



Dear Friends,

The Rabbis have a saying: *Mishenichnas Adar marbim b'simcha!* When Adar begins, our joy increases! That's because the month of Adar brings us the holiday of Purim.

At BTS, Purim is always a blast. We dress in costumes and silly hats, take turns reading the Megillah, tell bad jokes, sing, eat and drink. We boo for the bad guys and cheer for Mordechai, Esther, and even Vashti. Last year, we also enjoyed a hilarious Purim spiel.

And . . . Purim 2020 was the last time we met in person before shutting down our building as the coronavirus began spreading across the U.S. At the time, we were certain the shutdown would be brief. Now nearly a year has passed. And, oy, what a year!

As Purim approaches once again, I am reminded of one of the holiday's central themes: that the world can go topsy-turvy at any moment. The Megillah of Esther tells a tale about long-ago Jews, condemned to death by an evil grand vizier, whose fortunes are reversed at the last moment by a brave queen. The villain gets strung up on the gallows he had built for Mordechai the Jew, and Mordechai, in turn, becomes the new grand vizier. Crazy, huh?

Here's my point. Sometimes, the world turns upside-down when you least expect it. It happened back in Shushan. It happened in 2020. It's still happening. The world is upside down. And inside out. But Adar is here and Purim's coming all the same.

So, despite (maybe even because of) COVID-19, we are going to do our best to increase our joy and celebrate Purim with a bang this year . . . on Zoom and at home!

There are ***four mitzvot*** associated with the holiday of Purim and we can do them all:

1. **Hearing the *Megillah*** - Join us on **Thursday evening, February 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for a zany Zoom Megillah reading and "COVID in Shushan" Purim spiel. Funny masks encouraged, but not required. Use the gragger in this package and feel free to bring out pots and pans and anything else you want to drown out you-know-who's name! **Be sure to register in advance at https://bit.ly/BTS_Purim_5781.**
2. **Hosting a *Seudat Purim*/festive Purim meal** - Set up a Zoom or Facetime call and "invite" a guest to join you for a Purim ice cream or tea party. No computer? Call a friend or family member on the phone and wish them a happy Purim!
3. **Sending *Mishloach Manot* /gifts of food to friends and family** - Enjoy the goodies in this package and send some to others if you can. For some yummy Purim recipes, check out www.kveller.com/purim-recipes-its-not-just-hamantaschen/.
4. **Giving *Matanot La-evyonim*/donations to the poor** - Spread the joy! Give *tzedakah* to the charity of your choice in honor of the holiday.

Stay safe and well and be happy – it's Adar, after all!

Rabbi Debra A. Cantor



שירון לפורים Purim Song Sheet

1. מִשְׁנְכָנָס אָדָר

מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, (2 פעמים)
 מִשְׁנְכָנָס אָדָר
 מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, מִשְׁ-, (2 פעמים)
 מִשְׁנְכָנָס אָדָר
 מִשְׁנְכָנָס, אָדָר, מְרַבֵּין בְּשִׁמְחָה (2 פעמים)

1. Mishenikhnas Adar

Mishe-, mishe-, mishe-, mishe- (x2)
 Mishenikhnas Adar
 Mishe-, mishe-, mishe-, mishe- (x2)
 Mishenikhnas Adar
 Mishenikhnas, Adar, marbin b'simhah (x2)

When the month of Adar arrives, we increase our joy.

2. אָנָּי פּוּרִים

אָנָּי פּוּרִים, אָנָּי פּוּרִים, שְׁמָחָה וּמִבְדָּה,
 הַלָּא רָק פָּעֵם בָּשָׁנָה אַבּוֹא לְהִתְאַרְתָּה. לְהַ לְהַ...

2. Ani Purim

Ani Purim, ani Purim, samei'ah umvadei'ah,
 Halo rak pa'am ba-shanah avo l'hitarei'ah. La la la...

I am Purim, happy and joyous. Just once a year I come to visit. La la la...

