他以權柄能力所行的、並他抬舉末底改使他高升的事、豈不都寫在瑪代和波斯王的歷史上麼。
- 3 猶大人末底改作亞哈隨魯王的宰相、在猶大人中為大、得他眾弟兄的喜悅、為本族的人求好處、向他們說和平的話。

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 Hammedatha, 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.

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.