

## Chapter 1

1. And it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, this is Ahasuerus who reigned, from Hodu to Kush, over one hundred and twenty seven provinces;
2. That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the capital,
3. In the third year of his reign, he made a banquet for all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him;
4. When he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, one hundred and eighty days.
5. And when these days were fulfilled, the king made a banquet for all the people who were present in Shushan the capital, both to great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;
6. There were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble; the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of alabaster, marble, mother of pearl, and precious stones.
7. And they gave them drink in utensils of gold, the utensils being different one the other, and royal wine in abundance, according to the bounty of the king.
8. And the drinking was according to the law; no one compelled; for the king had instructed to all the officials of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.
9. Also Vashti the queen made a banquet for the women in the royal palace which belonged to king Ahasuerus.
10. On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbonah, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,
11. To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the royal crown, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was beautiful to look on.
12. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command by his eunuchs; and the king was very angry, and his anger burned in him.
13. And the king said to the wise men, who knew the times, for so was the king's manner toward all who knew law and judgment;
14. And the closest to him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and who sat first in the kingdom;
15. What shall we do to the queen Vashti according to law, because she has not performed the command of the king Ahasuerus by the eunuchs?
16. (K) And Memucan answered in the presence of the king and the princes, Vashti, the queen, has wronged not only the king, but also all the princes, and all the people who are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.
17. For this deed of the queen shall be known to all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported that the king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought to his presence, but she came not.
18. Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day to all the king's princes, who have

heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

**19.** If it please the king, let a royal command be issued by him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it can not be altered, that Vashti is to come no more to the presence of king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

**20.** And when the king's decree, which he shall issue, shall be proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, which is very large, all the wives shall give to their husbands honor, both to great and small.

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

**22.** And he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to every province according to its writing, and to every people after their language, that every man should rule in his own house, and that it should be proclaimed according to the language of every people.

## Chapter 2

**1.** After these things, when the anger of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

**2.** Then said the king's servants who ministered to him, Let young virgins of good presence be sought for the king;

**3.** And let the king appoint officials in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the young virgins of good presence to Shushan the capital, to the harem, to the custody of Hege, the king's eunuch, keeper of the women; and let their ointments be given them;

**4.** And let the girl which pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the matter pleased the king; and he did so.

**5.** There was a Jewish man in Shushan the capital, and his name was Mordecai, son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjamite;

**6.** Who had been exiled from Jerusalem among the captives exiled with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled.

**7.** And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter; for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was beautiful and of good presence; and, when her father and her mother died, Mordecai adopted her as a daughter.

**8.** So it came to pass, when the king's command and his decree were heard, and when many girls were gathered together in Shushan the capital, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also to the king's palace, to the custody of Hegai, guardian of the women.

**9.** And the girl pleased him, and she won his favor; and he quickly gave her her ointments, and her appointed portions, and seven maids, chosen to be to given her, from the king's palace; and he advanced her and her maids to the best place in the harem.

**10.** Esther had not declared her people nor her country; for Mordecai had charged her that she should not tell.

**11.** And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the harem, to know how Esther was, and what was done to her.

**12.** And when every maid's turn had come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, namely six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet perfumes, and

with other ointments for women;

**13.** Then thus came every girl to the king; whatever she desired was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

**14.** In the evening she went, and on the morning she returned to the second harem, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who guarded the concubines; she came to the king no more, unless the king had delighted in her, and she was summoned by name.

**15.** Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his daughter, came to go to the king, she asked for nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the keeper of the women, advised. And Esther found favor in the sight of all those who looked upon her.

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

**17.** And the king loved Esther above all the other women, and she found grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

**18.** Then the king made a great banquet for all his princes and his servants, it was Esther's feast; and he granted a remission of taxes to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

**19.** And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

**20.** Esther had not yet told her country nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her; for Esther did the command of Mordecai, as when she was brought up with him.

**21.** In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, of those who guarded the door, were angry, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

**22.** And the matter was known to Mordecai, who told it to Esther the queen; and Esther informed the king of it in Mordecai's name.

