

Esther

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1

וַיְהִי בַיָּמֵי אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הוּא אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהַדוֹ וְעַד-כּוֹשׁ שֶׁבַע
וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה:

1

It happened in the days of Ahasuerus—that Ahasuerus who reigned over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Nubia.

בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם כְּשֶׁבַת | הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ עַל כֶּסֶּא מְלָכוֹתוֹ אֲשֶׁר בְּשׁוּשַׁן
הַבִּירָה:

2

In those days, when King Ahasuerus occupied the royal throne in the fortress Shushan,

בַּשָּׁנָה שְׁלוֹשׁ לְמַלְכוֹ עָשָׂה מִשְׁתֶּה לְכָל-שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו חֵיל | פָּרַס וּמְדֵי
הַפְּרָתִימִים וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת לְפָנָיו:

3

in the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all the officials and courtiers—the administration of Persia and Media, the nobles and the governors of the provinces in his service.

בְּהִרְאֹתוֹ אֶת-עֵשֶׂר כְּבוֹד מְלָכוֹתוֹ וְאֶת-יְקָר תַּפְאָרַת גְּדוּלְתוֹ יָמִים רַבִּים
שְׁמוֹנִים וּמֵאָת יוֹם:

4

For no fewer than a hundred and eighty days he displayed the vast riches of his kingdom and the splendid glory of his majesty.

5 וּבְמָלוֹאתַי הַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה עָשָׂה הַמֶּלֶךְ לְכָל־הָעָם הַנִּמְצְאִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן
הַבֵּירָה לְמַגְדוֹל וְעַד־קָטָן מִשְׁתֵּה שִׁבְעַת יָמִים בְּחֵצֵר גִּנַּת בֵּיתוֹ הַמְּלָךְ:

At the end of this period, the king gave a banquet for seven days in the court of the king's palace garden for all the people who lived in the fortress Shushan, high and low alike.

6 חֵזָר | כָּרְפֶס וּתְכֵלֶת אָחוּז בְּחַבְלֵי־בֹיץ וְאַרְגָּמָן עַל־גְּלִילֵי כֶסֶף וְעִמּוּדֵי
שֵׁשׁ מְטוֹת | זָהָב וְכֶסֶף עַל רִצְפֹת בְּהִטְוֵשׁ וְדָר וְסִחָרֹת:

[There were hangings of] white cotton and blue wool, caught up by cords of fine linen and purple wool to silver rods and alabaster columns; and there were couches of gold and silver on a pavement of marble, alabaster, mother-of-pearl, and mosaics.

7 וְהַשְּׂקוֹת בְּכֵלֵי זָהָב וְכֵלִים מִכֵּלִים שׁוֹנִים וַיֵּין מִלְּכוֹת רַב כֶּיֶד הַמְּלָךְ:

Royal wine was served in abundance, as befits a king, in golden beakers, beakers of varied design.

8 וְהַשְּׂתִיָּה כִדַּת אֵין אִינֶס כִּי־כֹן | יִסַּד הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל כָּל־רַב בֵּיתוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת
כְּרִצּוֹן אִישׁ־וְאִישׁ:

And the rule for the drinking was, "No restrictions!" For the king had given orders to every palace steward to comply with each man's wishes.

9 גַּם וְשִׁתִּי הַמְּלָכָה עָשְׂתָה מִשְׁתֵּה נָשִׁים בֵּית הַמְּלָכוֹת אֲשֶׁר לַמֶּלֶךְ
אַחֲשׁוּרוֹשׁ: {ס}

In addition, Queen Vashti gave a banquet for women, in the royal palace of King Ahasuerus.

בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי כְּטוֹב לִב־הַמֶּלֶךְ בֵּינָן אָמַר לְמַהוּמָן בְּזֹתָא חַרְבוֹנָא בַּגְּתָא 10
וְאַבְגְּתָא זֶתָר וְכַרְכָּס שְׁבַעַת הַסְּרִיסִים הַמְּשֻׁרְתִּים אֶת־פְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֶחְשׂוּרוֹשׁ:

On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, he ordered Mehuman, Bizzetha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs in attendance on King Ahasuerus,

לְהָבִיא אֶת־וּשְׁתִּי הַמְּלֻכָּה לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּכִתָּר מְלָכוּת לְהַרְאוֹת הָעַמִּים 11
וְהַשָּׂרִים אֶת־יְפֹתֶיהָ כִּי־טוֹבַת מְרֵאָה הִיא:

to bring Queen Vashti before the king wearing a royal diadem, to display her beauty to the peoples and the officials; for she was a beautiful woman.

וַתִּמְאָן הַמְּלֻכָּה וּשְׁתִּי לָבוֹא בְּדִבְרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בְּיַד הַסְּרִיסִים וַיִּקְצָף 12
הַמֶּלֶךְ מְאֹד וַחֲמָתוֹ בָּעָרָה בּוֹ:

But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs. The king was greatly incensed, and his fury burned within him.

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לַחֲכָמִים יְדַעֵי הָעַמִּים כִּי־כֹן דִּבְרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ לְפָנָי כָּל־יְדַעֵי דָת 13
וְדִין:

Then the king consulted the sages learned in procedure. (For it was the royal practice [to turn] to all who were versed in law and precedent.

וְהִקְרַב אֵלָיו פְּרָשְׁנָא יִשְׁתָּר אֲדַמְתָּא תַרְשִׁישׁ מֶרֶס מְרִסְנָא מְמוּכָן שְׁבַעַת
שָׂרִי | פָּרְס וּמְדֵי רְאִי פְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַיְשָׁבִים רֵאשְׁנָה בַּמְּלָכוֹת: 14

His closest advisers were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven ministers of Persia and Media who had access to the royal presence and occupied the first place in the kingdom.)

כָּדַת מָה־לַעֲשׂוֹת בַּמְּלָכָה וְשִׁתִּי עַל | אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָשִׂתָּה אֶת־מֵאֲמַר הַמֶּלֶךְ
אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ בְּיַד הַסְּרִיסִים: {פ} 15

“What,” [he asked,] “shall be done, according to law, to Queen Vashti for failing to obey the command of King Ahasuerus conveyed by the eunuchs?”

וַיֹּאמֶר (מוּמַכּוֹן) [מְמוּכָן] לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַשָּׂרִים לֹא עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ לְבַדּוֹ עֲוֹתָה
וְשִׁתִּי הַמְּלָכָה כִּי עַל־כָּל־הַשָּׂרִים וְעַל־כָּל־הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ: 16

Thereupon Memucan declared in the presence of the king and the ministers: “Queen Vashti has committed an offense not only against Your Majesty but also against all the officials and against all the peoples in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

כִּי־יֵצֵא דְבַר־הַמְּלָכָה עַל־כָּל־הַנְּשִׁים לְהַבְּזוֹת בְּעַלְיָהֶן בְּעֵינֵיהֶן בְּאִמְרָם
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ אֲמַר לְהַבִּיא אֶת־וְשִׁתִּי הַמְּלָכָה לְפָנָיו וְלֹא־בָּאָה: 17

For the queen's behavior will make all wives despise their husbands, as they reflect that King Ahasuerus himself ordered Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.

וְהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה תֹאמְרָנָה | שָׁרוֹת פָּרְס־וּמְדֵי אֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעוּ אֶת־דְּבַר הַמֶּלֶכָה
לְכָל שָׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכַדֵּי בְזִיוֹן וְקִצְפוֹ:

This very day the ladies of Persia and Media, who have heard of the queen's behavior, will cite it to all Your Majesty's officials, and there will be no end of scorn and provocation!

אִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יֵצֵא דְבַר־מְלָכוֹת מִלְּפָנָיו וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּדַתִּי פָּרְס־וּמְדֵי וְלֹא
יַעֲבֹר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תָבוֹא וְשִׁתִּי לְפָנָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרוּשׁ וּמְלָכוֹתָהּ יִתֵּן הַמֶּלֶךְ
לְרַעוּתָהּ הַטּוֹבָה מִמֶּנָּה:

“If it please Your Majesty, let a royal edict be issued by you, and let it be written into the laws of Persia and Media, so that it cannot be abrogated, that Vashti shall never enter the presence of King Ahasuerus. And let Your Majesty bestow her royal state upon another who is more worthy than she.

וְנִשְׁמַע פְּתֻלָם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֶׂה בְּכָל־מְלָכוֹתָיו כִּי רַבָּה הִיא וְכָל־הַנָּשִׁים
יִתְּנוּ יָקָר לְבַעֲלֵיהֶן לְמַגְדוֹל וְעַד־קֶטָן:

Then will the judgment executed by Your Majesty resound throughout your realm, vast though it is; and all wives will treat their husbands with respect, high and low alike.”

