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Ester

Introduction

This account tells about the life of a young Jewish woman named Ester. These events happened back when King Ahashverosh (more widely known as King Xerxes) ruled over the kingdom of Paras. After Queen Vashti was banished for refusing to dance in front the king's guests at a drinking party, Ester was chosen as the new queen without revealing her Jewish background. But there was a high official called Haman who was offended by Ester's Jewish guardian and in his anger, determined to annihilate all of the Yehudim from the kingdom. This account reveals how Eter's courage and her love for her Jewish people leads her to help them and eventually helps to save their lives.
The account also reveals the source of a Jewish feast named 'Purim', which to this day is a time when Jewish people celebrate how God saved them from their enemy, Haman.

Main components of this account

Ester becomes Queen of Paras *1:1–2:23*
Haman's threat to the Yehudim *3:1–5:14*
Haman's execution *6:1–7:10*
The Jewish people destroy their enemies *8:1–10:3*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Empress Vashti refuses Emperor Ahashverosh

1:1 The following events happened during the reign of Emperor Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes).[1] (Also known as King Ahashverosh, he ruled the 127 provinces of Paras (Persia) extending from Hodu to Kush (Ethiopia).) **2** In those days, he ruled his empire from Shushan (Susa),[2] city.

3 In the third year of his reign, he hosted a celebration for all of his officials and for every important person who worked for him, the wealthy landowners, the officials of the provinces, as well as the officers who served in the army of the combined empire of Paras and Maday (Media). He was present in person **4** to host the six-month celebration which, displayed the incredible wealth and prestige of his empire and his personal wealth and power.

5 At the end of that time, the emperor hosted another celebration, but this time for all the people in the royal fort in Shushan, from the leading citizens to the least prestigious. He held this celebration over an entire week in the enclosed garden of the royal palace. **6** There were white and blue curtains hanging from white and purple cords attached to silver rings on marble pillars. The guests reclined on gold and silver couches set on a mosaic floor made of red and white marble, mother-of-pearl and other expensive stones. **7** Drinks were served in golden goblets, and each one was a unique design. The king's wine seemed limitless as he displayed his generosity, **8** and it was served according to his rule: there was no compulsion to drink, but his servants were to give each guest however much they wanted.

9 Meanwhile, Queen Vashti was hosting a celebration for the women in a different part of the royal palace.

10 On the last day of the celebrations, when the emperor was pleasantly tipsy, he ordered seven of his chief servants (Mehuman, Bizta, Harvona, Bigta, Avagta, Zetar, and Karkas) **11** to bring Queen

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1:1 And_he/it_was in_the_days_of 'Aḥashvērōsh that 'Aḥashvērōsh who_reigned from_ _Hoddū/(India) and_unto Kūsh/(Cush) seven and_twenty and_one_hundred province[s]. **2** In_ _the_days the_those just_as_sat the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh on the_throne_of his/its_kingdom which was_in_Shūshan the_citadel. **3** In_year three of_reigning_his he_made a_feast to/from_ _all/each/any/every officials_of_his and_ _servants_of_his the_army_of Pāraṣ and_Māday the_nobles and_the_officials_of the_provinces were_before_of_him. **4** When_showed_he ~~ĐOM~~ the_wealth_of the_splendour_of his/its_kingdom and_~~ĐOM~~ the_honour_of the_glory_of his_ _greatness_of_his days many eighty and_one_ _hundred day[s]. **5** And_when_were_completed the_days the_these the_king he_made to/from_ _all/each/any/every the_people who_were_ _found in_Shūshan the_citadel (to)_from_great and_unto insignificant a_feast seven_of days in_ _the_courtyard_of the_garden_of the_palace_of the_king. **6** White_cloth cotton and_violet_ _material was_held with_cords_of fine_linen and_ _purple on rods_of silver and_pillars_of marble couches_of gold and_silver were_on a_pavement_ _of porphyry and_marble and_mother-of-pearl and_paving_stone. **7** And_they_gave_to_drink in_ _vessels_of gold and_vessels from_vessels were_ _differing and_wine royalty was_much according_to_the_hand_of the_king. **8** And_the_ _drinking was_according_the_law there_was_not one_who_compelled if/because thus the_king he_ _had_appointed on every_of (the)_chief_of his_ _house_of_his for_doing according_to_the_ _pleasure_of man and_man. **9** Also Vashti the_ _queen she_made a_feast_of women the_house_of (the)_royalty which to/for_the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh. **10** In_the_day the_seventh just_ the_heart_of the_king _as_was_good by_wine he_ _said to_Mehuman Biztha Harbona Bigtha and_ _Abagtha Zethar and_Carcas the_seven_of the_ _officials who_served ~~ĐOM~~ the_presence_of the_ _king 'Aḥashvērōsh. **11** To_bring ~~ĐOM~~ Vashti the_ _queen to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_ _king with_a_crown_of royalty to_show the_ _peoples and_the_officials ~~ĐOM~~ beauty_of_her if/because was_good_of appearance she. **12** And_

1 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** Ezr 4:6.

2 **RV 1:2 · Note** Known as 'Susa' in many 20th century translations, even though earlier English translations often got it correct.

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the_queen Vashti _she_refused to_come at_the_ _message_of the_king which was_by_the_hand_of the_officials and_ the_king _he_was_angry exceedingly and_rage_of_his it_burnt in_him/it. **13** And_ the_king _he/it_said to_men who_knew_ _of (of)_the_times if/because was_thus the_ _manner_of the_king to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before all_of those_who_knew_of (of)_law and_judgement. **14** And_the_ones_close to_ _him/it[3] were_Carshena Shethar Admatha Tarshiysh Meres Marsena Memucan the_seven_of the_officials_of Pāraṣ and_Māday who_saw_of (of)_the_face_of the_king who_sat foremost in_ _kingdom. **15** According_to_the_law what is_to_ _do with_queen Vashti on that not she_did ᴅᴏᴍ the_command_of the_king ʾAḥashvērōsh by_the_ _hand_of the_officials. **16** And_he/it_said Memucan[4] to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_king and_the_officials not on the_king for_ _him/it_being_alone Vashti the_queen she_did_ _wrong if/because on all_of the_officials and_on all_of the_peoples which in_all the_provinces_of the_king ʾAḥashvērōsh. **17** If/because the_ _matter_of the_queen it_will_go_forth to all_of the_women to_make_despicable husbands_of_ _their in_eyes_of_their because_they_will_say the_king ʾAḥashvērōsh he_said to_bring ᴅᴏᴍ Vashti the_queen before_him and_not she_came. **18** And_the_day the_this they_will_say the_noble_ _ladies_of Pāraṣ and_Māday who they_have_ _heard ᴅᴏᴍ the_matter_of the_queen to_ _all/each/any/every the_officials_of the_king and_will_be_as_enough_of contempt and_anger. **19** If is_on the_king good a_message_of royalty let_it_go_forth from_before_face_of_him and_let_ _it_be_written in_the_laws_of Pāraṣ and_Māday and_not which/who not Vashti she_will_come to_ _(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_king ʾAḥashvērōsh and_queenhood_of_her the_king let_him_give to_her_fellow_of_woman (the)_good more_than_she it_will_pass_away. **20** And_ the_ _decree_of the_king which he_will_make _it_will_ _be_heard in_all his/its_kingdom if/because is_ _great it and_all the_women they_will_give honour to_husbands_of_their (to)_from_great and_unto insignificant. **21** And_ the_message _it_ _was_good in/on_both_eyes_of the_king and_the_ _officials and_ the_king _he/it_made according_

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Vashti to him, wearing her royal crown, in order to show the officials and other people how good-looking she was, because she was very beautiful. **12** The servants told her Ahashverosh's (Ahasuerus'/Xerxes') command, but Queen Vashti refused to come. When they reported back to Ahashverosh, he was furious and sat there raging for a while.

13–14 Eventually he discussed it with his close advisors who knew the law and could make good decisions. (These seven officials; Karshena, Shetar, Admata, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memukan; were from various places. They advised the emperor personally, so were the most powerful officials in the empire.) **15** 'According to our law,' he asked, 'what should be done with Empress Vashti, since she refused to obey my command when the servants passed it on to her?'

16 Memukan replied, addressing the whole group, 'Empress Vashti has done wrong, and not only against the emperor. She has also done wrong against all the officials and people groups of the empire. **17** Soon women all over the empire will hear about what the empress did and they'll say, "Emperor Ahashverosh commanded his servants to bring Empress Vashti to him, but she didn't go!" Then women will stop respecting their husbands. **18** Even today, the important wives in the empire will hear what the empress did and start doing the same to their husbands; it will result in contempt on her part and anger on his. **19** If it pleases you to do so, your majesty, you should personally issue a royal decree and have it added to the laws of Paras (Persia) and Maday (Media) which cannot be repealed. This decree should say that Vashti can never again come into your presence. Then you should choose a different woman for the royal position – someone who's better than her. **20** Have your decree proclaimed throughout your empire, even though it's so huge, and then all women, whatever their status or position, will respect their husbands.'

21 Memukan's advice seemed like a good idea to

3 LV 1:14 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHQ.

4 LV 1:16 · Note OSHB variant note: וְכמוּמ: (x-qere) ʾוְכוּמְמ: lemma_4462 n_1.2.1 morph_HNp id_172tG וְכוּמְמ

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the emperor and his officials, so that's what they did. **22** They wrote letters to every province using its own alphabet and to each people group in its own language. The letters said that men should be the masters over their wives and children, and that a husband should be able to give orders to his wife in his own language and that she should understand and obey him.