**23.** And when inquiries were made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree; and it was written in the Book of the Chronicles in the presence of the king.

## **Chapter 3**

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

**2.** And all the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, bowed, and did obeisance to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow, nor did him obeisance.

**3.** Then the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, said to Mordecai, Why do you transgress the king's command?

**4.** (K) Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him, and he did not listen to them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

**5.** And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow, nor did him obeisance, then was Haman full of wrath.

**6.** And he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had told him the people of

Mordecai; therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, the people of Mordecai.

**7.** In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

**8.** And Haman said to king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; and their laws are different from those of every other people; and they do not keep the king's laws; therefore it is not for the king's profit to tolerate them.

**9.** If it please the king, let it be decreed that they may be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those who have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

**10.** And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

**11.** And the king said to Haman, The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you.

**12.** Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded to the king's satraps, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to its writing, and to every people in their own language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

**13.** And the letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to plunder their goods.

**14.** The copy of the decree was given out as a law in every province, to be proclaimed to all the peoples, so that they should be ready for that day.

**15.** The couriers hurried out by the king's command, and the decree was given in Shushan the capital. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was in consternation.

## Chapter 4

**1.** When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

**2.** And came before the king's gate; for no one might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

**3.** And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

**4.** (K) So Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her. Then was the queen exceedingly distressed; and she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him; but he would not accept them.

**5.** Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's eunuchs, whom he had appointed to attend on her, and gave him a command to Mordecai, to learn what this was, and why it was.

**6.** So Hatach went forth to Mordecai to the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.

**7.** (K) And Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him, and of the sum of money that

Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for destroying the Jews.

**8.** Also he gave him the copy of the written decree that was issued at Shushan to destroy them, to show it to Esther, and to declare it to her, and to charge her that she should go to the king, to make supplication to him, and entreat him for her people.

**9.** And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

**10.** Again Esther spoke to Hatach, and gave him a command for Mordecai;

**11.** All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, know, that whoever, whether man or woman, shall come to the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is a law; to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, that he may live; but I have not been called to come to the king these thirty days.

**12.** And they told Mordecai Esther's words.

**13.** Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not yourself that in the king's palace you shall escape, any more than all the Jews.

**14.** For if you remain silent at this time, then shall relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but you and your father's house shall be destroyed. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

**15.** Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

**16.** Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day; I also and my girls will fast likewise; and so will I go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.

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

## **Chapter 5**

**1.** And it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal dress, and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, opposite the king's palace; and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal palace, opposite the gate of the house.

**2.** And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the scepter.

**3.** Then said the king to her, What do you wish, queen Esther? and what is your request? It shall be given to you even to the half of the kingdom.

**4.** And Esther answered, If it seem good to the king, let the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him.

**5.** Then the king said, Make Haman hurry, that he may do as Esther has said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

**6.** And the king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, What is your petition? and it shall be granted you; and what is your request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be granted.

**7.** Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;

**8.** If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to grant my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king has said.

**9.** Then went Haman out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he did not stand nor stir for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

- 10.** And Haman refrained himself; and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.
- 11.** And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things by which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.
- 12.** And Haman said, And Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king to the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow I am also invited to her with the king.
- 13.** Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.
- 14.** And Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, Let a gallows be made fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak to the king that Mordecai may be hanged on it; then go in cheerfully with the king to the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he had the gallows made.

## **Chapter 6**

- 1.** On that night the king could not sleep, and he commanded to bring the Book of Records of the Chronicles; and they were read before the king.
- 2.** And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.
- 3.** And the king said, What honor and dignity has been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants who ministered to him, Nothing was done for him.
- 4.** And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman had come into the outward court of the king's palace, to speak to the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.
- 5.** And the king's servants said to him, Behold, Haman stands in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.
- 6.** So Haman came in. And the king said to him, What shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?
- 7.** And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delights to honor,
- 8.** Let the royal clothing be brought which the king wears, and the horse that the king rides upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head;
- 9.** And let this clothing and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man with it whom the king delights to honor, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.
- 10.** Then the king said to Haman, Hurry, and take the clothing and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate; let nothing fail of all that you have spoken.
- 11.** Then took Haman the clothing and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.
- 12.** And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house mourning, and having his head covered.
- 13.** And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife to him, If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the seed of the Jews, you shall not prevail against him, but shall surely fall before him.

