

# Esther 1

- <sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass in the days of **Ahasuerus**, (this is **Ahasuerus** which reigned, from **India** even unto **Ethiopia**, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces;)
- <sup>2</sup> That in those days, when the king **Ahasuerus** sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in **Shushan** the palace,
- <sup>3</sup> In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto *all* his princes and his servants; the power of **Persia** and **Media**, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being *before* him:
- <sup>4</sup> When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty *many* days, even an hundred and fourscore days.
- <sup>5</sup> And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto *all* the people that were present in **Shushan** the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;
- <sup>6</sup> Where 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 red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.
- <sup>7</sup> And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.
- <sup>8</sup> And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to *all* the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.
- <sup>9</sup> Also **Vashti** the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king **Ahasuerus**.
- <sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded **Mehuman**, **Biztha**, **Harbona**, **Bigtha**, and **Abagtha**, **Zethar**, and **Carcas**, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of **Ahasuerus** the king,
- <sup>11</sup> *To bring* **Vashti** the queen *before* the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.
- <sup>12</sup> But the queen **Vashti** refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

# Esther 1

- <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner *toward all* that knew law and judgment:
- <sup>14</sup> And the next unto him was **Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan**, the seven princes of **Persia** and **Media**, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;) )
- <sup>15</sup> What shall we do unto the queen **Vashti** according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king **Ahasuerus** by the chamberlains?
- <sup>16</sup> And **Memucan** answered *before* the king and the princes, **Vashti** the queen hath not done wrong to the king *only*, but also to *all* the princes, and to *all* the people that are in *all* the provinces of the king **Ahasuerus**.
- <sup>17</sup> For this deed of the queen shall come *abroad* unto *all* women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king **Ahasuerus** commanded **Vashti** the queen to be brought in *before* him, but she came not.
- <sup>18</sup> Likewise shall the ladies of **Persia** and **Media** say this day unto *all* the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise *too much* contempt and wrath.
- <sup>19</sup> If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the **Persians** and the **Medes**, that it be not altered, That **Vashti** come no more *before* king **Ahasuerus**; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.
- <sup>20</sup> And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published *throughout all* his empire, (for it is great;) *all* the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.
- <sup>21</sup> And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of **Memucan**:
- <sup>22</sup> For he sent letters into *all* the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people *after* their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

# Esther 2

- <sup>1</sup> *After* these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.
- <sup>2</sup> Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, **Let there be *fair young virgins sought* for the king:**
- <sup>3</sup> And let the king appoint officers in *all* the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together *all* the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hegai the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them:
- <sup>4</sup> And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen *instead* of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.
- <sup>5</sup> Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;
- <sup>6</sup> Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.
- <sup>7</sup> And he brought *up* Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.
- <sup>8</sup> So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.
- <sup>9</sup> And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, *out* of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.
- <sup>10</sup> Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.
- <sup>11</sup> And Mordecai walked every day *before* the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

# Esther 2

- <sup>12</sup> Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king **Ahasuerus**, *after* that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)
- <sup>13</sup> Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her *out* of the house of the women unto the king's house.
- <sup>14</sup> In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of **Shaashgaz**, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.
- <sup>15</sup> Now when the turn of **Esther**, the daughter of **Abihail** the uncle of **Mordecai**, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what **Hegai** the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And **Esther** obtained favour in the sight of *all* them that looked upon her.
- <sup>16</sup> So **Esther** was taken unto king **Ahasuerus** into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month **Tebeth**, in the seventh year of his reign.
- <sup>17</sup> And the king loved Esther *above all the women*, and she obtained grace and favour 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**.
- <sup>18</sup> Then the king made a great feast unto *all* his princes and his servants, even **Esther's feast**; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.
- <sup>19</sup> And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then **Mordecai** sat in the king's gate.
- <sup>20</sup> **Esther** had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as **Mordecai** had charged her: for **Esther** did the commandment of **Mordecai**, like as when she was brought *up* with him.
- <sup>21</sup> In those days, while **Mordecai** sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, **Bigthan** and **Teresh**, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hands on the king **Ahasuerus**.
- <sup>22</sup> And the thing was known to **Mordecai**, who told it unto **Esther** the queen; and **Esther** certified the king thereof in **Mordecai's name**.
- <sup>23</sup> And when inquisition was 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 *before* the king.