וַיִּיטֵב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַשָּׂרִים וַיַּעַשׂ הַמֶּלֶךְ כַּדְּבָר מְמוּצָן: 21

The proposal was approved by the king and the ministers, and the king did as Memucan proposed.

וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל-כָּל-מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כַּכְּתָבָהּ וְאֶל-עַם וְעַם כְּלָשׁוֹנוֹ לְהִיּוֹת כָּל-אִישׁ שָׂרָר בְּבֵיתוֹ וּמִדְּבַר כְּלָשׁוֹן עַמּוֹ: {פ}

Dispatches were sent to all the provinces of the king, to every province in its own script and to every nation in its own language, that every man should wield authority in his home and speak the language of his own people.

2

אַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה כָּלֵךְ חֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרוּשׁ זָכַר אֶת-וַשְׁתִּי וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂתָה וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר-נִגְזַר עָלֶיהָ: 1

Some time afterward, when the anger of King Ahasuerus subsided, he thought of Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי-הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשָּׂרְתָיו יִבְקָשׁוּ לַמֶּלֶךְ נַעֲרוֹת בְּתוּלוֹת טוֹבוֹת מֵרְאָה: 2

The king's servants who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for Your Majesty.

וַיִּפְקֹד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת מְלָכוֹתוֹ וַיִּקְבְּצוּ אֶת־כָּל־נַעֲרֵה־בְּתוּלָה
טוֹבֹת מְרָאֶה אֶל־שׁוֹשַׁן הַבֵּירָה אֶל־בַּיִת הַנְּשִׁים אֶל־יָד הַגָּא סָרִיס הַמֶּלֶךְ
שֹׁמֵר הַנְּשִׁים וְנָתַן תַּמְרָקִיָּהוּ:

Let Your Majesty appoint officers in every province of your realm to assemble all the beautiful young virgins at the fortress Shushan, in the harem under the supervision of Hege, the king's eunuch, guardian of the women. Let them be provided with their cosmetics.

וְהַנַּעֲרָה אֲשֶׁר תִּיטֵב בְּעֵינַי הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ תַּחַת וְשִׁמִּי וַיִּיטֵב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינַי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן: {פ}

4

And let the maiden who pleases Your Majesty be queen instead of Vashti.”
The proposal pleased the king, and he acted upon it.

אִישׁ יְהוּדִי הָיָה בְּשׁוֹשַׁן הַבֵּירָה וּשְׁמוֹ מֹרְדֳּכַי בֶּן יָאִיר בֶּן־שִׁמְעִי בֶן־קִישׁ
אִישׁ יְמִינִי:

5

In the fortress Shushan lived a Jew by the name of Mordecai, son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite.

אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָה מִירוּשָׁלַיִם עִם־הַגְּלָה אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָתָה עִם יְכָנְיָה מֶלֶךְ־יְהוּדָה
אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָה נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל:

6

[Kish] had been exiled from Jerusalem in the group that was carried into exile along with King Jeconiah of Judah, which had been driven into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

7 וַיְהִי אִמָּן אֶת־הַדָּסָה הִיא אֶסְתֵּר בַּת־דָּדָו כִּי אֵין לָהּ אָב וְאִם וְהַנְּעִרָה
יַפְתָּתָאֵר וְטוֹבַת מְרָאָה וּבְמֹת אָבִיהָ וְאִמָּהּ לָקַחָהּ מֶרְדֵּכַי לְו לְבַת:

He was foster father to Hadassah—that is, Esther—his uncle’s daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was shapely and beautiful; and when her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter.

8 וַיְהִי בְּהִשְׁמָע דְּבַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ וּבְהַקְבִּיץ נְעָרוֹת רַבּוֹת אֶל־שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה
אֶל־יָגַי וְתִלְקַח אֶסְתֵּר אֶל־בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־יָגַי שֹׁמֵר הַנְּשִׁים:

When the king’s order and edict was proclaimed, and when many girls were assembled in the fortress Shushan under the supervision of Hegai, Esther too was taken into the king’s palace under the supervision of Hegai, guardian of the women.

9 וַתִּיטֵב הַנְּעִרָה בְּעֵינָיו וַתִּשָּׂא חֶסֶד לְפָנָיו וַיְבַהֵל אֶת־תְּמָרוּקִיָּה וְאֶת־מְנוֹתָהּ
לְתַת לָהּ וְאֵת שִׁבְעַת הַנְּעָרוֹת הָרְאִיוֹת לְתַת־לָהּ מִבֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁנֶה
וְאֶת־נְעָרוֹתֶיהָ לְטוֹב בֵּית הַנְּשִׁים:

The girl pleased him and won his favor, and he hastened to furnish her with her cosmetics and her rations, as well as with the seven maids who were her due from the king’s palace; and he treated her and her maids with special kindness in the harem.

10 לֹא־הִגִּידָה אֶסְתֵּר אֶת־עַמָּהּ וְאֶת־מּוֹלַדְתָּהּ כִּי מֶרְדֵּכַי צִוָּה עָלֶיהָ אֲשֶׁר
לֹא־תִגִּיד: {ס}

Esther did not reveal her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had told her not to reveal it.

וּבְכָל־יְוֹם וְיוֹם מָרְדֳּכַי מֵתְהַלֵּךְ לִפְנֵי חֲצַר בֵּית־הַנְּשִׂיִם לְדַעַת אֶת־שְׁלוֹם אֶסְתֵּר וּמַה־יַּעֲשֶׂה בָּהּ: 11

Every single day Mordecai would walk about in front of the court of the harem, to learn how Esther was faring and what was happening to her.

וּבַהֲגִיעַ תֹּרְ נִעְרָה וְנִעְרָה לָבוֹא | אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרוּשׁ מִקִּץ הַיּוֹת לָהּ כִּדְת הַנְּשִׂיִם שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר חֳדָשׁ כִּי כֵן יִמְלְאוּ יְמֵי מְרוּקִיהֶן שְׁנֵה חֳדָשִׁים בְּשֵׁמוֹ הַמֶּר וְשְׁנֵה חֳדָשִׁים בְּבִשְׂמִים וּבַתְּמֻקֵי הַנְּשִׂיִם: 12

When each girl's turn came to go to King Ahasuerus at the end of the twelve months' treatment prescribed for women (for that was the period spent on beautifying them: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and women's cosmetics,

וּבִזְהָ הַנִּעְרָה בָּאָה אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר תִּאֶמֶר יִנָּתֵן לָהּ לָבוֹא עִמָּהּ מִבֵּית הַנְּשִׂיִם עַד־בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ: 13

and it was after that that the girl would go to the king), whatever she asked for would be given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

בְּעֶרְבּ | הִיא בָּאָה וּבְבֹקֶר הִיא שָׁבָה אֶל־בֵּית הַנְּשִׂיִם שְׁנֵי אֶל־יָד שְׁעֵשְׂגוֹ סָרִיס הַמֶּלֶךְ שִׁמֵּר הַפִּילִגְשִׁים לֹא־תָבוֹא עוֹד אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אִם־חָפֵץ בָּהּ 14

הַמֶּלֶךְ וְנִקְרְאָהּ בְּשֵׁם:

She would go in the evening and leave in the morning for a second harem in charge of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, guardian of the concubines. She would not go again to the king unless the king wanted her, when she would be summoned by name.

וּבִהְגִיעַ תִּרְאֶסְתִּיר בֵּת־אַבִּיחַיִל דָּד מְרֻדְכַי אֲשֶׁר לָקַח־לּוֹ לְבַת לְבוּא
אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ לֹא בִקְשָׁה דְבָר כִּי אִם אֶת־אֲשֶׁר יֹאמֶר הִגִּי סְרִיס־הַמֶּלֶךְ
שִׁמְר הַנְּשִׂיִם וְתִהְיִ אֶסְתֵּר נִשְׂאֵת חֵן בְּעֵינַי כָּל־רְאִיָּה: 15

When the turn came for Esther daughter of Abihail—the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter—to go to the king, she did not ask for anything but what Hegai, the king's eunuch, guardian of the women, advised. Yet Esther won the admiration of all who saw her.

וַתִּלְקַח אֶסְתֵּר אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ אֶל־בַּיִת מְלָכוֹתוֹ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשִׂירִי
הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ טֵבֶת בְּשָׁנַת־שִׁבְע לְמַלְכוּתוֹ: 16

Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, in his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

וַיֶּאֱהָב הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־אֶסְתֵּר מִכָּל־הַנְּשִׂיִם וַתִּשְׂאֶחֶן וַחֲסֹד לְפָנָיו
מִכָּל־הַבָּתּוּלוֹת וַיִּשֶׂם כֶּתֶר־מְלָכוֹת בְּרֹאשָׁהּ וַיְמַלִּכָהּ תַּחַת וְשִׁתִּי: 17

The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she won his grace and favor more than all the virgins. So he set a royal diadem on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

וַיַּעַשׂ הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׁתֵּה גָדוֹל לְכָל־שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו אֶת מִשְׁתֵּה אֶסְתֵּר וְהַנְּחָה 18

לְמַדִּינֹת עֲשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן מִשְׁאַת כֶּיֶד הַמֶּלֶךְ:

The king gave a great banquet for all his officials and courtiers, “the banquet of Esther.” He proclaimed a remission of taxes for the provinces and distributed gifts as befits a king.