3. חָג פּוּרִים

חָג פּוּרִים, חָג פּוּרִים, חָג גָּדוֹל לִיהוּדִים
 מַסְכּוֹת, רַעֲשִׁנִים, זְמִירּוֹת וּרְוקֻדִים
 הַבָּהַ נָרִישָׁה: רָשׁ רָשׁ רָשׁ (3 פעמים), בְּרַעֲשָׁנִים

3. Hag Purim

Hag Purim, hag Purim, hag gadol la-y'hudim
 Maseikhot, ra'ashanim, z'mirot v'rikudim
 Havah narishah: rash rash rash (x3), bar'aashanim

The holiday of Purim, a major holiday for the Jewish people; masks, groggers, songs, and dances.

Come, let's make noise: rash rash rash, with our groggers.

4. לְכֹבֵעַ שְׁלִי

לְכֹבֵעַ שְׁלִי שְׁלִי פְּנוֹת, שְׁלִישׁ פְּנוֹת לְכֹבֵעַ שְׁלִי
 וְעַם לֹא הָיָה לוֹ שְׁלִישׁ פְּנוֹת, לֹא הָיָה זֶה הַכֹּבֵעַ שְׁלִי

4. La-kova Sheli

La-kova sheli shalosh pinot, shalosh pinot la-kova sheli
 V'im lo hayu lo shalosh pinot, lo hayah zeh ha-kova sheli

My hat has three corners. If it did not have three corners, it would not be my hat!

5. לִיצָּן קָטָן נְחַמֵּד

לִיצָּן קָטָן נְחַמֵּד, רֹקֵד עַם כָּל אֶחָד,
 לִיצָּן קָטָן שְׁלִי, אָוְלִי תְּרַקֵּד אַתִּי?
 אָוְלִי, אָוְלִי, אָוְלִי תְּרַקֵּד אַתִּי? (2 פעמים)

5. Leitzan Katan Nehmad

Leitzan katan nehmad, rokeid im kol ehad,
 Leitzan katan sheli, ulai tirkod iti?
 Ulai, ulai, ulai tirkod iti? (x2)

A cute little clown dances with everyone. My little clown, won't you dance with me?

6. שׁוֹשָׁנָת יְעָקֹב

שׁוֹשָׁנָת יְעָקֹב אֶחָלה וְשִׁמְחָה,
 בִּרְאֹוֹתָם יְחִיד תְּכִלַּת מְרַדְּכִי
 תְּשִׁוּעָתָם הָיִתְּ לְנִצְחָה, וְתְּקוּתָם בְּכָל דָּוָר וְדָוָר.
 בָּרוּךְ מְרַדְּכִי הַיְהוּדִי (2 פעמים)

6. Shoshanat Ya'akov

Shoshanat Ya'akov tzoholah v'sameihah,
 Birotam yahad t'kheilet Mord'khai
 T'shu'atam, hay'tah la-neitzah, v'tikvatam, b'khol dor va-dor
 Barukh Mord'khai hay'hudi (x2)

Jacob's rose thrilled with joy at the sight of Mordekhai's t'kheilet.

You have been their deliverance for eternity, their hope for every generation. Blessed is Mordekhai the Jew.

7. עַל הַנִּסִּים

עַל הַנִּסִּים, וְעַל הַפְּרָקָן, וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת, וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת,
 וְעַל הַמְּלֹחָמֹת, שְׁעַשְ׀תָּ לְאַבּוֹתֵינוּ
 בָּיִמִּים הָהִם בָּזְמָן הַזֶּה.

7. Al Hanisim

Al ha-nisim v'al ha-purkan v'al ha-t'shu'ot v'al ha-g'vurot,
 V'al ha-milhamot she-asita la-avoteinu,
 Ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh

*[We give thanks] For the miraculous deliverance, for the strength and the triumphs
 that you have established for our ancestors in those days, in modern times.*



Purim 5781 Megillah Reading

אֲסָתָר Esther 1:1-3

א וַיְהִי, בִּימֵי אַחֲשֹׁרֹשׁ : הַוָּא
אַחֲשֹׁרֹשׁ, הַמֶּלֶךְ מִהָּדוּ וְעַד-פּוֹשֵׁ
שְׁבֻעָ וְעִשְׁרִים וּמֵאָה, מִדִּינָה.