Beautiful Ester enters the king's harem

2:1 Some time later when King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes) no longer felt so angry, he started to miss Vashti. But when she'd disobeyed his command, he had made a decree that she could never come into his presence again. **2** So some of the young men who served the king suggested to him, "Your majesty, you should get a new wife for yourself. You could tell your servants to look for young virgins who are very beautiful. **3** You could assign officers in each province of your empire to bring every virgin who is very beautiful here to your capital city of Shushan (Susa). They could stay in the harem for virgins under the custody of Hegay, the castrated royal guardian who takes care of the young women who live there and he could arrange for them to receive beauty treatments. **4** Then you could decide which young woman you like best and then make her queen instead of Vashti."

The king liked what they suggested, so he did it.

5 At that time, there was a Jewish man named Mordekai living in the capital city of Shushan. (He was from the tribe of Benyamin: his father was Yair, his grandfather was Shimei, and his great-grandfather was Kish **6** who'd been taken away from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and led to Bavel (Babylon) when King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) of Bavel had exiled Yekaneyah, the king of Yehudah (Judah), along with many of his people.)[5] **7** Now Mordekai was taking care of his cousin, who was an orphan. When her father and mother had died, Mordekai had adopted her as his own daughter. Her Hebrew name was Hadasah, and her Persian name was Ester. Ester was now a young woman and she was exceptionally attrac-

Literal Version

_to_the_message_of Memucan. **22** And_he_sent_ _out documents to all_of the_provinces_of the_ _king to province and_province according_to_of_ _its_writing and_near/to people and_people according_to_of_its_language to_be every_of man ruling over_his_own_of_household and_speaking according_to_the_language_of his_people_of_his.

2:1 After the_things the_these just_ the_anger_of the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh _as_subsided he_ _remembered ~~DOM~~ Vashti and_~~DOM~~ that_which she_had_done and_~~DOM~~ that_which it_had_been_ _decided on_her. **2** And_ the_young_men_of the_ _king who_of_were_serving_him _they_said let_ _people_seek to/for_the_king young_women virgins good_of appearance. **3** And_ the_king _let_ _him_appoint appointees in_all the_provinces_of his/its_kingdom and_let_them_gather ~~DOM~~ every_ _of_girl virgin good_of appearance to Shūshan the_citadel to the_house_of the_women into the_ _hand_of Hegai the_eunuch_of the_king the_one_ _who_kept_of the_women and_let_him_give cleansings_of_their. **4** And_the_young_woman who she_will_be_good in/on_both_eyes_of the_ _king she_will_reign in_place_of Vashti and_ the_ _message _it_was_good in/on_both_eyes_of the_ _king and_he/it_made thus. **5** A_man a_Jew he_ _was in_Shūshan the_citadel and_his/its_name was_Mordəkay the_son_of Yā'īr/(Jair) the_son_of Shim'ī the_son_of Qīsh a_man a_Jaminite. **6** Who he_had_been_taken_into_exile from_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) with the_exile[s] which it_had_been_taken_into_exile with Yəkon^{yāh}/(Jeconiah) the_king_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) whom Nebuchadnezzar the_ _king_of Bāvel he_had_taken_into_exile. **7** And_ _he/it_was acting_as_guardian ~~DOM~~ H$_a$daṣṣāh that is_'Eṣtēr the_daughter_of his_uncle_of_his if/because there_was_not to/for_her/it a_father and_a_mother and_the_young_woman was_ _beautiful_of form and_good_of appearance and_ _at_the_death_of her_father_of_her and_mother_ _of_her he_took_her Mordəkay to_him/it to_a_ _daughter. **8** And_he/it_was when_ the_edict_of the_king and_orders_of_his _were_heard and_ _when_ young_women many _were_gathered to Shūshan the_citadel into the_hand_of Hegai and_ 'Eṣtēr _she_was_taken to the_house_of the_king

5 RV 2:6 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:10-16; 2Ch 36:10.

Literal Version

into the_hand_of Hegai the_one_who_kept_of the_women. **9** And_ the_young_woman _she_was_ _good in_eyes_of_his and_she_bore favour before_ _him and_he_hastened ĐOM cleansings_of_her and_ĐOM portions_of_her to_give to/for_her/it and_ĐOM seven the_servant_girls (the)_chosen to_ _give to/for_her/it from_the_house_of the_king and_he_moved_her and_ĐOM girls_of_her_servant to_the_good_place_of the_house_of the_women. **10** Not 'Eştēr she_had_told ĐOM people_of_her and_ĐOM kindred_of_her if/because Mordəkay he_had_commanded on/upon_it(f) which/who not she_will_tell. **11** And_on/over_all day and_day Mordəkay was_walking_about to_(the)_face_ _of/in_front_of/before the_courtyard_of the_ _house_of the_women to_know ĐOM the_welfare_ _of 'Eştēr and_what was_it_done with_her. **12** And_when_ the_turn_of a_young_woman and_ _a_young_woman _arrived to_go to the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh from_the_end/extremity of_being to/for_her/it according_to_the_regulation_of the_women two_plus ten month[s] if/because thus the_days_of their_rubbings_of_their six months with_the_oil_of (the)_myrrh and_six months with_(the)_oil and_with_the_cleansings_ _of (the)_women they_were_completed. **13** And_ _in_this_way the_young_woman was_going into the_king ĐOM all that she_said it_was_given to/for_her/it to_go with_her/it from_the_house_ _of the_women to the_house_of the_king. **14** In_ _evening she was_going and_in_morning she was_returning to the_house_of the_women second into the_hand_of Shaashgaz the_eunuch_ _of the_king the_one_who_kept_of the_ _concubines not she_went again into the_king if/because (if) he_delighted in_her the_king and_ _she_was_summoned by_name.

15 And_when_ the_turn_of 'Eştēr the_daughter_of 'Avīhayil the_uncle_of Mordəkay whom he_had_ _taken to_him/it to_a_daughter _arrived to_go to the_king not she_requested anything if/because (if) ĐOM that_which Hegai the_eunuch_of the_ _king the_one_who_kept_of the_women he_said and_ 'Eştēr _it_became bearing_of favour in/on_ _both_eyes_of all_of those_of_who_saw_her. **16** And_ 'Eştēr _she_was_taken to the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh into the_house_of his/its_kingdom

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tive.

8 So when the king's command and decree became known, many young women were being brought into the capital city of Shushan and placed under Hegay's charge, and this is what happened to Ester. (Hegay was the overseer of the women.) **9** Hegay was very impressed with Ester, and he treated her favourably. He quickly arranged for Ester to receive her beauty treatments and her allotment of food, as well as choosing seven female servants from the king's palace and assigning them to be her personal attendants. He also moved Ester and her attendants to the best rooms in the harem for virgins. **10** (Ester hadn't revealed her family ties or her Jewishness to anyone, because Mordekai had instructed her not to.)

11 Every day Mordekai would walk around in front of the courtyard of the women's harem to find out from others how Ester was doing and how she was being treated.

12 Each young woman would get twelve months of beauty treatment according to the Persian law for women—there would be six months of applying oil of myrrh, then six months of perfumes and other lotions designed for women. Then their turn would come, one at a time, to be taken to King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes). **13** The young woman was allowed to take whatever she wanted from the harem when she went to the king's house. **14** She'd be taken across in the evening, and in the morning she'd be led out to the other harem which was for the concubines. (That harem was overseen by Sha'ashgaz, another castrated royal guardian.) The women taken there wouldn't go again to the king's house unless he had especially liked them and summoned her back by name.

Ester becomes queen

15 Now Ester was the daughter of Mordekai's uncle, Avihayil, from whom Mordekai had adopted her as his own daughter. When it was her turn to go to the king, she didn't ask for anything other than what Hegay, the king's trusted official in charge of the harem, had advised, and everyone who saw Ester liked her. **16** So Ester was taken to King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes) at his royal

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palace in January, in the seventh year of his reign,
17 and the king loved Ester more than any of the
other women. He treated her more kindly and
more favourably than any of the other young
women who had become his concubines. He put a
royal crown on her head and made her the new
queen to replace Vashti. **18** Then the king hosted a
large celebration and invited all his officials and
servants to a feast to celebrate Ester becoming
queen. He proclaimed that this would be a time to
celebrate for people in all of the provinces of his
empire when they wouldn't have to pay taxes, and
he gave many generous gifts.

Mordekai and Ester earn the king's favour

19 Later on, King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes) had his officers bring more virgins to Shushan (Susa). During this time, Mordekai had been given a position by the king so he sat there at the king's gate. **20** Ester had still not told anyone that she was Jewish because Mordekai had warned her not to tell anyone. What's more, she continued to follow all of Mordekai's instructions, just as she had done when she was still under his guardianship.

21 One day when Mordekai was on duty at the king's gate, two of the king's guards who protected the doorway to the king's private rooms became angry with the king and so they planned to assassinate King Ahashverosh. (Their names were Bigtan and Teresh.) **22** But when Mordekai heard what they were planning, he told Queen Ester about it and she told the king, explaining that Mordekai had given her the information. **23** When the matter was investigated and the facts discovered, both conspirators were impaled on sharpened wooden poles, and in the presence of the king, the incident was recorded in the royal record of events.