וּבַהֲקַבֵּץ בְּתוֹלוֹת שְׁנִית וּמֶרְדֳּכָי יָשָׁב בְּשַׁעֲרֵה־הַמֶּלֶךְ: 19

When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai sat in the palace gate.

אֵין אֶסְתֵּר מַגִּידַת מוֹלַדְתָּהּ וְאֶת־עַמָּהּ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה עָלֶיהָ מֶרְדֳּכָי 20
וְאֶת־מֵאֲמַר מֶרְדֳּכָי אֶסְתֵּר עֲשָׂה כַּאֲשֶׁר הָיְתָה בְּאִמְנָה אֶתּוֹ: {ס}

But Esther still did not reveal her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had instructed her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai’s bidding, as she had done when she was under his tutelage.

בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמֶרְדֳּכָי יוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעֲרֵה־הַמֶּלֶךְ קִצְףָּ בְּגִתּוֹ וְתֶרֶשׁ שְׁנֵי־סָרִיסֵי 21
הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׁמָרֵי הַסֹּף וַיִּבְקְשׂוּ לְשַׁלַּח יָד בַּמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשׁוּרֶשׁ:

At that time, when Mordecai was sitting in the palace gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs who guarded the threshold, became angry, and plotted to do away with King Ahasuerus.

וַיִּוָּדַע הַדָּבָר לְמֶרְדֳּכָי וַיִּגֵּד לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְמֶלֶךְ בְּשֵׁם 22
מֶרְדֳּכָי:

Mordecai learned of it and told it to Queen Esther, and Esther reported it to the king in Mordecai's name.

וַיִּבְקֶשׁ הַדָּבָר וַיִּמְצָא וַיִּתְּלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם עַל-עֵץ וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּסֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים
לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ: {פ}

23

The matter was investigated and found to be so, and the two were impaled on stakes. This was recorded in the book of annals at the instance of the king.

3

אַחַר | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה גִּדְּלִי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־שׁוּרוּשׁ אֶת־הַמֶּן בֶּן־הַמְּדַתָּא הָאֲגָגִי
וַיִּנְשְׂאֵהוּ וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת־כִּסְאוֹ מֵעַל כָּל־הַשָּׂרִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:

1

Some time afterward, King Ahasuerus promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite; he advanced him and seated him higher than any of his fellow officials.

וְכָל־עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ כָּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהַמֶּן כִּי־כֵן
צִוְּהֵלוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמְרַדְּכֵי לֹא יִכְרַע וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה:

2

All the king's courtiers in the palace gate knelt and bowed low to Haman, for such was the king's order concerning him; but Mordecai would not kneel or bow low.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמְרַדְּכֵי מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה עוֹבֵר אֶת
מִצְוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

3

Then the king's courtiers who were in the palace gate said to Mordecai,
“Why do you disobey the king's order?”

וַיְהִי (בֹּאֲמָרָם) [כְּאֲמָרָם] אֵלָיו יוֹם וַיּוֹם וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּגִּידוּ לְהֶמֶן
לְרֹאוֹת הַיַּעֲמָדוֹ דְּבַרֵי מֶרְדֳּכָי כִּי־הִגִּיד לָהֶם אֲשֶׁר־הוּא יְהוּדִי:

4

When they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them,
they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's resolve would
prevail; for he had explained to them that he was a Jew.

וַיֵּרָא הֶמֶן כִּי־אֵין מֶרְדֳּכָי כֹּרַע וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לוֹ וַיִּמְלֵא הֶמֶן חֵמָה:

5

When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel or bow low to him,
Haman was filled with rage.

וַיִּבֹז בְּעֵינָיו לְשַׁלַּח יָד בְּמֶרְדֳּכָי לְבַדּוֹ כִּי־הִגִּידוּ לוֹ אֶת־עַם מֶרְדֳּכָי וַיִּבְקֹשׁ
הֶמֶן לְהַשְׁמִיד אֶת־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־מְלָכוֹת אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ עִם מֶרְדֳּכָי:

6

But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone; having been told who
Mordecai's people were, Haman plotted to do away with all the Jews,
Mordecai's people, throughout the kingdom of Ahasuerus.

בְּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ נִסָּן בְּשָׁנַת שְׁתַּיִם עֶשְׂרִי לַמָּלְךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ
הַפִּיל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוּרָל לְפָנָי הֶמֶן מִיּוֹם לַיּוֹם וּמִחֹדֶשׁ לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר
הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ אֲדָר: {ס}

7

In the first month, that is, the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King
Ahasuerus, pur—which means “the lot”—was cast before Haman

concerning every day and every month, [until it fell on] the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar.

8 וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן לְמֶלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ יִשְׁנֹו עִם־אֶחָד מִפְּזֵר וּמִפְּרֹד בֵּין הָעַמִּים
בְּכֹל מְדִינֹות מְלֻכּוֹתָי וְדַתִּיהֶם שְׁנוֹת מִכָּל־עַם וְאֶת־דַּתִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵינָם
עֹשִׂים וְלְמֶלֶךְ אֵין־שׂוּהָ לְהַנִּיחָם:

Haman then said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king’s laws; and it is not in Your Majesty’s interest to tolerate them.

9 אִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יִפְתָּב לְאַבְדָּם וְעֲשֶׂרֶת אֲלָפִים כֶּסֶף־כָּסֶף אֲשַׁקּוּל
עַל־יְדֵי עֲשִׂי הַמְּלָאכָה לְהָבִיא אֶל־גְּנֹזֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

If it please Your Majesty, let an edict be drawn for their destruction, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the stewards for deposit in the royal treasury.”

10 וַיִּסֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל יָדוֹ וַיִּתְּנָהּ לְהָמָן בֶּן־הַמְּדַתָּא הָאֲגָגִי צָרֵר
הַיְהוּדִים:

Thereupon the king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the foe of the Jews.

11 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהָמָן הַכֶּסֶף נָתַון לָךְ וְהָעָם לַעֲשׂוֹת בּוֹ כְּטוֹב בְּעֵינָיֶךָ:

And the king said, “The money and the people are yours to do with as you see fit.”

וַיִּקְרְאוּ סֹפְרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן בְּשָׁלוֹשָׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם בּוֹ וַיִּכְתֹּב
כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה הָמֶלֶךְ אֶל אַחֲשֶׁדְרָפְנֵי־הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶל־הַפְּחָוֹת אֲשֶׁר
עַל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וְאֶל־שָׂרֵי עַם וְעַם מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כְּכַתְּבָהּ וְעַם וְעַם
כָּל־שׁוֹנוֹ בְּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֶׁוֹרֶשׁ נִכְתָּב וְנִחְתָּם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

12

On the thirteenth day of the first month, the king’s scribes were summoned and a decree was issued, as Haman directed, to the king’s satraps, to the governors of every province, and to the officials of every people, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language. The orders were issued in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king’s signet.

וַנְּשַׁלְּחָם סֹפְרִים בְּיַד הָרָצִים אֶל־כָּל־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהַרְג
וּלְאַבֵּד אֶת־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים מִנְּעַר וְעַד־זָקֵן טָף וְנָשִׁים בְּיוֹם אֶחָד בְּשָׁלוֹשָׁה
עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וּשְׁלָלָם לְבוֹז:

13

Accordingly, written instructions were dispatched by couriers to all the king’s provinces to destroy, massacre, and exterminate all the Jews, young and old, children and women, on a single day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month—that is, the month of Adar—and to plunder their possessions.

14

פִּתְשָׁגוֹן הַכְּתָב לְהַנְתִּין דָּת בְּכָל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה גְלוּי לְכָל־הָעַמִּים לְהִיּוֹת
עֵתָדִים לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:

The text of the document was to the effect that a law should be proclaimed in every single province; it was to be publicly displayed to all the peoples, so that they might be ready for that day.

הַרְצִים יֵצְאוּ דְחוּפִים בְּדַבַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָדַת נִתְּנָה בְּשׁוֹשַׁן הַבִּירָה וְהַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהַמֶּן יָשְׁבוּ לְשִׁתּוֹת וְהָעִיר שׁוֹשַׁן נְבוֹכָה: {ס}

The couriers went out posthaste on the royal mission, and the decree was proclaimed in the fortress Shushan. The king and Haman sat down to feast, but the city of Shushan was dumfounded.