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus—this is King Ahasuerus who reigned from India even unto Ethiopia, over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces—

ב בִּימֵים, הַהָּם—כִּשְׁבַּת הַמֶּלֶךְ
אַחֲשֹׁרֹשׁ, עַל כִּסֵּא מֶלֶכְתּוֹ, אֲשֶׁר,
בְּשׁוֹשָׁן הַבִּירָה.

2 That in those days, when the King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the castle,

ג בָּשָׁנָה שְׁלֹשׁ, לְמֶלֶכְוֹ, עָשָׂה מִשְׁתָּחָה
לְכָל-שָׂרִיו וּעֲבָדָיו : חִיל פְּרָס וּמִדִּי,
הַפְּרָתִים וּשְׂרֵי מִדִּינָות—לִפְנֵי.

3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the army of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him;

P: Now there's no doubt this king knew how to party! For more than one hundred and eighty days he showed off the vast riches and splendor of his kingdom. At the end of those six months, the king held a grand banquet for seven straight days in his private palace garden for everyone who lived in the fortress Shushan, rich and poor alike. Everyone, but everyone, was blown away by the décor! Blue and white tapestries and royal purple hangings strung by cords of fine linen over rods of silver; huge white columns; couches of gold and silver on a pavement of marble, alabaster, mother-of-pearl, and mosaics. The guests were awestruck.

P: And that was before the drinking began. The wine flowed like nothing they had ever seen. From golden goblets! The rule was “No limits!” and everyone, especially the king, took that to heart. Queen Vashti, meanwhile, held a banquet inside the palace for the women. By the end of the seventh day, the king was “merry with wine,” and that’s an understatement. He ordered the seven eunuchs attending him to fetch Queen Vashti and bring her to him wearing only her royal crown, so he could show off her beauty to his guests.

P: Then a shocking thing happened. The queen—who was, after all, hosting her own party, who perhaps did not wish to be displayed to the crowd along with the king's other precious things, who maybe felt like wearing more than just a crown, who did not relish being brought to entertain a crowd of men who had been drinking heavily for seven days—Queen Vashti said no! She refused to come at the king's command. And this angered the king tremendously. He was greatly incensed, and his fury burned within him.

אֲسֵתֶר Esther 1:13-22

יג וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, לְחַכְמִים יְדַעֵי
הַעֲתִים: כִּי-כֹּו, דָּבָר הַמֶּלֶךְ, לִפְנֵי,
כָּל-יְדַעֵי דָת וְדִין.

יד וּמִקְרָב אֲלֵיו, כְּרָשָׁנָא שְׁתָר
אַדְמַתָּא תְּרַשִּׁישׁ, מְרָסָ מְרָסָנָא,
מִמּוֹקָן—שְׁבָעָת שְׁרֵי פְּרָס וּמְדִי, רָאִי
פִּנֵּי הַמֶּלֶךְ, הַיְשָׁבִים רָאשָׁנָה, בְּמִלְכּוֹת.

טו כְּדַת, מָה-לְעָשֹׂת, בְּמִלְכָה, וְשַׁתִּי-
עַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָשָׂתָה, אַת-מִאָמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֲחַשְׁוֹרֹשׁ, בִּיד, הַסְּרִיסִים.

ט' וַיֹּאמֶר מָוֹמָכָן (מִמּוֹקָן), לִפְנֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וּהַשְּׁרִים, לֹא עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לְבָדוֹ,
עִוְתָה וְשַׁתִּי הַמִּלְכָה: כִּי עַל-כָּל-
הַשְּׁרִים, וְעַל-כָּל-הָעָםִים, אֲשֶׁר,
בְּכָל-מִדְינּוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֹרֹשׁ.

י' כִּי-יֵצֵא דָבָר-הַמִּלְכָה עַל-כָּל-
הַנְּשִׁים, לְהַבָּזֹות בְּעַלְיֵהוּן
בְּעִינֵיהוּן: בְּאָמָרָם, הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֹרֹשׁ
אָמָר לְהַבְיא אַת-וְשַׁתִּי הַמִּלְכָה
לִפְנֵיו—וְלֹא-בָּאָה.