Haman plans to annihilate the Yehudim

3:1 Some time later, King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes) promoted Haman, one of his officials (and the son of Hamedata who was a descendant of Agag). The king gave Haman a very important position—more important than any of his other officials. **2** Then the king commanded that all his other officials had to

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in_month (the)_tenth that is_the_month_of Tebeth in_year seven of_reign_of_his. **17** And_ the_king _he_loved ~~ĐOM~~ 'Eştēr from_all the_ _women and_she_bore favour and_favour before_ _him from_all the_virgins and_he/it_assigned a_ _crown_of royalty on_head_of_her and_he_made_ _her_queen in_place_of Vashti. **18** And_ the_king _ _he/it_made a_feast great to/from_ _all/each/any/every officials_of_his and_ _servants_of_his ~~ĐOM~~ the_feast_of 'Eştēr and_a_ _holiday for_provinces he_made and_he/it_gave present[s] according_to_the_hand_of the_king.

19 And_when_ virgins _were_gathered a_second_ _time and_Mordəkay was_sitting at_the_gate_of the_king. **20** Not 'Eştēr was_telling kindred_of_her and_~~ĐOM~~ people_of_her just_as he_had_ _commanded on/upon_it(f) Mordəkay and_~~ĐOM~~ the_command_of Mordəkay 'Eştēr was_doing just_as she_had_been in_guardianship with_ _him/it. **21** In_the_days the_those and_Mordəkay was_sitting at_the_gate_of the_king Bigthan and_ _Teresh two_of the_eunuchs_of the_king of_the_ _keepers_of of_the_threshold he_was_angry and_ _they_sought to_stretch_out a_hand on_king 'Aḥashvērōsh. **22** And_ the_matter _it_was_made_ _known to_Mordəkay and_he_told to_'Eştēr the_ _queen and_ 'Eştēr _she/it_said to/for_the_king in/on_name_of Mordəkay. **23** And_ the_matter _ _it_was_sought and_it_was_found and_ both_of_ _them _they_were_hanged on a_gallows and_it_ _was_written in_the_book_of the_matters_of the_ _days to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_ _king.

3:1 After the_things the_these the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh he_made_great ~~ĐOM~~ Haman the_ _son_of Hammedatha the_Agagite and_he_ _exalted_him and_he/it_assigned ~~ĐOM~~ seat_of_his from_under all_of the_officials who with_him/it. **2** And_all the_servants_of the_king who were_at_ _the_gate_of the_king were_kneeling and_were_ _bowing_down to_Haman if/because thus he_ _had_commanded to_him/it the_king and_

Literal Version

_Mordəkay not he_knelt and_not he_bowed_
down. **3** And the_servants_of the_king who
were_at_the_gate_of the_king _they_said to_
_Mordəkay why are_you transgressing ᴅᴏᴍ the_
_command_of the_king. **4** And_he/it_was they_
_spoke[7] to_him/it a_day and_a_day and_not he_
_listened to_them and_they_told to_Haman to_
see will the_words/messages_of Mordəkay _
_they_stand if/because he_had_told to/for_them
which/who he was_a_Jew. **5** And_ Haman _he/it_
_saw if/because_that not Mordəkay was_kneeling
and_bowing_down to_him/it and_ Haman _he_
_was_filled rage. **6** And_he_despised in_his_own_
_of_eyes to_stretch_out[8] a_hand on_Mordəkay
for_him/it_being_alone if/because people_had_
_told to_him/it ᴅᴏᴍ the_people_of Mordəkay
and_ Haman _he/it_sought to_annihilate ᴅᴏᴍ all_
_of the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) who in_all the_kingdom_of
'Aḥashvērōsh the_people_of Mordəkay. **7** In_
_month (the)_first that is_the_month_of Nisan in_
_year two_plus ten to/for_the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh
someone_throw Pur that is_the_lot to_(the)_face_
_of/in_front_of/before Haman from_day to_day
and_from_month to_month two_plus ten that is_
_the_month_of Adar. **8** And_ Haman _he/it_said
to/for_the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh there_it_is a_
_people one scattered and_separated among the_
_peoples in_all_of the_provinces_of your_
_kingdom_of_your and_laws_of_their are_
_differing from_all people and_ᴅᴏᴍ the_laws_of
the_king not_they are_doing and_for_king not is_
_appropriate to_leave_them. **9** If is_on the_king
good let_it_be_written to_destroy_them and_ten_
_of thousand(s) talent[s]_of silver I_will_weigh_
_out on the_hands_of the_doers_of the_work to_
_bring into the_treasuries_of the_king. **10** And_
the_king _he_removed ᴅᴏᴍ signet-ring_of_his
from_under his/its_hand and_he_gave_it to_
_Haman the_son_of Hammedatha the_Agagite
the_harasser_of the_Yəhūdī. **11** And_ the_king _
_he/it_said to_Haman the_silver is_given to/for_
_you(fs) and_the_people for_doing in/on/over_
_him/it according_the_good in_eyes_of_your.
12 And_ the_scribes_of the_king _they_were_
_summoned in_month (the)_first on_thir- teenth

Readers' Version

bow down in front of Haman to honour him, and they were doing this at the king's gate, except for Mordekai who refused to bow down to reverence Haman. **3** "Why are you disobeying the king's command?" asked the other royal servants at the king's gate. **4** Mordekai told them that it was because he was a Yehudi (Jew) (and Yehudim (Jews) only worship Yahweh). He didn't listen to their warnings so they told Haman about it to see if he would tolerate Mordekai in keeping refusing to bow down. **5** When Haman saw that Mordekai would not bow down to him or show him reverence, he was furious. **6** But Haman despised the idea of just punishing Mordekai because he'd been told that Mordekai didn't bow to him because Mordekai was a Yehudi. So Haman decided to annihilate all of Mordekai's people, i.e., all the Yehudim throughout the kingdom of Ahashverosh.

7 In early April of the twelfth year of King Ahashverosh' reign, Haman got his servants to throw dice to select the best month and the best day to kill the Yehudim, and the 13th of March was chosen.

8 Then Haman went to King Ahashverosh and said, "Your Majesty, there is a certain group of people who live among the other peoples in every province of your empire. They have their own set of laws, so they don't obey your laws. It's not good for you to allow them to continue to live in your empire. **9** Your majesty, if you approve of this plan, then write a decree saying that all of the Yehudim must be destroyed. When they're dead, we can take all of their possessions, and from that I will give 300 tons of silver to your administrators for them to put into your royal treasuries."

10 This seemed sensible to the king so he removed his signet ring from his finger and he gave it[6] to Haman (the son of Hamedata, the Agagi, the adversary of the Yehudim). **11** The king told

6 **RV 3:10 · Note** Having the king's signet ring enabled Haman to stamp the king's seal (like a signature) onto the newly drafted laws.

7 **LV 3:4 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ם/רמא/ב**: (x-qere) **'ם/רָמְאִ/כ'**: lemma_k/559 morph_HR/Vqc/Sp3mp id_171go **ם/רָמְאִ/כ**

8 **LV 3:6 · Note** OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

Readers' Version

Haman, "You can keep the money for yourself, and you can do whatever you want to do with those people."

12 On the thirteenth day of that same month, Haman called in the royal scribes, and he dictated a letter to them. He told them to send copies to the royal officials, the governors of each province, and the leaders of each people group within the empire. The scribes translated the letter so it could be sent to each province using its own alphabet and to each people group in its own language. To show that he was sending the letter under the king's own authority, Haman sealed each copy of the letter with the ring that had the king's official seal on it. **13** Couriers delivered the letters to the officials in every province in the empire. The letters said to completely destroy all the Yehudim, including the children and women, on a single day. That was to be the thirteenth day of March early in the following year. The letters also stated that those who killed the Yehudim could take everything that belonged to them. **14** The letter told the officials to display copies where everyone could see them—that way all the people in every single province would know that the king had commanded this, and they could get ready for when the day came.

15 So couriers hurried off with the letters as the king had commanded. A herald in the capital city of Shushan (Susa) also proclaimed what the letters said. Then the king and Haman relaxed and drank together, but there was total confusion in Shushan about how all of this would work out.

Mordekai asks the queen for help

4:1 When Mordekai found out about what had been done, he tore his clothes and dressed in sackcloth and threw ashes over himself (as a sign of mourning or distress) and went out into the city centre, wailing loudly and bitterly. **2** But no one was wearing mourning garb was allowed inside the king's gate, so when Mordekai reached the gate, he had to stay just outside it. **3** In every province of the empire, the letter that said to destroy the Yehudim (Jews) was publicly displayed and when the Yehudim heard about it, they were incredibly

Literal Version

day in/on/over_him/it and_it_was_written according_to_all that Haman he_commanded to the_satraps_of the_king and_near/to the_ _governors who were_over province and_ _province and_near/to the_officials_of people and_people province and_province according_to_ _of_its_writing and_people and_people according_to_of_its_language in/on_name_of the_king ʾAḥashvērōsh it_was_written and_it_ _was_sealed with_the_signet-ring_of the_king. **13** And_ documents _they_were_sent by_the_ _hand_of the_runners to all_of the_provinces_of the_king to_annihilate to_kill and_to_destroy ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ all_of the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) from_young_man and_ _unto old_man little_one[s] and_women in/on_ _day one on_day_thir- teen of_month two_plus ten that is_the_month_of Adar and_spoil_of_their to_take_as_plunder. **14** (The)_copy_of the_writing was_to_ law _be_given in_all province and_ _province displayed to/from_all/each/any/every the_peoples to_be ready for_day (the)_this. **15** The_runners they_went_out hurried at_the_ _message_of the_king and_the_law it_was_given in_Shūshan the_citadel and_the_king and_Haman they_sat_down to_drink and_the_city of_Shūshan it_was_in_confusion.