4

וּמֶרְדֵּכַי יָדַע אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשְׂה וַיִּקְרַע מְרִדְכַי אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבַּשׁ שָׂק
וַאֲפֹר וַיֵּצֵא בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וַיִּזְעַק וְזַעֲקָה גְדוֹלָה וּמְרָה:

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went through the city, crying out loudly and bitterly,

וַיָּבֹא עַד לְפָנָי שַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אֵין לָבֹא אֶל־שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלְבוּשׁ שָׂק:

until he came in front of the palace gate; for one could not enter the palace gate wearing sackcloth.—

וּבְכָל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה מִקּוֹם אֲשֶׁר דִּבְרַה־מֶלֶךְ וּדְתוֹ מִגֵּיעַ אֲבָל גָּדוֹל
לְיְהוּדִים וְצוֹם וּבְכִי וּמִסְפַּד שֶׁק וְאֶפֶר יֵצַע לְרַבִּים:

Also, in every province that the king's command and decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing, and everybody lay in sackcloth and ashes.—

(ותבואינה) [ותבואנה] נַעֲרוֹת אֶסְתֵּר וְסָרִיסֶיהָ וַיִּגִּידוּ לָהּ וַתַּחֲחֹלֶחֶל
הַמֶּלֶכָה מְאֹד וַתִּשְׁלַח בְּגָדִים לְהַלְבִּישׁ אֶת־מֶרְדֳּכָי וּלְהַסִּיר שֶׁקוֹ מֵעַלָיו
וְלֹא קִבַּל:

4

When Esther's maidens and eunuchs came and informed her, the queen was greatly agitated. She sent clothing for Mordecai to wear, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he refused.

וַתִּקְרָא אֶסְתֵּר לְהַתָּךְ מִסָּרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר הָעֵמִיד לְפָנֶיהָ וַתִּצְוֶהוּ
עַל־מֶרְדֳּכָי לְדַעַת מֵה־זֶה וְעַל־מֵה־זֶה:

5

Thereupon Esther summoned Hathach, one of the eunuchs whom the king had appointed to serve her, and sent him to Mordecai to learn the why and wherefore of it all.

וַיֵּצֵא הַתָּךְ אֶל־מֶרְדֳּכָי אֶל־רְחוֹב הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר לְפָנֵי שַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ:

6

Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the palace gate;

7

וַיַּגִּדְלוֹ מֵרֵדְכַי אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר קָרָהוּ וְאֵת | פְּרִשְׁת הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר אָמַר הָמֶן
לְשָׂקוֹל עַל־גַּגְוֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ (בִּיהוּדִים) [בִּיהוּדִים] לְאַבְדָּם:

and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and all about the money that Haman had offered to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

וְאֶת־פִּתְשֻׁגָן כְּתַב־הַדָּת אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן בְּשׁוּשַׁן לְהַשְׁמִידֵם נָתַן לוֹ לְהִרְאוֹת
אֶת־אֶסְתֵּר וּלְהַגִּיד לָהּ וּלְצַוֹת עָלֶיהָ לָבוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהִתְחַנֵּן־לוֹ וּלְבַקֵּשׁ
מִלְּפָנָיו עַל־עַמָּהּ:

8

He also gave him the written text of the law that had been proclaimed in Shushan for their destruction. [He bade him] show it to Esther and inform her, and charge her to go to the king and to appeal to him and to plead with him for her people.

וַיָּבֹא הַתָּךְ וַיַּגִּד לְאֶסְתֵּר אֵת דְּבַר־יְמֵי מֵרֵדְכַי:

9

When Hathach came and delivered Mordecai's message to Esther,

וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְהַתָּךְ וַתַּצְוֶהוּ אֶל־מֵרֵדְכַי:

10

Esther told Hathach to take back to Mordecai the following reply:

כָּל־עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְעַם־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ יִדְעִים אֲשֶׁר כָּל־אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר
יָבֹא־אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־הַחֲצַר הַפְּנִימִית אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִקְרָא אַחַת דָּתוֹ לְהַמְּיִת
לְבַד מֵאֲשֶׁר יוֹשִׁיט־לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־שַׂרְבִּיט הַזֶּהב וַחֲתִיָּה וְאֲנִי לֹא נִקְרָאתִי
לָבוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ זֶה שְׁלוֹשִׁים יוֹם:

11

“All the king’s courtiers and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any person, man or woman, enters the king’s presence in the inner court without having been summoned, there is but one law for him—that he be put to death. Only if the king extends the golden scepter to him may he live. Now I have not been summoned to visit the king for the last thirty days.”

וַיִּגִּדּוּ לְמֶרְדֵּכַי אֵת דְּבָרֵי אֶסְתֵּר: {פ} 12

When Mordecai was told what Esther had said,

וַיֹּאמֶר מֶרְדֵּכַי לְהָשִׁיב אֶל-אֶסְתֵּר אֶל-תְּדַמִּי בְּנִפְשֶׁךָ לְהַמְלִיט בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ
מִכָּל-הַיְהוּדִים: 13

Mordecai had this message delivered to Esther: “Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king’s palace.

כִּי אִם-הַחֲרַשׁ תַּחֲרִישִׁי בָּעֵת הַזֹּאת רִיחַ וְהִצַּלָּה יַעֲמֹד לַיהוּדִים מִמָּקוֹם
אַחֵר וְאַתָּה וּבֵית-אָבִיךָ תֵּאבְדוּ וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ אִם-לָעֵת כְּזֹאת הִגַּעְתָּ לְמַלְכוּת: 14

On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis.”

וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְהָשִׁיב אֶל-מֶרְדֵּכַי: 15

Then Esther sent back this answer to Mordecai:

לֵךְ כְּנוּס אֶת-כָּל-הַיְהוּדִים הַנִּמְצְאִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן וְצוּמוּ עָלַי וְאַל-תֹּאכְלוּ
וְאַל-תִּשְׁתּוּ שְׁלֹשַׁת יָמִים לַיְלָה וַיּוֹם גַּם-אֲנִי וְנַעֲרֹתַי אֲצוּם כֵּן וּבְכֵן אָבוֹא
אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר לֹא-כֹדֶת וְכֹאֲשֶׁר אֲבִדְתִּי אֲבִדְתִּי:

“Go, assemble all the Jews who live in Shushan, and fast in my behalf; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens will observe the same fast. Then I shall go to the king, though it is contrary to the law; and if I am to perish, I shall perish!”

וַיַּעֲבֹר מֶרְדֵּכַי וַיַּעַשׂ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר-צִוְתָהּ עָלָיו אֶסְתֵּר: {ס} 17

So Mordecai went about [the city] and did just as Esther had commanded him.

5

וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַתִּלְבַּשׂ אֶסְתֵּר מַלְכוּת וַתַּעֲמֵד בַּחֲצַר בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ
הַפְּנִימִית נֹכַח בַּיִת הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּלֶךְ יוֹשֵׁב עַל-כִּסֵּא מַלְכוּתוֹ בְּבַיִת הַמַּלְכוּת
נֹכַח פֶּתַח הַבַּיִת:

On the third day, Esther put on royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the king’s palace, facing the king’s palace, while the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room facing the entrance of the palace.

וַיְהִי כִּרְאוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה עֹמֶדֶת בַּחֲצַר נִשְׂאָה חֵן בְּעֵינָיו
וַיִּוָּשֶׁט הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר אֶת-שַׂרְבִּיט הַזֶּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדוֹ וַתִּקְרַב אֶסְתֵּר וַתִּגַּע
בְּרֹאשׁ הַשַּׂרְבִּיט: {ס} 2

As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won his favor. The king extended to Esther the golden scepter which he had in his hand, and Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵה־לָּךְ אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וּמֵה־בִּקְשָׁתְךָ עַד־חֲצֵי הַמְּלָכוֹת
וַיִּנָּתֶן לָךְ:

3

“What troubles you, Queen Esther?” the king asked her. “And what is your request? Even to half the kingdom, it shall be granted you.”

וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אֶם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יָבוֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֵּן הַיּוֹם אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה
אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי לּוֹ:

4

“If it please Your Majesty,” Esther replied, “let Your Majesty and Haman come today to the feast that I have prepared for him.”

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מְהֵרָה אֶת־הַמֵּן לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־דְּבַר אֶסְתֵּר וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֵּן
אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה אֶסְתֵּר:

5

The king commanded, “Tell Haman to hurry and do Esther’s bidding.” So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared.