י"ח וְהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה תָּאִמְרָנָה שְׁרוֹת
פְּרָס-וּמְדִי, אֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעוּ אַת-דָבָר

13 Then the king said to the wise men, who were learned in procedure—for it was the king's manner to turn toward all that knew law and judgment;

14 And next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face and sat first in the kingdom:

15 "What shall be done to Queen Vashti according to law, forasmuch as she has not done the bidding of the King Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?"

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: "Queen Vashti has not done wrong only to the king, but also to all the princes, and to all the peoples that are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

17 For this deed of the queen will come abroad unto all women, to make their husbands contemptible in their eyes, when it will be said: 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.'

18 And this day the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the deed of the queen will say the like unto all the king's

הַמֶּלֶךְ, לְכָל, שְׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ; וְכַדִּי,
בְּזִיוֹן וְקָצָף.

יט אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב, יֵצֵא דָבָר-
מַלְכִוֹת מִלְפָנֵיו, וַיַּכְתֵּב בְּדָתֵי פְּרָס-
וּמְדִי, וְלَا יַעֲבֹר: אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תִבּוֹא
וְשִׁתִּי, לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשְׁוֹרוֹשׁ,
וּמְלִכּוֹתָה יִתְנוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ, לְרַעֲוֹתָה
הַטּוֹבָה מִפְנֵה.

כ וְנִשְׁמַע פְּתַגְמָם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-יַעֲשֵׂה
בְּכָל-מַלְכּוֹתָו, כִּי רַבָּה הִיא; וְכָל-
הַנְּשִׁים, יִתְנוּ יָקָר לְבָעֵלֵי הָוָן—לִמְגֹדוֹל,
וְעַד-קָטוֹן.

כא וַיַּיְתֵּב, הַדָּבָר, בַּעֲינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ,
וְהַשְּׂרִים; וַיַּעֲשֵׂה הַמֶּלֶךְ, כְּדָבָר מִמּוֹכָן.

כב וַיַּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים, אֶל-כָּל-מִדִּינּוֹת
הַמֶּלֶךְ—אֶל-מִדִּינָה וּמִדִּינָה בְּכָתְבָה,
וְאֶל-עַם וְעַם בְּלָשׁוֹן: לְהִיוֹת כָּל-
אִישׁ שָׂרֵר בְּבֵיתוֹ, וּמִדָּבָר בְּלָשׁוֹן עָמוֹ.

princes. So will there arise enough contempt and wrath.

19 If it please the king, let there go forth a royal commandment, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, that Vashti shall no more come before King Ahasuerus, and that the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his kingdom, great though it be, all the wives will give to their husbands honor, both to great and small."

21 And this pleased the king and the princes; and the king did as Memucan proposed.

22 And he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to every province according to its own writing, and to every people in their language, that every man should rule in his own home, and speak the language of his people.

אסתר Esther 2:1-7

א אָמַר, מְדָבָרִים הָאֶלְהָה, כַּשְׁדָה, חֲמַת
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשְׁוֹרוֹשׁ—זָכַר אֶת-וְשִׁתִּי וְאֶת
אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂתָה, וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר-נִגְזַר עֲלֶיהָ.

ב וַיֹּאמְרוּ נָעָרִי-הַמֶּלֶךְ,
מִשְׁרָתִיו: יִבְקַשׁוּ לְמֶלֶךְ נָעָרֹת
בִּתּוֹלוֹת, טוֹבָות מְרָאָה.

ג וַיַּפְקַד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים, בְּכָל-מִדִּינּוֹת
מַלְכִוֹתָו, וַיִּקְבְּצֻוּ אֶת-כָּל-נָעָרָה-בִּתּוֹלוֹת

1 After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was assuaged, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him: "Let there be sought for the king young virgins fair to look on;

3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may

טוֹבָת מְرָאָה אֶל-שׁוֹשָׁן הַבִּירָה אֶל-
בֵּית הַנְּשִׁים, אֶל-יַד הַגָּא סְרִיס הַמֶּלֶךְ
שְׁמֵר הַנְּשִׁים; וְנִתְוֹן, תְּמִרְקִיחָן.