4:1 And_Mordəkay he_knew ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ all that it_had_ _been_done and_ Mordəkay _he_tore ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ clothes_of_his and_he_put_on sackcloth and_ _ash[es] and_he/it_went_out in_the_middle the_ _city and_he_cried a_cry loud and_bitter. **2** And_ _he_went to to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_gate_of the_king if/because there_was_not to_go into the_gate_of the_king in_clothing_of sackcloth. **3** And_on/over_all province and_ _province the_place_of (of)_where the_message_ _of the_king and_law_of_his was_reaching mourning great belonged_to_Yəhūdī/(Jews) and_ _fasting and_weeping and_wailing sackcloth and_ _ash[es] it_was_spread_as_a_bed by_(the)_people.

Literal Version

4 And_they_came[91011] the_maids_of ’Eṣtēr and_ _eunuchs_of_her and_they_told to/for_her/it and_ the_queen _she_agonized exceedingly and_ _she_sent garments to_clothe ÐOM Mordəkay and_to_remove sackcloth_of_his from_on_him and_not he_accepted_them. **5** And_ ’Eṣtēr _she/it_ _called/named (to)_Hathach one_of_the_ _eunuchs_of the_king whom he_had_made_stand before_her and_she_commanded_him on Mordəkay to_know what was_this and_ _concerning what was_this. **6** And_ Hathach _ _he/it_went_out to Mordəkay to the_open_place_ _of the_city which to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before the_gate_of the_king. **7** And_he_told to_him/it Mordəkay ÐOM all that it_had_ _happened_to_him and_ÐOM the_exact_amount_ _of the_silver which Haman he_had_said to_ _weigh_out to the_treasuries_of the_king in/on/at/with[1213] to_destroy_them. **8** And_ÐOM (the)_copy_of the_writing_of the_law which it_ _had_been_given in_Shūshan to_annihilate_them he_gave to_him/it to_show ÐOM ’Eṣtēr and_to_tell to/for_her/it and_to_command on/upon_it(f) to_ _go to the_king to_seek_favour to_him/it and_to_ _request from_before_face_of_him on people_of_ _her. **9** And_ Hathach _he_came and_he_told to_ _’Eṣtēr ÐOM the_words/messages_of Mordəkay. **10** And_ ’Eṣtēr _she/it_said to_Hathach and_she_ _commanded_him to Mordəkay. **11** All_of the_ _servants_of the_king and_the_people_of the_ _provinces_of the_king are_knowing which/who every_of man and_woman who he_goes to the_ _king into the_court (the)_inner who not he_is_ _summoned is_one law_of_his to_put_to_death apart_except from_that he_holds_out to_him/it the_king ÐOM the_scepter_of the_gold and_he_ _will_live and_I not I_have_been_summoned[141516] to_go to the_king this thirty day[s]. **12** And_they_

Readers’ Version

upset. They skipped meals and wailed loudly, and many of them also wore sackcloth and threw ashes on themselves and lay on the ground.

4 When Queen Ester’s young female attendants came with her guardians and told her what was going on outside, even the queen became very scared. She sent Mordekai some good clothes to wear instead of the sackcloth, but he wouldn’t accept them. **5** The king had assigned some of the royal guardians to Ester personally, so Ester called for one of them—a man named Hatak. She told him to go out and speak with Mordekai and find out what he was so distressed about. **6** So Hatak went out to talk to Mordekai who was out in the plaza in front of the king’s gate. **7** Mordekai told him everything that Haman was planning to do and even told him how much money Haman had said the king would get for his treasuries if the king commanded people to kill all the Yehudim. **8** Mordekai also gave Hatak a copy of the letter that the announcers had read out loud in Shushan (Susa), that said that people must kill all the Yehudim. He told Hatak to show the letter to Ester so that she would know exactly what it said and also told him to urge her to go to the king personally and to beg him desperately to save her people from destruction. **9** So Hatak returned to the queen and told her what Mordekai had said, **10** and Ester told him to go back to Mordekai with this message: **11** “There’s a law about going to the king that applies to everyone in the kingdom, both men and women. If anyone goes into the inner courtyard of the palace, where the king can see them, and the king has not summoned them, that

9 LV 4:4 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

10 LV 4:4 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

11 LV 4:4 · Note OSHB note: We have abandoned or added a ketib/qere relative to BHS. In doing this we agree with L against BHS.

12 LV 4:7 · Note OSHB variant note: יְהוּדִיּ֔/יִרְדוּתִי֙: (x-qere) יְהוּדִיּ֔/יִרְדוּתִי֙: lemma_b/3064 n_0.0 morph_HRd/Ngmpa id_17iqH יְהוּדִיּ֔/יִרְדוּתִי֙

13 LV 4:7 · Note OSHB note: Yathir readings in L which we have designated as Qeres when both Dothan and BHS list a Qere.

14 LV 4:11 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

15 LV 4:11 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

16 LV 4:11 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

Readers' Version

person will be executed. Only if the king holds out his golden scepter to them, then they will live. (Everyone in the whole empire knows this law.) The king hasn't called for me in over a month, and if I go in without being summoned, I could be put to death."

12 So Hatak went back to Mordekai and told him what the queen had said. **13** Mordekai told Hatak to tell this to Ester: "Don't imagine that just because you live there in the king's palace that you'll be safe when they kill all the other Yehudim. **14** If you say nothing at all now, someone from some other place will rescue the Yehudim, but you and your relatives will not survive. Who knows, perhaps it was for a time just like this that God allowed you to become queen?"

15 Then Ester sent this reply to Mordekai: **16** "Go and assemble all the Yehudim who live here in Shushan (Susa), and tell them to fast and pray for my sake—tell them to not eat or drink anything for three days and three nights. My female attendants and I will also fast in the same way. At the end of the three days, I will go in to talk to the king even though it's against the law. I will do that even if it costs me my life."

17 So Mordekai went and did everything that Ester had told him to do.

Ester goes to the king without an invitation

5:1 Three days later, Queen Ester put on her royal robes and went and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace, across from the king's house. He was in the royal palace, sitting on the royal throne and facing the room's entrance. **2** As soon as the king noticed Ester standing there in the courtyard, he was very pleased to see her. So he held out his golden scepter to her and Ester came up to the throne and touched the top of the scepter. **3** "Why have you come here, Queen Ester?" the king asked. "What do you want? Tell me, and I'll give you anything you ask for—even half of the empire."

4 "If it pleases your majesty," Ester replied, "please come with Haman today to the banquet that I've prepared for you."

5 The king said to his servants, "Go and get Haman" the king told his servants, "and bring him

Literal Version

_told to_Mordəkay ~~ĐOM~~ the_words/messages_of 'Eştēr. **13** And_ Mordəkay _he/it_said to_bring_ _back to 'Eştēr do_not imagine in_self_of_your to_ _escape the_house_of the_king from_all the_ _Yəhūdī/(Jews). **14** If/because if indeed_(keep_ _quiet) you_will_keep_quiet at_time (the)_this relief and_deliverance it_will_arise for_Yəhūdī from_a_place another and_you and_the_house_of your_father_of_your you(pl)_will_perish and_who is_knowing if for_a_time like_this you_have_ _reached (to)_queenhood. **15** And_ 'Eştēr _she/it_ _said to_bring_back to Mordəkay. **16** Go gather ~~ĐOM~~ all_of the_Yəhūdī who_are_found in_ _Shūshan and_fast on_me and_do_not eat and_ _do_not drink three_of days night and_day also I and_maids_of_my I_will_fast thus and_in_such I_ _will_go to the_king which not is_according_the_ _law and_as_which I_have_perished I_have_ _perished. **17** And_ Mordəkay _he_passed_on and_ _he/it_made according_to_all that she_had_ _commanded on/upon/above_him/it 'Eştēr.

5:1 And_he/it_was in_the_day the_third and_ 'Eştēr _she_put_on royalty and_she_stood in_the_ _court_of the_house_of the_king (the)_inner in_ _front_of the_house_of the_king and_the_king was_sitting on the_throne_of his/its_kingdom in_ _house_of (the)_royalty in_front_of the_entrance_ _of the_house. **2** And_he/it_was just_ the_king _ _as_saw ~~ĐOM~~ 'Eştēr the_queen standing in_court she_bore favour in_eyes_of_his and_ the_king _ _he_held_out to_'Eştēr ~~ĐOM~~ the_scepter_of the_ _gold which in_his/its_hand and_ 'Eştēr _she_ _drew_near and_she_touched (in)_the_top_of the_scepter. **3** And_he/it_said to/for_her/it the_ _king what is_to_you Oh_'Eştēr the_queen and_ _what request_of_is_your up_to (the)_half_of the_ _kingdom and_it_will_be_given to/for_you(fs). **4** And_ 'Eştēr _she/it_said if is_on the_king good the_king and_Haman let_him_come the_day to the_feast which I_have_made to_him/it. **5** And_ the_king _he/it_said bring_quickly ~~ĐOM~~ Haman for_doing ~~ĐOM~~ the_message_of 'Eştēr and_ the_ _king and_Haman _he_came to the_feast which

Literal Version

'Eṣtēr she_had_made. **6** And_ the_king _he/it_said to_'Eṣtēr at_the_feast_of (the)_wine what petition_of_is_your and_it_will_be_given to/for_ _you(fs) and_what request_of_is_your up_to (the)_half_of the_kingdom and_it_will_be_done. **7** And_ 'Eṣtēr _she_answered and_she/it_said petition_of_my and_request_of_my. **8** If I_have_ _found favour in/on_both_eyes_of the_king and_ _if is_on the_king good to_grant ĐOM petition_of_ _my and_to_do ĐOM request_of_my the_king and_ _Haman let_him_come to the_feast which I_will_ _make to/for_them and_tomorrow I_will_do according_to_the_message_of the_king.