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר בְּמִשְׁתֶּה הַיַּיִן מֵה־שְׂאֵלָתְךָ וַיִּנָּתֶן לָךְ וּמֵה־בִּקְשָׁתְךָ
עַד־חֲצֵי הַמְּלָכוֹת וַתַּעַשׂ:

6

At the wine feast, the king asked Esther, “What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half the kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

7 וַתֵּעַן אֶסְתֵּר וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂאֵלְתִי וּבִקְשָׁתִי:

“My wish,” replied Esther, “my request—

8 אִם-מְצֵאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב לָתֵת אֶת-שְׂאֵלְתִי
וְלַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-בִּקְשָׁתִי יָבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמָּן אֶל-הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֶעֱשֶׂה לָהֶם
וּמָחָר אֶעֱשֶׂה כְּדַבַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ:

if Your Majesty will do me the favor, if it please Your Majesty to grant my wish and accede to my request—let Your Majesty and Haman come to the feast which I will prepare for them; and tomorrow I will do Your Majesty’s bidding.”

9 וַיֵּצֵא הַמָּן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא שְׂמֵחַ וְטוֹב לֵב וְכִרְאוֹת הַמָּן אֶת-מֶרְדֵּכַי בְּשַׁעַר
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְלֹא-קָם וְלֹא-זָע מִמֶּנּוּ וַיִּמָּלֵא הַמָּן עַל-מֶרְדֵּכַי חֲמָה:

That day Haman went out happy and lighthearted. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the palace gate, and Mordecai did not rise or even stir on his account, Haman was filled with rage at him.

10 וַיִּתְאַפֵּק הַמָּן וַיָּבֹא אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיִּבֵּא אֶת-אֵהָבָיו וְאֶת-זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ:

Nevertheless, Haman controlled himself and went home. He sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh,

11 וַיְסַפֵּר לָהֶם הַמָּן אֶת-כְּבוֹד עֲשָׂרוֹ וְרַב בָּנָיו וְאֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר גָּדְלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר נִשְׂאוֹ עַל-הַשָּׁרִים וְעַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

and Haman told them about his great wealth and his many sons, and all about how the king had promoted him and advanced him above the officials and the king's courtiers.

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּן אֵף לֹא־הִבִּיֵאָה אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה עִם־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתָּה 12
אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה כִּי אִם־אוֹתִי וְגַם־לְמַחֵר אֲנִי קָרוּא־לָהּ עִם־הַמֶּלֶךְ:

“What is more,” said Haman, “Queen Esther gave a feast, and besides the king she did not have anyone but me. And tomorrow too I am invited by her along with the king.

וְכָל־זֶה אֵינְנִי שׂוֹה לִי בְכָל־עֵת אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי רֹאֶה אֶת־מֶרְדֵּכַי הַיְהוּדִי יוֹשֵׁב 13
בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ:

Yet all this means nothing to me every time I see that Jew Mordecai sitting in the palace gate.”

וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל־אֲהָבָיו יַעֲשׂוּ־עֵץ גָּבֹהַ חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה וּבִבְקָר | 14
אָמַר לַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּתְּלוּ אֶת־מֶרְדֵּכַי עָלָיו וּבֹא־עִם־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתָּה שָׁמַח
וַיִּטֵּב הַדָּבָר לְפָנָיו הַמֶּן וַיַּעַשׂ הָעֵץ: {ס}

Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a stake be put up, fifty cubits high, and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then you can go gaily with the king to the feast.” The proposal pleased Haman, and he had the stake put up.

1 בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא נִדְדָה שְׁנַת הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר לְהָבִיא אֶת־סֵפֶר הַזְּכוּרֹת דְּבָרֵי
הַיָּמִים וַיְהִיו נִקְרָאִים לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

That night, sleep deserted the king, and he ordered the book of records, the annals, to be brought; and it was read to the king.

2 וַיִּמָּצֵא כָּתוּב אֲשֶׁר הִגִּיד מֶרְדֳּכַי עַל־בִּגְתָּנָא וְתֶרֶשׁ שְׁנֵי סְרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
מִשְׁמֵרֵי הַסֹּף אֲשֶׁר בִּקְשׁוּ לְשַׁלַּח יָד בַּמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרוּשׁ:

There it was found written that Mordecai had denounced Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the threshold, who had plotted to do away with King Ahasuerus.

3 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מַה־נַּעֲשֶׂה יְקָר וּגְדוּלָה לְמֶרְדֳּכַי עַל־זֶה וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
מִשְׁרָתָיו לֹא־נַעֲשֶׂה עִמּוֹ דָּבָר:

“What honor or advancement has been conferred on Mordecai for this?” the king inquired. “Nothing at all has been done for him,” replied the king's servants who were in attendance on him.

4 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מִי בְּחָצֵר וְהֵמֶן בָּא לְחָצֵר בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ הַחַיְצוֹנָה לֵאמֹר
לְמַלְךְ לְתִלּוֹת אֶת־מֶרְדֳּכַי עַל־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־הֵכִין לוֹ:

“Who is in the court?” the king asked. For Haman had just entered the outer court of the royal palace, to speak to the king about having Mordecai impaled on the stake he had prepared for him.

5 וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵלָיו הִנֵּה הֵמֶן עֹמֵד בְּחָצֵר וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ יָבוֹא:

“It is Haman standing in the court,” the king’s servants answered him.

“Let him enter,” said the king.

וַיָּבֹא הָמָן וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ מַה־לַּעֲשׂוֹת בְּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ
וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן בְּלִבּוֹ לְמִי יַחֲפֵץ הַמֶּלֶךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת יָקָר יוֹתֵר מִמֶּנִּי:

Haman entered, and the king asked him, “What should be done for a man whom the king desires to honor?” Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?”

וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

So Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king desires to honor,

יָבִיאוּ לְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת אֲשֶׁר לְבַשָּׁבוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְסוּס אֲשֶׁר רָכַב עָלָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְאֲשֶׁר נָתַן כְּתֹר מַלְכוּת בְּרֹאשׁוֹ:

let royal garb which the king has worn be brought, and a horse on which the king has ridden and on whose head a royal diadem has been set;

וְנָתַן הַלְּבוּשׁ וְהַסּוּס עַל־יַד־אִישׁ מִשָּׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפְּרָתָמִים וְהַלְּבִישׁוּ
אֶת־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ וְהִרְפִּיבֵהוּ עַל־הַסּוּס בְּרִחוּב הָעִיר
וְקִרְאוּ לְפָנָיו כָּכָה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

and let the attire and the horse be put in the charge of one of the king’s noble courtiers. And let the man whom the king desires to honor be attired and paraded on the horse through the city square, while they

proclaim before him: This is what is done for the man whom the king desires to honor!”

10 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהֵמָּן מְהֵרָה קַח אֶת־הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת־הַסּוּס כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ וַעֲשֵׂה־כֵן לְמֶרְדֳּכָי הַיְּהוּדִי הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־תִּפְּלֵ דָבָר מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:

“Quick, then!” said the king to Haman. “Get the garb and the horse, as you have said, and do this to Mordecai the Jew, who sits in the king’s gate. Omit nothing of all you have proposed.”

11 וַיִּקַּח הֵמָּן אֶת־הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת־הַסּוּס וַיִּלְבַּשׁ אֶת־מֶרְדֳּכָי וַיִּרְפִּיבֵהוּ בְּרִחוּב הָעִיר וַיִּקְרָא לְפָנָיו כְּכֹה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

So Haman took the garb and the horse and arrayed Mordecai and paraded him through the city square; and he proclaimed before him: This is what is done for the man whom the king desires to honor!

12 וַיָּשָׁב מֶרְדֳּכָי אֶל־שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהֵמָּן נִדְחַף אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ אָבֵל וְחָפוּי רֹאשׁ:

Then Mordecai returned to the king’s gate, while Haman hurried home, his head covered in mourning.

13 וַיְסַפֵּר הֵמָּן לְזָרֵשׁ אֵשֶׁתוֹ וּלְכָל־אֲהָבָיו אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר קָרָהוּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ חֲכָמָיו וְזָרֵשׁ אֵשֶׁתוֹ אִם מִזְרַע הַיְּהוּדִים מֶרְדֳּכָי אֲשֶׁר הִחֲלִיט לְנַפְּל לְפָנָיו לֹא־תֻכַּל לוֹ כִּי־נִפּוֹל תִּפּוֹל לְפָנָיו:

There Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had befallen him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish stock, you will not overcome him; you will fall before him to your ruin.”

עוֹדֵם מְדַבְּרִים עִמּוֹ וְסָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הִגִּיעוּ וַיְבַהֲלוּ לְהַבִּיא אֶת־הַמֶּן
אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה אֶסְתֵּר:

While they were still speaking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and hurriedly brought Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

7

וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּן לְשִׁתּוֹת עִם־אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה:

So the king and Haman came to feast with Queen Esther.