ד וְהַנְּעָרָה, אֲשֶׁר תִּיטְבּוֹנְתָּה בַּעֲיִニִי הַמֶּלֶךְ—
תִּמְלְךָ, תִּמְתַּחַת וְשִׁתִּי; וַיִּטְבּוֹנְתָּה מְזֻבָּר
בַּעֲיִニִי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיַּעֲשֵׂה כֵּן.

ה אִישׁ יְהוּדִי, הַיְהָ בְּשׁוֹשָׁן הַבִּירָה;
וּשְׁמוֹ מְרֹדְכָּי, בֶּן יָאִיר בֶּן-שְׁמֵעִי בֶּן—
קִישׁ-אִישׁ יְמִינִי.

ו אֲשֶׁר הַגְּלָה, מִירוּשָׁלָם, עַם-הַגְּלָה—
אֲשֶׁר הַגְּלָתָה, עַם יְכֹנִיה מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה—
אֲשֶׁר הַגְּלָה, נְבוּכְדָּנָצָר מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל.

ז וַיַּהַי אָמֵן אֶת-חֶדֶשָּׁה, הִיא אָסְטָר
בַּת-דָּדוֹ—כִּי אֵין לָהּ, אָב וְאִם; וְהַנְּעָרָה
יִפְתַּח-תַּאֲרָר, וַיְטוֹבָת מְרָאָה, וּבְמוֹתָה
אָבִיהָ וְאָמִתָּה, לְקַחַת מְרֹדְכָּי לֹו לִבְתָּה.

gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the castle, to the house of the women, under the custody of Hegai the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their ointments be given them;

4 And let the maiden that pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." And the proposal pleased the king; and he did so.

5 There was a certain Jew in Shushan the castle whose name was Mordecai, son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjamite.

6 [Kish] had been exiled from Jerusalem with the captives that had been carried away with King Jeconiah of Judah, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadassah—that is, Esther—his uncle's daughter; for she had neither father nor mother. And the maiden was shapely and beautiful; and when her father and mother were dead, Mordechai took her for his own daughter.

P: Soon, word of the king's edict spread all over the land, and many maidens were gathered from around the countryside into the walled city of Shushan. They were brought to the harem and placed under the supervision of Hegai, guardian of the women. Mordechai's niece, Esther, was one of these young women and Hegai took a particular shine to her; he gave Esther and the maids who waited on her special cosmetics and treats and treated them with great kindness. During all this time, Esther was careful not to mention her people or her family background, for Mordechai had warned her not to reveal she was Jewish. Every single day, Mordechai would hang around outside the harem, hoping to hear news of Esther and how she was doing.

P: At the end of a twelve-month preparation period (six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and cosmetics, just in case you were wondering), each young woman took her turn to go in and see the king. She could ask for whatever she wanted to take with her from the harem to the king's palace and it would be given to her. When the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she did not ask for anything extra aside from what

Hegai, guardian of the women, had advised her. Yet Esther won the admiration of all who saw her.

P: 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 crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

The king gave a great banquet for all his officials and courtiers, which he called “the banquet of Esther.” He proclaimed a remission of taxes for the provinces and distributed kingly gifts. But Esther still did not reveal her kindred or her people, as Mordechai had instructed her.

P: One day, soon afterward, when Mordechai was sitting by the palace gate, he overheard two of the king’s guards, Bigthan and Teresh, plotting to do away with King Ahasuerus. Mordecai reported the plot to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in Mordechai’s name. 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. (Keep this fact in mind for later on in our story!)

אֲסֵתֶר Esther 3:1-11

א אָמַר הָדָבָרִים הָאֱלֹהִים, גָּדוֹל הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֲחַשְׁוֹרֹשׁ אֶת-הַמְּנוּבָן-הַמְּדָתָא
הָאָגָגִי—וַיַּנְשַׁאֲהוּ; וַיַּשְׁם, אֶת-
פְּסָאוֹ, מַעַל, כָּל-הַשָּׁרִים אֲשֶׁר-אָתָו.

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 that were with him.