9 And_ Haman _he/it_went_out in_the_day (the)_ _that joyful and_good heart and_just_ Haman _as_ _saw ĐOM Mordəkay at_the_gate_of the_king and_ _not he_stood_up and_not he_trembled from_ _him/it and_ Haman _he_was_filled towards Mordəkay rage. **10** And_ Haman _he_restrained_ _himself and_he_went to house_of_his and_he_ _sent and_he/it_brought ĐOM friends_of_his and_ _ĐOM Zeresh his/its_wife/woman. **11** And_he_ _recounted to/for_them Haman ĐOM the_ _splendour_of his_wealth_of_his and_the_ _multitude_of his_sons_of_his and_ĐOM all_of how he_had_made_him_great the_king and_ĐOM how he_had_exalted_him above the_officials and_the_ _servants_of the_king. **12** And_ Haman _he/it_said also not 'Eṣtēr the_queen she_let_come with the_ _king to the_feast which she_had_prepared if/because (if) me and_also for_tomorrow I have_ _been_invited to/for_her/it with the_king. **13** And_all this not_it is_adequate to_me in_all time when I am_seeing ĐOM Mordəkay the_Jew sitting at_the_gate_of the_king. **14** And_she/it_ _said to_him/it Zeresh his/its_wife/woman and_ _all friends_of_his let_people_make a_gallows high fifty cubit[s] and_in_morning speak to/for_ _the_king and_people_will_hang ĐOM Mordəkay on/upon/above_him/it and_go with the_king to[17][18][19] the_feast joyful and_ the_message _it_ _was_good to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before Haman and_he/it_made the_tree.

Readers' Version

quickly so that we can do what the queen has asked us." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Ester had had prepared for them.
6 While they were drinking wine, the king said to Ester, "Now please tell me what you really want. I'll give you anything you ask for, no matter how much it is. I truly mean what I am saying."

7 "This is what I really want." Ester replied.
8 "Your majesty, if you're pleased with me and if you're happy to give me what I want, please come with Haman to another banquet that I'll prepare for you tomorrow and I'll answer your question then."

Haman's anger with Mordekai and his execution plan

9 Haman was feeling very happy as he left the banquet that day. But then he saw Mordekai sitting at the king's gate and noticed that Mordekai didn't stand up or show fearful reverence to him. This made Haman furious with Mordekai **10** but he restrained himself and went home. Then he sent for his friends and brought in his wife, Zeresh, **11** boasting to them about how rich he was and about how many sons he had, and how the king had promoted him many times and given him a position above all of the other officials and administrators. **12** "And that is not all," Haman added. "I was the only one that Queen Ester invited to go with the king to a banquet that she prepared for us today. And she's also invited only me to go with the king again tomorrow. **13** However, I still can't be happy as long as I keep seeing that Yehudi (Jew), Mordekai, sitting there at the king's gate."

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Get them to install 25-metre high pole, and in the morning get permission from the king, and get them to impale Mordekai on it. Then you can go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself."

That idea sounded good to Haman, so he got the pole erected.

17 LV 5:14 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

18 LV 5:14 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

19 LV 5:14 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Readers' Version

The king honours Mordekai

6:1 That night the king was unable to sleep so he ordered the royal records to be fetched and to be read to him. **2** The records mentioned that Bigtan and Teresh, two of the royal guardians who protected the doorway to the king's private quarters, had planned to assassinate the king, but that Mordekai had reported it. **3** "What honour or recognition did I give Mordekai for saving my life?" the king asked.

"Nothing was done for him," replied the young men who were attending him.

4 At that moment, Haman had entered the outer courtyard of the king's house. He had come to tell the king that he wanted to execute Mordekai on the pole that he'd had set up for him.

"Who's out in the courtyard?" the king asked.

5 "Haman's out there standing in the courtyard," replied the young men.

"Bring him in then," the king instructed.

6 When Haman came in, the king asked him, "What should I do for a man that I would really like to honour?"

Haman thought to himself, "Surely it must be me that the king would like to honour more than anyone else?" **7** so he replied to the king, "If you really want to honour someone, **8** tell your servants to bring one of your own royal robes that you have already worn yourself and also bring a horse that you have already ridden yourself and put a royal crown on its head. **9** Then have one of your most noble officials present the man with the robe and the horse. Have your servants put the robe on the man whom you really want to honour and have them seat that man on the horse and then lead the horse through the public square of the city while they shout out to everyone in front of them, 'The king is doing this because he really wants to honour this man!' "

10 The king agreed so he replied to Haman, "Go quickly and take the robe and the horse and do what you've just described for Mordekai the Yehudi (Jew) who sits by the gate to the palace. Make sure that you do absolutely everything that you've said."

11 So Haman got the robe and the horse and put

Literal Version

6:1 In_night (the)_that the_sleep_of the_king it_ _fled and_he/it_said to_bring ĐØM the_book_of the_memorials the_words/messages_of the_days and_they_were being_read_aloud to_(the)_face_ _of/in_front_of/before the_king. **2** And_it_was_ _found recorded which/who Mordəkay he_had_ _told on Bigthana and_Teresh two_of the_ _eunuchs_of the_king of_the_keepers_of of_the_ _threshold who they_had_sought to_stretch_out a_hand on_king ʾAḥashvērōsh. **3** And_ the_king _ _he/it_said what honour and_greatness has_it_ _been_done for_Mordəkay on this and_ the_ _young_men_of the_king who_served_of_him _ _they_said not it_was_done with_him/it anything. **4** And_ the_king _he/it_said who is_in_ _court and_Haman he_had_come to_the_court_of the_house_of the_king (the)_outer to_say to/for_ _the_king to_hang ĐØM Mordəkay on the_tree which he_had_prepared to_him/it. **5** And_ the_ _servants_of the_king _they_said to_him/it THERE Haman is_standing in_court and_ the_king _he/it_said let_him_come. **6** And_ Haman _he_ _came and_he/it_said to_him/it the_king what for_doing for_man whom the_king he_delights in_honour_of_his and_ Haman _he/it_said in_ _heart_of_his to_whom the_king will_he_delight for_doing honour excess more_than_me. **7** And_ Haman _he/it_said to the_king a_man whom the_ _king he_delights in_honour_of_his. **8** Let_people_ _bring clothing_of royalty which he_has_worn in/on/over_him/it the_king and_a_horse which he_has_ridden on/upon/above_him/it the_king and_which a_head-dress_of royalty it_has_been_ _put on_head_of_its. **9** And_let_them_put the_ _clothing and_the_horse on the_hand_of a_man one_of_the_officials_of the_king the_nobles and_ _they_will_clothe ĐØM the_man whom the_king he_delights in_honour_of_his and_they_will_ _make_him_ride on the_horse in_the_open_ _place_of the_city and_they_will_proclaim before_him thus it_will_be_done for_man whom the_king he_delights in_honour_of_his. **10** And_ the_king _he/it_said to_Haman hurry take ĐØM the_clothing and_ĐØM the_horse just_as you_ _have_said and_do so for_Mordəkay the_Jew who_sits at_the_gate_of the_king do_not make_ _fall a_message from_all that you_have_said. **11** And_ Haman _he/it_took ĐØM the_clothing and_ĐØM the_horse and_he_clothed ĐØM Mordəkay and_he_made_him_ride in_the_open_ _place_of the_city and_he/it_called before_him thus it_will_be_done for_man whom the_king he_

Literal Version

_delights in_honour_of_his. **12** And_ Mordəkay _
_he_returned to the_gate_of the_king and_Haman
he_hurried_himself to house_of_his mourning
and_covered_of head. **13** And_ Haman _he_
_recounted to_Zeresh his/its_wife/woman and_
_to/for_all friends_of_his ᴅᴏᴍ all_of that it_had_
_happened_to_him and_they_said[20] to_him/it
his_wise_of_men and_Zeresh his/its_wife/woman
if is_one_of_the_offspring_of the_Yəhūdī/(Jews)
Mordəkay whom you_have_begun to_fall before_
_him not you_will_prevail to_him/it if/because
certainly_(fall) you_will_fall before_him.

14 Still_they were_speaking with_him/it and_the_
_eunuchs_of the_king they_arrived and_they_
_made_haste to_bring ᴅᴏᴍ Haman to the_feast
which 'Eṣtēr she_had_prepared.
7:1 And_ the_king and_Haman _he_went to_drink
with 'Eṣtēr the_queen. **2** And_ the_king _he/it_
said to'Eṣtēr also in_the_day the_second at_the_
_feast_of (the)_wine what petition_of_is_your Oh_
_'Eṣtēr the_queen and_it_will_be_given to/for_
_you(fs) and_what request_of_is_your up_to
(the)_half_of the_kingdom and_it_will_be_done.
3 And_ 'Eṣtēr the_queen _she_answered and_
_she/it_said if I_have_found favour in_eyes_of_
_your the_king and_if is_on the_king good let_it_
_be_given to_me life_of_my for_petition_of_my
and_people_of_my for_request_of_my.
4 If/because I and_people_of_my we_have_been_
_sold to_annihilate to_kill and_to_destroy and_if
to_male_slaves and_to_female_slaves we_had_
_been_sold I_kept_quiet if/because not the_
_distress is_equal for_the_injury_of the_king.
5 And_ the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh _he/it_said and_
_he/it_said to_'Eṣtēr the_queen who he is_this_
_one and_where this is_he whom it_has_filled_
_him his/its_heart for_doing thus. **6** And_ 'Eṣtēr _
_she/it_said a_man a_foe and_an_enemy Haman
(the)_evil the_this and_Haman he_was_terrified
from_to/for_face/front/presence the_king and_
_the_queen. **7** And_the_king he_rose_up in_rage_
_of_his from_the_feast_of (the)_wine into the_
_garden_of the_palace and_Haman he_remained
to_seek on life_of_his from_'Eṣtēr the_queen
if/because he_saw if/because_that it_was_
_determined to_him/it (the)_harm from_with

Readers' Version

the robe on Mordekai, seated him on the horse, and then led the horse through the public square of the city. As he did, he shouted out to everyone in front of him, "The king is doing this because he really wants to honour this man!"