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי בַּמִּשְׁתֶּה הַזֶּה מַה־שָּׂאלְתְּךָ אֶסְתֵּר
הַמַּלְכָּה וְתַנְתֵּן לָךְ וּמַה־בִּקְשָׁתְּךָ עַד־חֲצֵי הַמַּלְכוּת וְתַעֲשׂ:

On the second day, the king again asked Esther at the wine feast, “What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half the kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

וְתַעַן אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־מְצָאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְאִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב תַּנְתֵּן־לִי נַפְשִׁי בְּשָׂאלְתִי וְעַמִּי בְּבִקְשָׁתִי:

Queen Esther replied: “If Your Majesty will do me the favor, and if it pleases Your Majesty, let my life be granted me as my wish, and my people as my request.

כִּי נִמְכַּרְנוּ אֲנִי וְעַמִּי לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהַרְגוֹ וְלֵאבֹד וְאֵלּוּ לְעַבְדִּים וְלִשְׁפָחוֹת
נִמְכַּרְנוּ הַחַרְשִׁתִּי כִּי אֵין הַצָּר שׁוֹה בְּנוֹק הַמֶּלֶךְ: {ס}

For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, massacred, and exterminated. Had we only been sold as bondmen and bondwomen, I would have kept silent; for the adversary is not worthy of the king’s trouble.”

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחָשׁוּרוּשׁ וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי־זֶה הוּא
אֲשֶׁר־מָלְאוּ לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן:

Thereupon King Ahasuerus demanded of Queen Esther, “Who is he and where is he who dared to do this?”

וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב הָמֵן הָרַע הַזֶּה וְהָמֵן נִבְעֵת מִלִּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהַמַּלְכָּה:

“The adversary and enemy,” replied Esther, “is this evil Haman!” And Haman cringed in terror before the king and the queen.

וְהַמֶּלֶךְ קָם בְּחִמְתּוֹ מִמִּשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן אֶל־גַּנַּת הַבַּיִת וְהָמֵן עָמַד לְבִקֵּשׁ
עַל־נַפְשׁוֹ מֵאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה כִּי רָאָה כִּי־כָלְתָה אֵלָיו הָרַעַה מֵאֵת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

The king, in his fury, left the wine feast for the palace garden, while Haman remained to plead with Queen Esther for his life; for he saw that

the king had resolved to destroy him.

וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁבַּ מִגִּזְתְּ הַבַּיִתָּן אֶל־בַּיִתָּן מִשְׁתָּה הַיַּיִן וְהָמֶן נָפַל עַל־הַמֶּטֶה
אֲשֶׁר אֶסְתֵּר עָלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ הֲגַם לְכַבּוֹשׁ אֶת־הַמְּלָכָה עִמִּי בַּבַּיִת
הַדָּבָר יֵצֵא מִפִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ וּפְנֵי הָמֶן חָפוּ: {ס}

When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet room, Haman was lying prostrate on the couch on which Esther reclined. “Does he mean,” cried the king, “to ravish the queen in my own palace?” No sooner did these words leave the king’s lips than Haman’s face was covered.

וַיֹּאמֶר חַרְבוּנָה אֶחָד מִן־הַסְּרִיסִים לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ גַּם הִנֵּה־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה
הָמֶן לְמַרְדֵּכַי אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר־טוֹב עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ עִמָּד בַּבַּיִת הָמֶן גְּבוּהַ חֲמִשִּׁים
אַמָּה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּלְהוּ עָלָיו:

Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “What is more, a stake is standing at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai—the man whose words saved the king.” “Impale him on it!” the king ordered.

וַיִּתְּלוּ אֶת־הָמֶן עַל־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־הֵכִין לְמַרְדֵּכַי וַחֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁכְכָה: {פ}

So they impaled Haman on the stake which he had put up for Mordecai, and the king’s fury abated.

1 בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחְשֵׁירוּשׁ לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה אֶת־בַּיִת הַזֶּה מִן צָרָר
(הַיְהוּדִים) [הַיְהוּדִים] וּמֶרְדֵּכַי בָּא לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי־הִגִּידָה אֶסְתֵּר מֶה
הוּא־לָהּ:

That very day King Ahasuerus gave the property of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Mordecai presented himself to the king, for Esther had revealed how he was related to her.

2 וַיִּסֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר הָעֵבִיר מִהֶמֶן וַיִּתְּנָהּ לְמֶרְדֵּכַי וַתִּשֶׂם אֶסְתֵּר
אֶת־מֶרְדֵּכַי עַל־בַּיִת הַזֶּה: {ס}

The king slipped off his ring, which he had taken back from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther put Mordecai in charge of Haman's property.

3 וַתּוֹסֶף אֶסְתֵּר וַתְּדַבֵּר לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַתִּפֹּל לִפְנֵי רַגְלָיו וַתִּבְךְ וַתַּחֲזֹן־לוֹ
לְהֵעֵבִיר אֶת־רַעַת הַזֶּה הָאֲגָגִי וְאֵת מַחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁב עַל־הַיְהוּדִים:

Esther spoke to the king again, falling at his feet and weeping, and beseeching him to avert the evil plotted by Haman the Agagite against the Jews.

4 וַיּוֹשֶׁט הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְתֵּר אֵת שַׁרְבֵט הַזָּהָב וַתִּקַּם אֶסְתֵּר וַתַּעֲמֵד לִפְנֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ:

The king extended the golden scepter to Esther, and Esther arose and stood before the king.

וַתֹּאמֶר אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב וְאִם-מִצָּאתַי חָן לְפָנָיו וְכִשֶּׁר הַדְּבָר לְפָנָי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְטוֹבָה אֲנִי בְעֵינָיו יִכְתֹּב לְהַשִּׁיב אֶת-הַסְּפָרִים מִחֻשְׁבֵּת הַמֶּן
בְּוַהֲמֻדְתָּא הָאֲגָגִי אֲשֶׁר כָּתַב לְאַבְדֹּל אֶת-הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-מְדִינֹת
הַמֶּלֶךְ:

“If it please Your Majesty,” she said, “and if I have won your favor and the proposal seems right to Your Majesty, and if I am pleasing to you—let dispatches be written countermanding those which were written by Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, embodying his plot to annihilate the Jews throughout the king’s provinces.

כִּי אֵיכָכָה אוֹכֵל וְרֵאִיתִי בְרָעָה אֲשֶׁר-יִמָּצֵא אֶת-עַמִּי וְאֵיכָכָה אוֹכֵל
וְרֵאִיתִי בְּאַבְדֹן מוֹלְדָתִי: {ס}

For how can I bear to see the disaster which will befall my people! And how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred!”

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחָשׁוּרֶשׁ לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וּלְמֹרְדֵכַי הַיְהוּדִי הַנֵּה בֵּית-הַמֶּן
נָתַתִּי לְאַסְתֵּר וְאֵתוֹ תָּלוּ עַל-הָעֵץ עַל אֲשֶׁר-שָׁלַח יָדוֹ (בִּיהוּדִים)
[בִּיהוּדִים]:

Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, “I have given Haman’s property to Esther, and he has been impaled on the stake for scheming against the Jews.

וְאַתֶּם כָּתְבוּ עַל-הַיְהוּדִים כְּטוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם בְּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ וְחֻתְמוּ בְּטַבַּעַת
הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי-כָתַב אֲשֶׁר-נִכְתַּב בְּשֵׁם-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְנִחְתְּמוּ בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵין

And you may further write with regard to the Jews as you see fit. [Write it] in the king's name and seal it with the king's signet, for an edict that has been written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet may not be revoked."

וַיִּקְרְאוּ סֹפְרֵי-הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּעֵת-הַהִיא בַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי הוּא-חֹדֶשׁ סִיוָן
 בְּשִׁלּוּשָׁה וְעֶשְׂרִים בּוֹ וַיִּכְתֹּב כָּכָל-אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה מֶרְדֳּכָי אֶל-הַיְהוּדִים וְאֶל
 הָאֲחַשְׁדָּרְפָּנִים וְהַפְּחוּתִי וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת אֲשֶׁר | מִהַדּוּ וְעַד-כּוּשׁ שִׁבְעַ
 וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כְּכַתְּבָהּ וְעַם וְעַם כָּל־שָׁנֹ
 וְאֶל-הַיְהוּדִים כְּכַתְּבָם וְכָל־שׁוֹנָם:

9

So the king's scribes were summoned at that time, on the twenty-third day of the third month, that is, the month of Sivan; and letters were written, at Mordecai's dictation, to the Jews and to the satraps, the governors and the officials of the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Nubia: to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֶרֶשׁ וַיְחַתֵּם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁלַח סֹפְרִים בְּיַד
 הָרָצִים בְּסוּסִים רַכְבֵּי הָרָכֶשׁ הָאֲחַשְׁתָּרְנִים בְּנֵי הָרַמְכִים:

10

He had them written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet. Letters were dispatched by mounted couriers, riding steeds used in the king's service, bred of the royal stud,

11 אֲשֶׁר נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ לַיהוּדִים | אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־עִיר־וְעִיר לְהַקְהִיל וְלַעֲמֹד
עַל־נַפְשָׁם לְהַשְׂמִיד וְלַהֲרֹג וְלֹאֲבֹד אֶת־כָּל־חֵיל עַם וּמְדִינָה הַצָּרִים אֹתָם
טָף וְנָשִׁים וְשָׁלָלָם לְבוֹז:

to this effect: The king has permitted the Jews of every city to assemble and fight for their lives; if any people or province attacks them, they may destroy, massacre, and exterminate its armed force together with women and children, and plunder their possessions—

12 בְּיוֹם אֶחָד בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ בְּשָׁלוֹשָׁה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ
שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר:

on a single day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, namely, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar.