ב וְכֹל-עֲבָדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-בַּשְׁעַר
הַמֶּלֶךְ, פָּרָעִים וּמְשֻׁתְחוּם לְהַמְּנוּ-
כִּי-כֹן, צֹוָה-לֹו הַמֶּלֶךְ; וּמְרַדְכָּי—
לֹא יִכְרֹעַ, וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחַווּ.

2 And all the king’s servants that were in the king’s gate bowed down and prostrated themselves before Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down, nor prostrate himself before him.

ג וַיֹּאמְרוּ עֲבָדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר-
בַּשְׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ—לְמְרַדְכָּי: מִדּוּעַ
אַתָּה עֹבֵר, אֶת-מִצּוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ.

3 Then the king’s servants who were in the king’s gate said to Mordecai: “Why did you transgress the king’s commandment?”

ד וַיֹּהִי, כִּאֲמָרָם אֵלֵינוּ יוֹם וַיּוֹם,
וְלֹא שָׁמַע, אֲלֵיכֶם; וַיֹּאמְדוּ לְהַמְּנוּ,
לִרְאֹת הַעֲמָדוֹ דְּבָרֵי מְרַדְכָּי—כִּי-
הָגִיד לָהֶם, אֲשֶׁר-הַוָּא יְהוּדִי.

4 Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him and he hearkened not to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordechai’s words would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

ה וַיַּרְא הַמּוֹן—כִּי-אֵין מְרַדְּכֵי, כֶּרֶע
וּמְשֻׁתְּחָוָה לוֹ; וַיַּפְלַּא הַמּוֹן, חָמָה.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down, nor prostrated himself before him, then was Haman full of wrath.

ו וַיַּבַּז בְּעֵינָיו, לְשַׁלֵּחַ יָד בְּמְרַדְּכֵי
לְבָדוֹ—כִּי-הָגִידוּ לוֹ, אַת-עַם
מְרַדְּכֵי; וַיַּבְקַשׁ הַמּוֹן, לְמַשְׁמִיד
אַת-כָּל-הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-
מֶלֶכְתָּא אַחֲשְׁוֹרוֹשׁ—עַם מְרַדְּכֵי.

6 But it seemed contemptible in his eyes to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had made known to him the people of Mordecai; wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

ז בְּחַדְשָׁ הַרְאָשׁוֹן, הַוָּא-חַדְשׁ נִיסְן,
בְּשִׁנְתָּ שְׁתִּים עַשְׂרָה, לְמֶלֶךְ
אַחֲשְׁוֹרוֹשׁ: הַפִּיל פּוֹר הַוָּא הַגּוֹרֵל
לִפְנֵי הַמּוֹן, מִיּוֹם לִיּוֹם וּמִחַדְשׁ
לְחַדְשׁ שְׁנִים-עַשְׂרָה—הַוָּא-חַדְשׁ אָדָר.

7 In the first month, which 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, which is the month of Adar.

ח וַיֹּאמֶר הַמּוֹן, לְמֶלֶךְ אַחֲשְׁוֹרוֹשׁ—
יִשְׁנוּ עַם-אַחֲד מִפְּזַר וּמִפְּרַד בֵּין
הַעֲמִים, בְּכָל מִדְיָנִים מִלְכֹוֹתָךְ;
וְדַתְּיָהּם שְׁנוֹת מִכָּל-עַם, וְאַת-דָתִי
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַיִּם עֲשִׂים, וּלְמֶלֶךְ אַיִּם
שָׂזה, לְמַנִּיחָם.

8 And Haman said to King Ahasuerus: "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; and their laws are diverse from those of every people; neither do they keep the king's laws; therefore it does not profit the king to suffer them.

ט אָס-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טֹוב, יְפַתֵּב
לְאָבָדָם; וְעַשְׂרַת אֶלְפִּים כְּכָסֶף,
אַשְׁקוֹל עַל-יִצְחָק עַשִּׁי הַמֶּלֶאכָה,
לְהַבִּיא, אַל-גִּנְזִיר הַמֶּלֶךְ.

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

י וַיַּסֶּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אַת-טְבֻעָתוֹ, מַעַל
יְדוֹ; וַיִּתְנַהֵה, לִהְמֹן בֶּן-הַמֶּדְתָּא
הַאֲגִי—צִרְרֵר הַיְהוּדִים.