12 Afterwards, Mordekai returned to the king's gate but Haman hurried to his house, covering his head like a mourner. **13** At home he explained to Zeresh his wife and to all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his advisors and his wife said to him, "Mordekai has begun to defeat you and since he is one of the Jewish people, you won't win against him—instead, he'll certainly defeat you."

Haman's execution

14 While they were still talking together, some of the royal guardians arrived to bring Haman quickly to the banquet that Ester had had prepared.

7:1 So the king and Haman went to Queen Ester's banquet. **2** While they were drinking wine at that second banquet, the king asked Ester again, "Now please tell me what you really want, Queen Ester. Tell me, and I'll do it for you—I'll give you anything you ask for, no matter what it is."

3 "Your majesty," Queen Ester replied, "if you are pleased with me, I hope you'll be willing to do what I ask. Please allow me to live, and please save my people. That is what I am asking for **4** because someone has turned me and my people over to our enemies and they're going to completely destroy us. If someone had just sold the men and even the women to be slaves, I wouldn't have said anything, because that wouldn't have been important enough to bother your majesty with."

5 "Who has done this?" King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes) asked her. "Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

6 "The man who is our bitter enemy is this evil man Haman!" answered Ester.

By this time, Haman was terrified standing there in front of the king and the queen. **7** Now the king became so angry that he got up and abandoned his wine-drinking at the banquet and went outside into the palace garden. But Haman stayed in-

20 LV 6:13 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

Readers' Version

side to beg his life from Queen Ester because he recognized that the king wanted to execute him.
8 As he was pleading for his life, Haman knelt down very close to Ester as she was reclining on a couch. When the king returned from the palace garden to the room where they had been drinking wine, he saw this and exclaimed, "Now he's even trying to rape the queen in my presence and in my own house!"

As soon as the king said this, some of his servants covered Haman's face (as a sign that he would be executed). **9** Then Harvona, who was one of the guardians who served the king personally, said, "Your majesty, Haman has also set up a pole twenty-five metres high at his house because he wants to hang Mordekai on it. But Mordekai saved your life."

"Execute Haman on it!" the king commanded.
10 So they impaled Haman on the pole that he had set up for Mordekai, and then the king's anger dissipated.

The Yehudim are enabled to defend themselves

8:1 That same day, King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes) gave Queen Ester all the property that had belonged to Haman, the enemy of the Yehudim (Jews). Ester told the king that Mordekai was her cousin and that he had been like a father to her, and so the king summoned Mordekai to come to him. **2** Then the king removed his signet ring which he had retrieved from Haman, and gave it to Mordekai. The queen also put Mordekai in charge of all the property that had belonged to Haman.

3 Then Ester came to speak to the king again, and she knelt down and put her face right on top of his feet. She cried as she begged him to stop Haman's terrible plan to destroy the Yehudim.
4 The king held out his golden scepter toward Ester, so she stood up and waited facing the king.
5 "Your majesty," she said, "if you think that it's the right thing to do, and if you're pleased with me, please write a new letter revoking the letters that Haman (the son of Hamedata, the Agagi) sent

Literal Version

the_king. **8** And_the_king he_returned from_the_ _garden_of the_palace to the_house_of the_feast_ _of (the)_wine and_Haman was_falling on the_ _couch which 'Eṣtēr on/upon_it(f) and_ the_king _he/it_said also to_violate ÐOM the_queen with_ _me in_house the_message it_came_out from_ _the_mouth_of the_king and_the_face_of Haman people_covered. **9** And_ Harbona one of the_ _officials _he/it_said to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before the_king also THERE the_tree which Haman he_has_made for_Mordəkay who he_ _spoke good on the_king is_standing in_house_of Haman high fifty cubit[s] and_ the_king _he/it_ _said hang_him on/upon/above_him/it. **10** And_ _they_hanged ÐOM Haman on the_tree which he_ _had_prepared for_Mordəkay and_the_rage_of the_king it_subsided.

8:1 In_the_day (the)_that the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh he_gave to_'Eṣtēr the_queen ÐOM the_house_of Haman the_harasser_of the[22] and_Mordəkay he_ _came to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_ _king if/because 'Eṣtēr she_had_told what was_he to/for_her/it. **2** And_ the_king _he_removed ÐOM signet-ring_of_his which he_had_taken_away from_Haman and_he_gave_it to_Mordəkay and_ 'Eṣtēr _she_appointed ÐOM Mordəkay over the_ _house_of Haman. **3** And_ 'Eṣtēr _she_repeated and_she_spoke to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before the_king and_she_fell to_(the)_face_ _of/in_front_of/before feet_of_his and_she_wept and_she_sought_favour to_him/it to_take_away ÐOM the_evil_of Haman the_Agagite and_ÐOM plan_of_his which he_had_planned on the_ _Yəhūdī/(Jews). **4** And_ the_king _he_held_out to_ _'Eṣtēr ÐOM the_scepter_of the_gold and_ 'Eṣtēr _ _she/it_arose and_she_stood to_(the)_face_of/in_ _front_of/before the_king. **5** And_she/it_said if is_ _on the_king good and_if I_have_found favour before_him and_ the_matter _it_is_proper to_ _(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_king and_ _am_good I in_eyes_of_his let_it_be_written to_ _revoke ÐOM the_letters the_plan_of Haman the_

22 LV 8:1 · Note OSHB variant note: יהודי/ם: (x-qere) יְהוּדִי/ה': lemma_d/3064 n_1 morph_HTd/Ngmpa id_173sH יְהוּדִי/ה

Literal Version

_son_of Hammedatha the_Agagite which he_
_wrote to_destroy ~~DOM~~ the_Yəhūdī who in_all
the_provinces_of the_king. **6** If/because how will_
_I_be_able and_I_will_look on_evil which it_will_
_find ~~DOM~~ people_of_my and_how will_I_be_able
and_I_will_look on_the_destruction_of my_
_kindred_of_my. **7** And_ the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh _
_he/it_said to_'Eṣtēr the_queen and_to_Mordəkay
the_Jew HERE the_house_of Haman I_have_given
to_'Eṣtēr and_him they_have_hanged on the_tree
on that he_stretched_out his/its_hand
in/on/at/with[23]. **8** And_you(pl) write on the_
_Yəhūdī according_the_good in_eyes_of_your(pl)
in/on_name_of the_king and_seal_it with_the_
_signet-ring_of the_king if/because a_writing
which is_written in/on_name_of the_king and_it_
_is_sealed with_the_signet-ring_of the_king
there_was_not to_revoke. **9** And_ the_scribes_of
the_king _they_were_summoned at_time (the)_
_that in_month the_third that is_the_month_of
Sivan on_day_three and_twenty in/on/over_
_him/it and_it_was_written according_to_all_of
that Mordəkay he_commanded to the_
_Yəhūdī/(Jews) and_near/to the_satraps and_
_the_governors and_the_officials_of the_
_provinces which were_from_Hoddū/(India) and_
_unto Kūsh/(Cush) seven and_twenty and_a_
_hundred province[s] province and_province
according_to_of_its_writing and_people and_
_people according_to_of_its_language and_
_near/to the_Yəhūdī according_to_of_their_
_writing and_according_to_of_their_language.
10 And_he_wrote in/on_name_of the_king
'Aḥashvērōsh and_he_sealed_it with_the_
_signet-ring_of the_king and_he_sent letters by_
_the_hand_of (the)_runners on_horses who_rode_
_of the_steed[s] (the)_royal the_sons_of the_
_mares. **11** Which/who the_king he_had_
_permitted to_Yəhūdī who in_all city and_city to_
_assemble and_to_make_a_stand on life_of_their
to_annihilate and_to_kill and_to_destroy ~~DOM~~
every_of army_of people and_province which_
_treats_as_a_foe ~~DOM~~_them little_one[s] and_
_women and_spoil_of_their to_take_as_plunder.
12 In/on_day one in_all the_provinces_of the_
_king 'Aḥashvērōsh on_day_thir- teen of_month
two_plus ten that is_the_month_of Adar.

Readers' Version

out instructing the people to destroy all the Yehudim throughout your empire. **6** I couldn't bear to see the terrible thing that is about to happen to my people. I certainly couldn't bear to see all my relatives destroyed!"

7 Then king Ahashverosh said to Queen Ester and to Mordekai the Yehudi (Jew), "Listen, I've given the house of Haman to Ester, and they've executed him on the pole because he attempted to destroy the Yehudim. **8** But as you both know, no one can revoke a letter that has my name and my official seal on it. So this is what you should do: write a new letter to help the Yehudim, as you think best and put my name on it and seal the letter with my signet ring."