13 פִּתְשָׁנוּ הַכְּתָב לְהַנָּתֵן דָּת בְּכָל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה גְלוּי לְכָל־הָעַמִּים וְלַהֲיוֹת
(הַיְהוּדִיִּים) [הַיְהוּדִים] (עַתוּדִים) [עֲתִידִים] לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְהִנָּקֵם מֵאִיְבֵיהֶם:

The text of the document was to be issued as a law in every single province: it was to be publicly displayed to all the peoples, so that the Jews should be ready for that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 הָרָצִים רֹכְבֵי הָרֶכֶשׁ הָאֲחַשְׁתָּרְנִים יֵצְאוּ מִבְּהַלִּים וּדְחוּפִים בְּדַבַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהָדַת נִתְּנָה בְּשׁוֹשַׁן הַבִּירָה: {ס}

The couriers, mounted on royal steeds, went out in urgent haste at the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in the fortress Shushan.

15 וּמֵרֹדֵכַי יֵצֵא | מִלְּפָנַי הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלְבוּשׁ מְלָכוֹת תְּכֵלֶת וְחֹר וְעֻטְרֹת זָהָב
גְּדוּלָה וְתִכְרִיף בּוּץ וְאַרְגָּמָן וְהָעִיר שׁוֹשֵׁן צְהֵלָה וְשִׂמְחָה:

Mordecai left the king's presence in royal robes of blue and white, with a magnificent crown of gold and a mantle of fine linen and purple wool. And the city of Shushan rang with joyous cries.

16 לַיהוּדִים הֵיטָה אֹרֶה וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׂוֹן וִיקָר:

The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, happiness and honor.

17 וּבְכָל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וּבְכָל-עִיר וְעִיר מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר דִּבְרַה־מֶלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ מֵגִיעַ
שִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׂוֹן לַיהוּדִים מִשָּׂתָה וַיּוֹם טוֹב וְרַבִּים מֵעַמֵּי הָאָרֶץ מְתִיבֵי-לֵב
כִּי-נִפְל פְּחַד-הַיהוּדִים עֲלֵיהֶם:

And in every province and in every city, when the king's command and decree arrived, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many of the people of the land professed to be Jews, for the fear of the Jews had fallen upon them.

9

1 וּבַשְּׁנַיִם עָשָׂר חֹדֶשׁ הוּא-חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר בְּשָׁלוֹשָׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם בּוֹ אֲשֶׁר הִגִּיעַ
דִּבְרַה־מֶלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ לְהַעֲשׂוֹת בַּיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר שָׁבְרוּ אֲבֵי הַיהוּדִים לְשָׁלוֹט בָּהֶם
וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלְטוּ הַיהוּדִים הַמָּה בְּשָׁנָאֵיהֶם:

And so, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month—that is, the month of Adar—when the king's command and decree were to be executed, the very

day on which the enemies of the Jews had expected to get them in their power, the opposite happened, and the Jews got their enemies in their power.

2 נִקְהָלוּ הַיְהוּדִים בְּעָרֵיהֶם בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־שׂוֹרוֹשׁ לְשַׁלַּח יָד
בְּמִבְקָשֵׁי רָעָתָם וְאִישׁ לֹא־עָמַד לְפָנֵיהֶם כִּי־נָפַל פַּחַדָּם עַל־כָּל־הָעַמִּים:

Throughout the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the Jews mustered in their cities to attack those who sought their hurt; and no one could withstand them, for the fear of them had fallen upon all the peoples.

3 וְכָל־שָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת וְהָאֲחַשְׁדָּרְפָּנִים וְהַפַּחֹת וְעַשְׂי הַמְּלָאכָה אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ
מִנְשָׂאִים אֶת־הַיְהוּדִים כִּי־נָפַל פַּחַד־מֶרְדֵּכַי עֲלֵיהֶם:

Indeed, all the officials of the provinces—the satraps, the governors, and the king's stewards—showed deference to the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them.

4 כִּי־גָדוֹל מְרִדְכַי בְּבֵית הַמֶּלֶךְ וְשָׁמְעוּ הוֹלָךְ בְּכָל־הַמְּדִינֹת כִּי־הָאִישׁ
מְרִדְכַי הוֹלָךְ וְגָדוֹל:

For Mordecai was now powerful in the royal palace, and his fame was spreading through all the provinces; the man Mordecai was growing ever more powerful.

5 וַיִּכּוּ הַיְהוּדִים בְּכָל־אֲיִבֵיהֶם מִפַּת־חֶרֶב וְהָרַג וְאֲבָדוֹן וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְשִׁנְאֵיהֶם
כְּרָצוֹנָם:

So the Jews struck at their enemies with the sword, slaying and destroying; they wreaked their will upon their enemies.

וּבְשׁוּשַׁן הַבֵּיָרָה הָרְגוּ הַיְהוּדִים וְאַבְדוּ חֲמִישׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ: 6

In the fortress Shushan the Jews killed a total of five hundred men.

וְאֵת פַּרְשַׁנְדָּתָא וְאֵת דַּלְפּוֹן וְאֵת אֲסַפְתָּא: 7

They also killed Parshandatha,
Dalphon,
Aspatha,

וְאֵת פּוֹרְתָא וְאֵת אַדְלִיָּא וְאֵת אַרִידָתָא: 8

Poratha,
Adalia,
Aridatha,

וְאֵת פַּרְמַשְׁתָּא וְאֵת אַרִיסַי וְאֵת אַרְדַּי וְאֵת 9
וַיִּזְתָּא:

Parmashta,
Arisai,
Aridai,
and Vaizatha,

וְעִשְׂרֵת בְּנֵי הַמֶּן בְּוַתְּמַדְתָּא צִרְרַת הַיְהוּדִים הָרְגוּ וּבְבִיָּה לֹא שָׁלְחוּ 10
אֶת־יָדָם:

the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the foe of the Jews. But they did not lay hands on the spoil.

בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא בָּא מִסְפֵּר הַהֲרוּגִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה לְפָנַי הַמֶּלֶךְ: 11

When the number of those slain in the fortress Shushan was reported on that same day to the king,

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה הָרְגוּ הַיְהוּדִים וְאַבְדַּחֲמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ וְאֵת עֶשְׂרֵת בְּנֵי־הָמָן בְּשָׂאֵר מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ מִה עָשׂוּ וּמִה־נִשְׁאַלְתֶּךָ וַיִּנָּתֶן לָּהּ וּמִה־בִקְשָׁתֶךָ עוֹד וְתַעֲשֵׂ: 12

the king said to Queen Esther, “In the fortress Shushan alone the Jews have killed a total of five hundred men, as well as the ten sons of Haman. What then must they have done in the provinces of the realm! What is your wish now? It shall be granted you. And what else is your request? It shall be fulfilled.”

וְתֹאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אֶם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יִנָּתֶן גַּם־מָחָר לַיהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּשׁוּשַׁן לַעֲשׂוֹת כַּדַּת הַיּוֹם וְאֵת עֶשְׂרֵת בְּנֵי־הָמָן יִתְּלוּ עַל־הָעֵץ: 13

“If it please Your Majesty,” Esther replied, “let the Jews in Shushan be permitted to act tomorrow also as they did today; and let Haman’s ten sons be impaled on the stake.”

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לַהֲעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן וְתַנְתֶּן דָּת בְּשׁוּשַׁן וְאֵת עֶשְׂרֵת בְּנֵי־הָמָן תָּלוּ: 14

The king ordered that this should be done, and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan. Haman’s ten sons were impaled:

15 וַיִּקְהָלוּ (הַיְהוּדִים) [הַיְהוּדִים] אֲשֶׁר־בְּשׁוּשָׁן גַּם בַּיּוֹם אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר
לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וַיִּהְרָגוּ בְּשׁוּשָׁן שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ וּבְבִזָּה לֹא שָׁלְחוּ אֶת־יָדָם:

and the Jews in Shushan mustered again on the fourteenth day of Adar and slew three hundred men in Shushan. But they did not lay hands on the spoil.