# Esther 3

- <sup>1</sup> *After these things* did king **Ahasuerus** promote Haman the son of **Hammedatha** the **Agagite**, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.
- <sup>2</sup> *And all* the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and reverenced **Haman**: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But **Mordecai** bowed not, nor did him reverence.
- <sup>3</sup> Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto **Mordecai**, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?
- <sup>4</sup> Now it came to pass, when they spake *daily* unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether **Mordecai's matters** would stand: for he had told them that he was a **Jew**.
- <sup>5</sup> And when **Haman** saw that **Mordecai** bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was **Haman** full of wrath.
- <sup>6</sup> *And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone*; for they had shewed him the people of **Mordecai**: wherefore **Haman** sought to destroy all the **Jews** that were throughout the whole kingdom of **Ahasuerus**, even the people of **Mordecai**.
- <sup>7</sup> 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**.
- <sup>8</sup> And **Haman** said unto king **Ahasuerus**, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.
- <sup>9</sup> If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.
- <sup>10</sup> And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto **Haman** the son of **Hammedatha** the **Agagite**, the **Jews'** enemy.
- <sup>11</sup> And the king said unto **Haman**, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.
- <sup>12</sup> 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 unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people *after* their language; in the name of king **Ahasuerus** was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

# Esther 3

- <sup>13</sup> And the letters were sent by posts into *all* the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, *all* **Jews**, both young and old, *little* children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month **Adar**, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.
- <sup>14</sup> The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto *all* people, that they should be ready against that day.
- <sup>15</sup> The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in **Shushan** the palace. And the king and **Haman** sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.



# Esther 4

- <sup>1</sup> When **Mordecai perceived** *all* that was done, **Mordecai rent** 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**;
- <sup>2</sup> And came even *before* the king's **gate**: for **none** might **enter** into the king's gate **clothed** with **sackcloth**.
- <sup>3</sup> And in **every province**, whithersoever the king's **commandment** and his **decree** came, there was **great mourning** among the **Jews**, and **fasting**, and **weeping**, and **wailing**; and **many lay** in **sackcloth** and **ashes**.
- <sup>4</sup> So **Esther's maids** and her **chamberlains** came and told it her. Then was the **queen exceedingly grieved**; and she **sent raiment** to **clothe Mordecai**, and to take **away** his **sackcloth** from him: but he **received** it **not**.
- <sup>5</sup> Then called **Esther** for **Hatach**, one of the king's **chamberlains**, whom he had **appointed** to **attend** upon her, and gave him a **commandment** to **Mordecai**, to **know** what it was, and **why** it was.
- <sup>6</sup> So **Hatach** went forth to **Mordecai** unto the **street** of the **city**, which was *before* the king's **gate**.
- <sup>7</sup> And **Mordecai** told him of *all* that had **happened** unto him, and of the **sum** of the **money** that **Haman** had **promised** to **pay** to the king's **treasuries** for the **Jews**, to **destroy** them.
- <sup>8</sup> Also he gave him the **copy** of the **writing** of the **decree** that was given at **Shushan** to **destroy** them, to shew it unto **Esther**, and to **declare** it unto her, and to **charge** her that she should *go in unto the king*, to make **supplication** unto him, and to make **request** *before* him for her people.
- <sup>9</sup> And **Hatach** came and told **Esther** the **words** of **Mordecai**.
- <sup>10</sup> Again **Esther** spake unto **Hatach**, and gave him **commandment** unto **Mordecai**;
- <sup>11</sup> *All* the king's **servants**, and the people of the king's **provinces**, do **know**, that whosoever, whether **man** or **women**, shall come unto the king into the **inner court**, who is **not called**, there is **one law** of his to put him to **death**, **except** such to whom the king shall **hold out** the **golden sceptre**, that he may **live**: but I have **not** been **called** to come in unto the king these **thirty days**.
- <sup>12</sup> And they told to **Mordecai** **Esther's words**.
- <sup>13</sup> Then **Mordecai commanded** to answer **Esther**, **Think not** with thyself that thou shalt **escape** in the king's **house**, *more than all the Jews*.
- <sup>14</sup> For if thou altogether **holdest** thy **peace** at this **time**, then shall there **enlargement** and **deliverance arise** to the **Jews** from **another place**; but thou and thy father's **house** shall be **destroyed**: and who knoweth whether thou art **come to the kingdom for such a time as this**?
- <sup>15</sup> Then **Esther bade** them **return Mordecai** this answer, <sup>16</sup> Go, gather together *all* the **Jews** that are **present** in **Shushan**, and **fast** ye for me, and **neither eat nor drink three days**, night or day: I also and my **maidens** will fast likewise; and so will I *go in* unto the king, which is **not** according to the **law**: **and if I perish, I perish**. <sup>17</sup> So **Mordecai** went his **way**, and did according to *all* that **Esther** had **commanded** him.