9 It was now June, and the king sent for his scribes and they wrote a letter to the Yehudim containing everything that Mordekai dictated. It was also addressed to royal officials, and to the governors and leaders in each province. The empire had 127 provinces, extending all the way from Hodu in the east to Kush (Ethiopia) in the west. The scribes wrote to every province using its own alphabet and to each people group in its own language, and to the Yehudim in their language and using their alphabet. **10** The letters were written in King Ahashverosh' name, and each one was sealed with the king's signet ring. Then the letters were distributed by mounted couriers riding on swift horses bred from the royal mares.

11 The letters stated that the king permitted the Yehudim in each and every city to get together and defend themselves, and what's more to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province hostile to them, including women and children, and then to plunder their possessions. **12** This was to take place on a certain day in every province throughout the empire: the 13th of March[21] (the same day on which Haman's law was to take effect). **13** A copy of the decree was to be included as law in every province and to be displayed to all the people so that the Yehudim could

21 RV 8:12 · Cross-ref. 3:7.

23 LV 8:7 · Note OSHB variant note: יהודי/ב: (x-qere) יְהוּדִי/ב: lemma_b/3064 n_0 morph_HRd/Ngmpa id_17spB יְהוּדִי/ב

Readers' Version

be prepared to fight back against their enemies on that day. **14** So the couriers on the royal horses rode out quickly under the king's orders to deliver the letters. The new law was also proclaimed throughout the capital city of Shushan (Susa).

15 The king gave Mordekai royal clothing that was blue and white, with a large gold crown, and a purple robe made from fine linen. The people of Shushan cheered happily when Mordekai exited the palace. **16** For the Yehudim, it was a time of light and happiness, and they were honoured by those around them. **17** In every single province and in every single city, wherever the letter announcing the king's decree was brought, the Yehudim were very cheerful and had big celebrations. Many people from other groups in the empire became afraid of the Yehudim, so they converted to Youdaismos themselves.

The Yehudim destroy their enemies

9:1 Finally when the 13th of March arrived, it was time for everyone to do what the letters from the king said that he had decreed for them to do. The enemies of the Yehudim (Jews) had expected to destroy the Yehudim on that day but just the opposite happened—instead, it was the Yehudim who destroyed their enemies. **2** Throughout the empire, the Yehudim joined together in their cities to defend themselves against those who wanted to harm them. No one was able to fight back against them because everyone else in the empire had become afraid of them. **3** All the leaders in each province, the royal officials, the governors, and everyone who worked for the king helped the Yehudim because they had become afraid of Mordekai **4** because he was now a very important royal official, and his fame spread throughout the provinces as he became more and

Literal Version

13 (The)_copy_of the_writing was_to_ law _be_ _given in_all province and_province displayed to/from_all/each/any/every the_peoples and_to_ _be the[24] ready[25] for_day the_this to_avenge_ _themselves from_enemies_of_their. **14** The_ _runners who_rode_of the_steed[s] (the)_royal they_went_out hastened and_hurried at_the_ _message_of the_king and_the_law it_was_given in_Shūshan the_citadel. **15** And_Mordəkay he_ _went_out from_to/for_face/front/presence the_ _king in_clothing_of royalty_of violet_stuff and_ _white_cloth and_a_crown_of gold great and_a_ _robe_of fine_linen and_purple and_the_city Shūshan it_cried_aloud and_it_rejoiced. **16** To_ _Yəhūdī/(Jews) it_belonged light and_gladness and_joy and_glory/honour. **17** And_on/over_all province and_province and_on/over_all city and_ _city the_place_of (of)_where the_message_of the_king and_law_of_his was_reaching gladness and_joy belonged_to_Yəhūdī a_feast and_a_day good and_many of_the_peoples_of the_ _earth/land were_becoming_Yəhūdī if/because dread_of the_Yəhūdī it_had_fallen on_them.

9:1 And_in_two_plus ten month that is_the_ _month_of Adar on_thir- teen day in/on/over_ _him/it when the_message_of the_king and_law_ _of_his it_approached to_be_done in_the_day when the_enemies_of the_Yəhūdī they_had_ _hoped to_gain_power (is)_in_them and_ it _it_ _was_reversed that the_Yəhūdī they they_gained_ _power over_those_of_who_hated_them. **2** The_ _Yəhūdī they_assembled in_cities_of_their in_all the_provinces_of the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh to_ _stretch_out a_hand on_those_who_were_ _seeking_of harm_of_(of)_their and_anyone not he_stood before_them if/because of_them_of_ _dread it_had_fallen on all_of the_peoples. **3** And_ _all the_officials_of the_provinces and_the_ _satraps and_the_governors and_the_doers_of the_work which to/for_the_king were_ _supporting ~~DOM~~ the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) if/because the_dread_of Mordəkay it_had_fallen on_them. **4** If/because was_great Mordəkay in_house_of the_king and_the_report_of_of_him was_going in_all the_provinces if/because the_man

24 LV 8:13 · Note OSHB variant note: **מיידוהי/ה**: (x-qere) 'מֵיְדוּהְיֵ/ה': lemma_d/3064 morph_HTd/Ngmpa id_17s9p מֵיְדוּהְיֵ/ה

25 LV 8:13 · Note OSHB variant note: **מידותע**: (x-qere) 'מִידִיתָֽעַ': lemma_6264 n_0.1.0 morph_HAampa id_17wPL מִידִיתָֽעַ

Literal Version

Mordəkay was_going and_becoming_great.
5 And_ the_Yəhūdī _they_struck in_all enemies_ _of_their a_blow_of sword and_slaughter and_ _destruction and_they_did with_those_of_who_ _hated_them according_to_of_their_pleasure.
6 And_in_Shūshan the_citadel the_Yəhūdī they_ _killed and_they_destroyed five hundred(s) man.
7 And_ĐOM Parshandatha and_ĐOM Dalphon and_ _ĐOM Aspatha. **8** And_ĐOM Poratha and_ĐOM Adalia and_ĐOM Aridatha. **9** And_ĐOM Parmashta and_ĐOM Arisai and_ĐOM Aridai and_ĐOM Vaizatha. **10** The_ten_of the_sons_of Haman the_ _son_of Hammedatha the_harasser_of the_Yəhūdī they_killed and_on_plunder not they_stretched_ _out ĐOM hand_of_their. **11** In_the_day (the)_that the_number_of those_killed in_Shūshan the_ _citadel it_came to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before the_king. **12** And_ the_king _he/it_said to_'Eştēr the_queen in_Shūshan the_citadel the_ _Yəhūdī they_have_killed and_they_have_ _destroyed five hundred(s) man and_ĐOM the_ _ten_of the_sons_of Haman in_the_rest_of the_ _provinces_of the_king what have_they_done and_what petition_of_is_your and_it_will_be_ _given to/for_you(fs) and_what request_of_is_ _your more and_it_will_be_done. **13** And_ 'Eştēr _ _she/it_said if is_on the_king good let_it_be_ _permitted also tomorrow to_Yəhūdī/(Jews) who are_in_Shūshan for_doing according_to_the_law_ _of the_day and_ĐOM the_ten_of the_sons_of Haman let_them_hang on the_tree. **14** And_ the_ _king _he/it_said to_be_done thus and_ the_law _ _it_was_given in_Shūshan and_ĐOM the_ten_of the_sons_of Haman people_hanged. **15** And_they_ _assembled the[26] who were_in_Shūshan also in/on_day four- teen of_the_month_of of_Adar and_they_killed in_Shūshan three hundred(s) man and_on_plunder not they_stretched_out ĐOM hand_of_their. **16** And_the_remainder_of the_ _Yəhūdī who were_in_the_provinces_of the_king they_assembled and_they_made_a_stand on life_ _of_their and_they_had_rest from_enemies_of_ _their and_they_killed among_those_of_who_ _hated_them five and_seventy thousand and_on_ _plunder not they_stretched_out ĐOM hand_of_ _their. **17** In/on_day thir- teen of_the_month_of of_Adar and_they_rested on_day_four- teen

Readers' Version

more powerful. **5** So the Yehudim took their weapons and fought against all of their enemies and completely destroyed them. They were able to do everything that they wanted to do against their enemies.

6 In the capital city of Shushan (Susa), the Yehudim killed 500 men **7** including Haman's ten sons Parshandata, Dalfon, Aspata, **8** Porata, Adalya, Aridata, **9** Parmashta, Arisay, Ariday, and Vayzata. **10** Those were the ten sons of Haman (son of Hamedata), the enemy of the Yehudim, but the Yehudim didn't take their possessions.

11 At the end of the day, the king received a report about how many people the Yehudim had killed in the capital city of Shushan **12** and he told Queen Ester, "Here in the capital city of Shushan the Yehudim have killed 500 men, including Haman's ten sons. In the rest of my empire, they must have killed many more than that! So tell me what else you want and I'll do it for you. I'll do whatever you ask, so do tell me."

13 "If it seems like a good plan to you, your majesty," Ester replied, "then please allow the Yehudim who live here in Shushan to do again tomorrow what you allowed them to do today. Also, command that the bodies of Haman's ten sons be impaled on the wooden pole." **14** Then the king ordered for this to be done and a decree was made throughout in Shushan, and they publicly impaled the bodies ofHaman's ten sons. **15** So the next day on the 14th, the Yehudim in Shushan gathered together again and killed 300 more men in Shushan. But once again they did not take the things that belonged to those men.

16 The Yehudim in the other parts of the empire, who had gathered together to fight for their lives had defeated their enemies and killed 75,000 of them. But they too did not take the things that had belonged to their enemies. **17** That all happened on the 13th (as the law had said), and then they stopped on the 14th and made it a day of feasting and celebration. **18** But the Yehudim in Shushan had gathered together and fought their

26 LV 9:15 · Note OSHB variant note: יהודי/ה: (x-qere) יְהוּדִי/ה: lemma_d/3064 morph_HTd/Ngmpa id_17Eoc יְהוּדִי/ה

Readers' Version

enemies on both the 13th and the 14th, so they stopped on the 15th and made it a day of feasting and celebration. **19** So that's why the Yehudim who live in the rural villages observe this holiday on the 14th rather than the 15th. They celebrate with feasting and by giving gifts to each other.