16 וְשָׂאֵר הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּמַדִּינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ נִקְהָלוּ וְעָמְדוּ עַל־נַפְשָׁם וְנוֹחַ
מֵאִיבֵיהֶם וְהָרוּג בְּשֵׁנְאֵיהֶם חֲמֵשָׁה וּשְׁבַע־עֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף וּבְבִזָּה לֹא שָׁלְחוּ
אֶת־יָדָם:

The rest of the Jews, those in the king's provinces, likewise mustered and fought for their lives. They disposed of their enemies, killing seventy-five thousand of their foes; but they did not lay hands on the spoil.

17 בַּיּוֹם־שְׁלוֹשָׁה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וְנוֹחַ בְּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וַעֲשֶׂה אֹתוֹ יוֹם
מְשֻׁתָּה וְשִׂמְחָה:

That was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar; and they rested on the fourteenth day and made it a day of feasting and merrymaking. (

18 (וְהַיְהוּדִים) [וְהַיְהוּדִים] אֲשֶׁר־בְּשׁוּשָׁן נִקְהָלוּ בַּשְּׁלוֹשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ
וּבְאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וְנוֹחַ בַּחֲמֵשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וַעֲשֶׂה אֹתוֹ יוֹם מְשֻׁתָּה
וְשִׂמְחָה:

But the Jews in Shushan mustered on both the thirteenth and fourteenth days, and so rested on the fifteenth, and made it a day of feasting and merrymaking.)

עַל־כֵּן הַיְהוּדִים (הַפְּרוּזִים) הַיֹּשְׁבִים בְּעָרֵי הַפְּרוּזוֹת עֹשִׂים אֶת
יוֹם אַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר שְׂמִיחָה וּמְשִׁתָּה וְיוֹם טוֹב וּמְשִׁלַּח מָנוֹת
אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ: {ס}

That is why village Jews, who live in unwalled towns, observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and make it a day of merrymaking and feasting, and as a holiday and an occasion for sending gifts to one another.

וַיִּכְתֹּב מֹרְדֳכַי אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר
בְּכָל־מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ הַקְּרוֹבִים וְהָרְחוֹקִים:

Mordecai recorded these events. And he sent dispatches to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Ahasuerus, near and far,

לְקַיֵּם עֲלֵיהֶם לְהֵיוֹת עֹשִׂים אֶת יוֹם אַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וְאֵת
יוֹם־חַמֵּשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ בְּכָל־שָׁנָה וּשְׁנָה:

charging them to observe the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar, every year—

כִּימֵים אֲשֶׁר־נָחוּ בָהֶם הַיְהוּדִים מֵאִיְבֵיהֶם וְהַחֹדֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר נָהֲפָוּ לָהֶם
מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה וּמֵאֲבֵל לְיוֹם טוֹב לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם יְמֵי מְשִׁתָּה וּשְׂמִיחָה
וּמְשִׁלַּח מָנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ וּמְתָנוֹת לְאֲבִינָיִם:

the same days on which the Jews enjoyed relief from their foes and the same month which had been transformed for them from one of grief and mourning to one of festive joy. They were to observe them as days of

feasting and merrymaking, and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor.

וְקִבְּלוּ הַיְהוּדִים אֶת אֲשֶׁר־הִחֲלוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר־כָּתַב מֶרְדֳּכַי אֲלֵיהֶם: 23

The Jews accordingly assumed as an obligation that which they had begun to practice and which Mordecai prescribed for them.

כִּי הָמֵן בֶּן־הַמְּדֵחָתָא הָאֲגָגִי צִרָר כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים חָשַׁב עַל־הַיְהוּדִים לְאַבְדָּם וְהִפֵּל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוּרָל לְהַמָּם וְלְאַבְדָּם: 24

For Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the foe of all the Jews, had plotted to destroy the Jews, and had cast pur—that is, the lot—with intent to crush and exterminate them.

וּבָבֹאָהּ לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ אָמַר עִם־הַסֹּפֵר יָשׁוּב מִחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר־חָשַׁב עַל־הַיְהוּדִים עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ וְתָלוּ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת־בָּנָיו עַל־הָעֵץ: 25

But when [Esther] came before the king, he commanded: “With the promulgation of this decree, let the evil plot, which he devised against the Jews, recoil on his own head!” So they impaled him and his sons on the stake.

עַל־כֵּן קָרְאוּ לַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה פּוּרִים עַל־שֵׁם הַפּוּר עַל־כֵּן עַל־כָּל־דְּבָרֵי הָאֲגָרָת הַזֹּאת וּמָה־רָאוּ עַל־כִּכָּה וּמָה הִגִּיעַ אֲלֵיהֶם: 26

For that reason these days were named Purim, after pur.

In view, then, of all the instructions in the said letter and of what they had experienced in that matter and what had befallen them,

27 קִיְמוּ (וקבל) [וְקַבְּלוּ] הַיְהוּדִים וְעַל־זֶרְעָם וְעַל כָּל־הַנְּלוּיִם עֲלֵיהֶם
וְלֹא יַעֲבֹר לְהַיּוֹת עֲשִׂים אֶת שְׁנֵי הַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה כְּכַתְּבָם וְכִזְמָנָם
בְּכָל־שָׁנָה וְשָׁנָה:

the Jews undertook and irrevocably obligated themselves and their descendants, and all who might join them, to observe these two days in the manner prescribed and at the proper time each year.

28 וְהַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה נִזְכָּרִים וְנַעֲשִׂים בְּכָל־דָּוָר וְדָוָר מִשְׁפָּחָהּ וּמִשְׁפָּחָהּ מְדִינָה
וּמְדִינָה וְעִיר וְעִיר וַיְמִי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלֶּה לֹא יַעֲבֹרוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְהוּדִים וְזָכָרָם
לֹא־יִסּוּף מִזֶּרְעָם: {ס}

Consequently, these days are recalled and observed in every generation: by every family, every province, and every city. And these days of Purim shall never cease among the Jews, and the memory of them shall never perish among their descendants.

29 וְתִכְתֹּב אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה בַת־אַבִּיהַיִל וּמֶרְדֳּכַי הַיְהוּדִי אֶת־כָּל־תִּקְוֵהּ לְקַיָּם
אֶת אַגְוֵת הַפּוּרִים הַזֹּאת הַשְּׁנִית:

Then Queen Esther daughter of Abihail wrote a second letter of Purim for the purpose of confirming with full authority the aforementioned one of Mordecai the Jew.

30 וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים אֶל־שֶׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה מְלָכוֹת
אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ דְּבָרֵי שְׁלוֹם וְאַמֶּת:

Dispatches were sent to all the Jews in the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the realm of Ahasuerus with an ordinance of “equity and honesty:”

לְקַיֵּם אֶת־יְמֵי הַפְּרִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּזִמְנֵיהֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר קָיִם עֲלֵיהֶם מֶרְדֵּכַי הַיְּהוּדִי
וְאֶסְתֵּר הַמֶּלֶכָה וְכַאֲשֶׁר קִיְּמוּ עַל־נַפְשָׁם וְעַל־זֵרְעָם דְּבַרֵי הַצּוּמֹת
וְזַעֲקָתָם:

31

These days of Purim shall be observed at their proper time, as Mordecai the Jew—and now Queen Esther—has obligated them to do, and just as they have assumed for themselves and their descendants the obligation of the fasts with their lamentations.

וּמֵאֵמֶר אֶסְתֵּר קָיִם דְּבַרֵי הַפְּרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְנִכְתָּב בַּסֵּפֶר: {ס}

32

And Esther’s ordinance validating these observances of Purim was recorded in a scroll.

10

וַיִּשֶׂם הַמֶּלֶךְ (אחשרש) [אחשורוש] וּמִסַּעֲלֵה־הָאָרֶץ וְאֵי הַיָּם:

1

King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the mainland and the islands.

וְכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה תְּקִפּוֹ וּגְבוּרָתוֹ וּפְרָשֵׁת גְּדֻלַּת מֶרְדֵּכַי אֲשֶׁר גָּדְלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ
הַלְּוֹאֵהֶם כְּתוּבִים עַל־סֵפֶר דְּבַרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי מִדְּי וּפָרְס:

2

All his mighty and powerful acts, and a full account of the greatness to which the king advanced Mordecai, are recorded in the Annals of the Kings of Media and Persia.

כִּי מֶרְדֵּכַי הַיְהוּדִי מִשָּׁנָה לְמַלְךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרֹשׁ וְגָדוֹל לַיְהוּדִים וְרָצוּי לְרַב
אֶחָיו דִּרְשׁ טוֹב לְעַמּוֹ וְדִבֵּר שְׁלוֹם לְכָל־יִרְעָו:

3

For Mordecai the Jew ranked next to King Ahasuerus and was highly regarded by the Jews and popular with the multitude of his brethren; he sought the good of his people and interceded for the welfare of all his kindred.