# Esther 5

- <sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass on the third day, that **Esther** put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.
- <sup>2</sup> And it was so, when the king saw **Esther** the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to **Esther** the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So **Esther drew near**, and touched the top of the sceptre.
- <sup>3</sup> Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen **Esther**? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.
- <sup>4</sup> And **Esther** answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and **Haman** come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the king said, Cause **Haman** to make haste, that he may do as **Esther** hath said. So the king and **Haman** came to the banquet that **Esther** had prepared.
- <sup>6</sup> And the king said unto **Esther** at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.
- <sup>7</sup> Then answered **Esther**, and said, My petition and my request is;
- <sup>8</sup> If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and **Haman** come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.
- <sup>9</sup> Then went **Haman** forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when **Haman** saw **Mordecai** in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against **Mordecai**.
- <sup>10</sup> Nevertheless **Haman** refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and **Zeresh** his wife.
- <sup>11</sup> And **Haman** told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.
- <sup>12</sup> **Haman** said moreover, Yea, **Esther** the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself, and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.
- <sup>13</sup> Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see **Mordecai** the Jew sitting at the king's gate.
- <sup>14</sup> Then said **Zeresh** his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that **Mordecai** may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.



# Esther 6

- <sup>1</sup> On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read *before* the king.
- <sup>2</sup> And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.
- <sup>3</sup> And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.
- <sup>4</sup> And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the *outward* court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.
- <sup>5</sup> And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.
- <sup>6</sup> So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour *more* than to myself?
- <sup>7</sup> And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,
- <sup>8</sup> Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:
- <sup>9</sup> And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's *most noble* princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, 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 delighteth to honour.
- <sup>10</sup> Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of *all* that thou hast spoken.
- <sup>11</sup> Then took Haman the apparel 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 unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.
- <sup>12</sup> And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered. <sup>13</sup> 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 unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, *before* whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt *surely fall before* him.
- <sup>14</sup> And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

# Esther 7

- <sup>1</sup> So the king and **Haman** came to banquet with **Esther** the queen.
- <sup>2</sup> And the king said again unto **Esther** on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen **Esther**? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.
- <sup>3</sup> Then **Esther** the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:
- <sup>4</sup> For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the king **Ahasuerus** answered and said unto **Esther** the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?
- <sup>6</sup> And **Esther** said, The adversary and enemy is this *wicked* **Haman**. Then **Haman** was afraid *before* the king and the queen.
- <sup>7</sup> And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and **Haman** stood up to make request for his life to **Esther** the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.
- <sup>8</sup> Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and **Haman** was fallen upon the bed whereon **Esther** was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also *before* me in the house? As the word went *out* of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.
- <sup>9</sup> And **Harbonah**, one of the chamberlains, said *before* the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which **Haman** had made for **Mordecai**, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of **Haman**. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.
- <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for **Mordecai**. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