**14.** And while they were still talking with him, came the king's eunuchs, and hurried to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

## **Chapter 7**

- 1.** So the king and Haman came to feast with Esther the queen.
- 2.** And the king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is your petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted you; and what is your request? and it shall be fulfilled, even to the half of the kingdom.
- 3.** Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request;
- 4.** For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to be annihilated. But if we had been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept my silence, since the affliction would not have equalled the kings' damage.
- 5.** And the king Ahasuerus answered and said to Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that does presume in his heart to do so?
- 6.** And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.
- 7.** And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went to the palace garden; and Haman stood up to beg Esther the queen for his life; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.
- 8.** Then the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the wine drinking; and Haman was falling upon the couch where Esther was. Then said the king, Will he also force the queen with me present in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.
- 9.** And Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, stands in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him on it.
- 10.** So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

## **Chapter 8**

- 1.** (K) On that day the king Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman the Jews' enemy to Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was to her.
- 2.** And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.
- 3.** And Esther spoke once more before the king, and fell down at his feet, and pleaded with tears to avert the evil design of Haman the Agagite, and his plot that he had devised against the Jews.
- 4.** Then the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,
- 5.** And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and if I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be decreed to revoke the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces;

**6.** For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come to my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

**7.** (K) Then the king Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he would lay his hand upon the Jews.

**8.** And you write about the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the decrees which are decreed in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, no man can revoke.

**9.** Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on its twenty third day; And it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, and to the satraps, and the governors and the princes of the provinces which are from Hodu to Kush, one hundred twenty and seven provinces, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their own language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

**10.** And he wrote in king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on the swift horses used in the royal service, bred from the royal mares.

**11.** By these the king authorized the Jews who were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to annihilate, any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, infants and women, and to plunder their goods;

**12.** On one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

**13.** (K) The copy of the written command to be issued as a decree in every province, and to be proclaimed to all peoples, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

**14.** So the couriers who rode on horseback, riding on the swift horses used in the royal service, hurried and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was given at Shushan the capital.

**15.** And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal clothes of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

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

**17.** And in every province, and in every city, wherever the king's command and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

## **Chapter 9**

**1.** And in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over those who hated them;

**2.** The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt; and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.

**3.** And all the rulers of the provinces, and the satraps, and the governors, and the officials of the



king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them.

**4.** For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai grew greater and greater.

**5.** Thus the Jews struck all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would to those who hated them.

**6.** And in Shushan the capital the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.

**7.** And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,

**8.** And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,

**9.** And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha,

**10.** The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the plunder they did not lay their hand.

**11.** On that day the number of those who were slain in Shushan the capital was brought before the king.

**12.** And the king said to Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the capital, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is your petition? and it shall be granted you; or what is your request further? and it shall be done.

**13.** Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do tomorrow also according to this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.

**14.** And the king commanded it so to be done; and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

**15. (K)** For the Jews who were in Shushan gathered themselves together also on the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the plunder they did not lay their hand.

**16.** But the other Jews who were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the plunder,

**17.** On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

**18. (K)** But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day of the month, and on the fourteenth day; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

**19. (K)** Therefore the Jews of the villages, who lived in the unwalled towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a holiday, and of sending portions one to another.

**20.** And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters to all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both near and far,

**21.** To establish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,

**22.** Like the days when the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned to them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

**23.** And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written to them;

**24.** Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to

destroy them;

**25.** But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked plot, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

**26.** Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come to them,

**27.** The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all who joined themselves to them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;

**28.** And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.

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

**30.** And he sent the letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, in words of peace and truth,

**31.** To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, with regard to the fasting and their lamenting.

**32.** And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

## **Chapter 10**

**1.** (K) And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the islands of the sea.

**2.** And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

**3.** For Mordecai the Jew was next to king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted by the multitude of his brothers, seeking the good of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.