The celebration named 'Purim'

20 Now Mordekai recorded everything that had happened and sent letters to all the Yehudim (Jews) throughout the empire, in both the near provinces and the far away ones. **21** That decree established an annual holiday on the 14th and 15th of March every year,[29] **22** because those were the days when the Yehudim no longer had to oppose their enemies and that was the month when their sorrow and mourning had changed into a good day. Now they were instructed to make them days of feasting and happiness, and sending of gifts—to each other but also to the needy. **23** The Yehudim had already celebrated those days that way, so they readily agreed to do what Mordekai had written.

24 Yes, Haman (the son of Hamedata, the Agagi), the enemy of all the Yehudim, had plotted to annihilate them, and he had thrown a 'Pur' (which is 'lot' or perhaps 'dice') choose the date to crush them and to destroy them. **25** But instead they would remember how Queen Ester stood in front of the king, and how he had said in the letter, "Let his evil plot that he plotted concerning the Yehudim return on his head, and let them execute him and his sons on the pole." **26** Therefore they

Literal Version

in/on/over_him/it and_they_made ~~ĐƟM~~_him/it a_day_of feast and_joy. **18** And_the[27] who were_ _in_Shūshan they_assembled on_day_thir- teen in/on/over_him/it and_on_day_four- teen in/on/over_him/it and_they_rested on_day_fif- teen in/on/over_him/it and_they_made ~~ĐƟM~~_ _him/it a_day_of feast and_joy. **19** Therefore yes/correct/thus/so the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) the[28] who_are_dwelling in_the_cities_of the_open_ _regions are_observing ~~ĐƟM~~ day_of four- teen of_ _the_month_of Adar joy and_a_feast and_a_day good and_the_sending_of portions each to_ _neighbour_of_his.

20 And_ Mordəkay _he_wrote ~~ĐƟM~~ the_ _words/messages the_these and_he_sent_out letters to all_of the_Yəhūdī who in_all the_ _provinces_of the_king 'Aḥashvērōsh (the)_near and_(the)_far. **21** To_impose on_them to_be observing ~~ĐƟM~~ day_of four- teen of_the_month_of Adar and_~~ĐƟM~~ day_of fif- teen in/on/over_him/it in_all year and_year. **22** Like_days when they_ _had_rest in/among_them the_Yəhūdī from_ _enemies_of_their and_the_month when it_was_ _changed to/for_them from_sorrow into_joy and_ _from_mourning into_a_day good for_doing them days_of feast and_joy and_the_sending_of portions each to_neighbour_of_his and_gifts to_ _people. **23** And_ the_Yəhūdī _he_accepted ~~ĐƟM~~ that_which they_had_begun for_doing and_~~ĐƟM~~ that_which Mordəkay he_had_written to_them. **24** If/because Haman the_son_of Hammedatha the_Agagite the_harasser_of all_of the_ _Yəhūdī/(Jews) he_had_planned on the_Yəhūdī to_destroy_them and_he_had_throw Pur that is_ _the_lot to_disturb_them and_to_destroy_them. **25** And_when_came_it to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before the_king he_said with the_letter plan_ _of_his (the)_evil which he_had_planned on the_ _Yəhūdī let_it_return on his/its_head and_ _people_will_hang ~~ĐƟM~~_him/it and_~~ĐƟM~~ sons_of_ _his on the_tree. **26** Therefore

27 LV 9:18 · Note OSHB variant note: מיידוהי/ה/ו: (x-qere) 'מֵיְדוּהִי/ה/ו': lemma_c/d/3064 morph_HC/Td/Ncmpa id_17nrb מֵיְדוּהִי/ה/ו

28 LV 9:19 · Note OSHB variant note: מיזורפ/ה: (x-qere) 'מְזָרְפִ/ה': lemma_d/6521 n_1.2.1 morph_HTd/Ncmpa id_173Nb מְזָרְפִ/ה

29 RV 9:21 · Note The OET-RV gives an approximate time of the year in our calendars, but the Jewish calendar is largely a lunar calendar so the dates of the feast in our calendars moves around a little. In 2024 for example, 'Purim' begins on the evening of March 23 in Yisrael/Israel and concludes at sundown on March 24.

Literal Version

yes/correct/thus/so people_called (to)_days the_
_these Purim on the_name_of the_Pur therefore
yes/correct/thus/so on all_of the_
_words/messages_of the_letter (the)_this and_
_whatever they_had_seen on thus and_whatever
it_had_happened to_them. **27** They_imposed
and[3132] the_Yəhūdī on_themselves and_on
offspring_of_their and_on all_of those_who_
_joined_themselves to_them and_not it_will_
_pass_away to_be observing ᴅᴏᴍ the_two_of the_
_days the_these according_to_of_their_writing
and_according_to_of_their_appointed_time in_all
year and_year. **28** And_the_days the_these were_
_remembered and_observed in_all generation
and_generation clan and_clan province and_
_province and_city and_city and_the_days_of the_
_Purim the_these not they_will_pass_away from_
_among_of the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) and_
_remembrance_of_their not it_will_come_to_an_
_end from_offspring_of_their. **29** And_ ʾEṣtēr the_
_queen the_daughter_of ʾAvīhayil and_Mordəkay
the_Jew _she_wrote with all_of authority to_
_confirm ᴅᴏᴍ the_letter_of the_Purim (the)_this
the_second(fs). **30** And_he_sent letters to all_of
the_Yəhūdī to seven and_twenty and_one_
_hundred province[s] the_kingdom_of
ʾAḥashvērōsh words/messages_of peace and_
_truth. **31** To_confirm ᴅᴏᴍ the_days_of the_Purim
the_these at_their_appointed_of_times just_as
he_had_imposed on_them Mordəkay the_Jew
and_ʾEṣtēr the_queen and_as_which they_had_
_imposed on self_of_their and_on offspring_of_
_their the_words/messages_of the_fasts and_
_their_cry_of_of_distress. **32** And_the_command_
_of ʾEṣtēr it_confirmed the_words/messages_of
the_Purim the_these and_it_was_written in_book.

10:1 And_he/it_assigned the_king ʾAḥashvērōsh[33]
a_tax on the_earth/land and_the_islands_of the_
_sea. **2** And_all the_achievement_of his_power_of_
_his and_might_of_his and_the_full_account_of
the_greatness_of Mordəkay whom he_had_made_
_him_great the_king am_not are_they written on
the_scroll_of the_words/messages_of the_days
of_the_kings_of of_Māday and_Pāraṣ. **3** If/because
Mordəkay the_Jew was_second to/for_the_king

Readers' Version

called this celebration 'Purim'[30] because of what they had experienced and because of the contents of Mordekai's letter. **27** The Yehudim agreed to establish those two days as holidays and to observe them on those specific days as they'd been instructed. They agreed that they and their descendants and everyone who became part of the Jewish people would celebrate it every year. **28** So that's why every Jewish family in every generation since has celebrated these days as holidays, wherever they live. The Jewish community and its descendants will always faithfully observe this festival of 'Purim'.

29 Then Queen Ester (the daughter of Avihayil), with help from Mordekai the Yehudi (Jew), wrote a second letter about 'Purim'. **30** He sent this second letter to all the Yehudim throughout the empire of King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes), with words of peace and truth **31** to set up the 'Purim' celebration on the given dates according to what Mordekai the Yehudi and Queen Ester had determined for them. They also confirmed that the Yehudim should continue the times of fasting and mourning that they had established for themselves and their future descendants. **32** So Ester's decree confirmed these regulations about 'Purim' and they were written into the official record.

The grandeur of King Ahashverosh and Mordekai

10:1 Then King Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus/Xerxes) imposed a tax on everyone throughout his empire, including those on the islands of the Mediterranean Sea. **2** Everything he accomplished through his power and strength is written down in the royal records of the kings of Maday (Media) and Paras (Persia),

30 **RV 9:26 · Note** Plural of Hebrew 'Pur' meaning 'lot/dice'.

31 **LV 9:27 · Note** OSHB variant note: לבק/ו: (x-qere) וַיִּלְבְּקָו: lemma_c/6901 morph_HC/Vpp3cp id_17VLE וַיִּלְבְּקָו

32 **LV 9:27 · Note** OSHB note: Adaptations to a Qere which L and BHS, by their design, do not indicate.

33 **LV 10:1 · Note** OSHB variant note: שרשחא: (x-qere) שָׁוֵרְוֵשַׁחֲא: lemma_325 morph_HNp id_17TQ4 שָׁוֵרְוֵשַׁחֲא

Readers' Version

as well as the complete account of the high position to which the king promoted Mordekai.
3 Mordekai the Yehudi (Jew) was second-in-command to the king Ahashverosh, and a leader among the Yehudim (Jews). He was popular with most of his own people, seeking good for them and teaching all his descendants how to live in peace.

EST · OET-RV v0.2.3

Literal Version

'Aḥashvērōsh and_he_was_great to_
_Yəhūdī/(Jews) and_he_was_acceptable to_the_
_multitude_of his_brothers_of_his he_was_
_seeking good for_people_of_his and_he_was_
_speaking peace to/from_all/each/any/every
his/its_seed.

EST · OET-LV v0.2.0 (OT set)

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