# Esther 8

- <sup>1</sup> On that day did the king **Ahasuerus** give the house of **Haman** the **Jews'** enemy unto **Esther** the queen. And **Mordecai** came *before* the king; for **Esther** had told what he was unto her.
- <sup>2</sup> And the king took *off* his ring, which he had taken from **Haman**, and gave it unto **Mordecai**. And **Esther** set **Mordecai** over the house of **Haman**.
- <sup>3</sup> And **Esther** spake yet again *before* the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of **Haman** the **Agagite**, and his device that he had devised against the **Jews**.
- <sup>4</sup> Then the king held out the golden sceptre *toward* **Esther**. So **Esther** arose, and stood *before* the king,
- <sup>5</sup> And said, If it please the king, and if I have favour in his sight, and the thing seem right *before* the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by **Haman** the son of **Hammedatha** the **Agagite**, which he wrote to destroy the **Jews** which are in *all* the king's provinces:
- <sup>6</sup> For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?
- <sup>7</sup> Then the king **Ahasuerus** said unto **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 laid his hand upon the **Jews**.
- <sup>8</sup> Write ye also for the **Jews**, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.
- <sup>9</sup> Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month **Sivan**, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to *all* that **Mordecai** commanded unto the **Jews**, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from **India** unto **Ethiopia**, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people *after* their language, and to the **Jews** according to their writing, and according to their language.
- <sup>10</sup> And he wrote in the king **Ahasuerus'** name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:
- <sup>11</sup> Wherein the king granted the **Jews** which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay and to cause to perish, *all* the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,

# Esther 8

- <sup>12</sup> Upon one day in *all* the provinces of king **Ahasuerus**, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month **Adar**.
- <sup>13</sup> The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto *all* people, and that the **Jews** should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.
- <sup>14</sup> So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went *out*, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at **Shushan** the palace.
- <sup>15</sup> And **Mordecai** went *out* from the presence of the king in royal apparel 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.
- <sup>16</sup> The **Jews** had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.
- <sup>17</sup> And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment 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.

# Esther 9

- <sup>1</sup> Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment 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 them that hated them;)
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> And *all* the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.
- <sup>4</sup> For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went *out* throughout *all* the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.
- <sup>5</sup> Thus the Jews smote *all* their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.
- <sup>6</sup> And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.
- <sup>7</sup> And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,
- <sup>8</sup> And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,
- <sup>9</sup> And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha,
- <sup>10</sup> The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.
- <sup>11</sup> On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought *before* the king.
- <sup>12</sup> And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request *further*? and it shall be done.
- <sup>13</sup> Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.
- <sup>14</sup> And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

# Esther 9

- <sup>15</sup> For the **Jews** that were in **Shushan** gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month **Adar**, and slew three hundred men at **Shushan**; but on the prey they laid not their hand.
- <sup>16</sup> But the other **Jews** that 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 and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,
- <sup>17</sup> On the thirteenth day of the month **Adar**; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- <sup>18</sup> But the **Jews** that were at **Shushan** assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- <sup>19</sup> Therefore the **Jews** of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month **Adar** a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.
- <sup>20</sup> And **Mordecai** wrote these things, and sent letters unto *all* the **Jews** that were in *all* the provinces of the king **Ahasuerus**, both *nigh* and *far*,
- <sup>21</sup> To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month **Adar**, and the fifteenth day of the same, *yearly*,
- <sup>22</sup> As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.
- <sup>23</sup> And the **Jews** undertook to do as they had begun, and as **Mordecai** had written unto them;
- <sup>24</sup> Because **Haman** the son of **Hammedatha**, the **Agagite**, the enemy of *all* the **Jews**, had devised against the **Jews** to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;
- <sup>25</sup> But when **Esther** came *before* the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the **Jews**, should return upon his *own* head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.
- <sup>26</sup> Wherefore 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 unto them,



# Esther 9

- <sup>27</sup> The **Jews** ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon *all* such as joined themselves unto 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;
- <sup>28</sup> 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.
- <sup>29</sup> Then **Esther** the queen, the daughter of **Abihail**, and **Mordecai** the **Jew**, wrote with *all* authority, to confirm this second letter of *Purim*.
- <sup>30</sup> And he sent the letters unto *all* the **Jews**, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of **Ahasuerus**, with words of peace and truth,
- <sup>31</sup> 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, the matters of the fastings and their cry.
- <sup>32</sup> And the decree of **Esther** confirmed these matters of **Purim**; and it was written in the book.

# Esther 10

- <sup>1</sup> And the king **Ahasuerus** laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.
- <sup>2</sup> And *all* the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of **Mordecai**, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of **Media** and **Persia**?
- <sup>3</sup> For **Mordecai** the **Jew** was *next* unto king **Ahasuerus**, and great among the **Jews**, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to *all* his seed.