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

יא וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַמּוֹן, הַכָּסֶף
נְתַווּ לְךָ; וְהָעָם, לְעַשּׂוֹת בָּוּ פָטוֹב
בְּעֵינֶיךָ.

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

P: So the king's scribes were summoned and a decree was issued, as Haman directed, 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 [by Haman] with the king's signet, 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. The text of the document was to be publicly displayed to all the peoples, so that they might be ready for that day. 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 stunned.

P: 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. When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he also tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went through the city, crying out loudly and bitterly, until he reached the palace gate; for one could not enter the palace gate wearing sackcloth.

P: When Esther's maidens and eunuchs came and informed her that Mordechai was at the palace gate dressed in sackcloth and ashes, the queen was greatly agitated. She sent proper clothing for Mordecai to wear so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he refused. Then 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.

P: Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the palace gate and Mordecai told him all that had happened, and all about the money that Haman had offered to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him the written text of the law that had been proclaimed in Shushan for their destruction. Mordechai asked him to show it to Esther and inform her, and further asked that she go to the king and appeal to him and plead with him for her people.

P: When Hathach came and delivered Mordecai's message to Esther, Esther told Hathach to take back to Mordecai the following reply:

“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 that person—that he or she be put to death. Only if the king extends the golden scepter to him or her may they live. Please be aware that I have not been summoned to visit the king for the last thirty days.”

אֲסֵתֶר Esther 4:13-17

יג וַיֹּאמֶר מְרֹדְכָּי, לְהַשִּׁיב אֶל-
אָסֵתֶר: אֶל-תַּדְּפִי בְּנֶפֶשׁךְ, לְהַפְּלִיט
בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ מִכָּל-הִיּוֹדִים.

יד פִּי אֶסְ-הַמְּחִרְשָׁתְּרִישִׁי, בְּעֵת
הַזֹּאת-רוֹחַ וְהַצָּלה יַעֲמֹד לִיּוֹדִים
מִמְּקוֹם אַחֲרֵי, וְאַתְּ וּבֵית-אָבִיךְ
תַּאֲבֹדוּ; וְמַיְ יַוְדַּע-אֶסְ-לִעְתְּפִזְזָתְךָ,
הַגָּעָתְ לְפָלוּכּוֹת.

טו וַתֹּאמֶר אָסֵתֶר, לְהַשִּׁיב אֶל-
מְרֹדְכָּי.

טז לְךָ קָנוֹס אֶת-כָּל-הִיּוֹדִים
הַנִּמְצָאים בְּשׁוֹשָׁן, וְצָוָמוּ עַלְיִ וְאֶל-
תַּאֲכִלוּ וְאֶל-תְּשַׁתּוּ שֶׁלְשָׁת יְמִים
לִלְלָה וְיּוֹם-גָּם-אָנִי וּנְגַעֲרָתִי, אַצּוּם
כֵּן; וּבְכֵן אָבֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-
כָּתַת, וּכְאֶשֶּׁר אָבְדָתִי, אָבְדָתִי.

יז וַיַּעֲבֵר, מְרֹדְכָּי; וַיַּעֲשֵׂה, כָּל אֶשֶּׁר-
צִוָּתָה עַלְיוֹ אָסֵתֶר.

13 Then Mordecai bade them to return this answer unto Esther: "Think not that you shall escape being in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14 For if you altogether hold your peace at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish; and who knows whether you have not come to royal estate for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther bade them return answer unto Mordecai:

16 "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day; I also and my maidens will fast in like manner; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

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

אֲסֵתֶר Esther 5:1-14

א וַיֹּהִי בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁלִישִׁי, וַתַּלְבִּשׁ אָסֵתֶר
מַלְכּוֹת, וַתַּעֲמֹד בְּחַצֵּר בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ
הַפְּנִימִית, נְכַח בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ; וּמַלְךָ
יֹשֵׁב עַל-כִּסֵּא מַלְכִוּתוֹ, בְּבֵית
הַמֶּלֶכּוֹת, נְכַח, פָּתַח הַבַּיִת.

ב וַיֹּהִי כִּרְאוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-אָסֵתֶר
הַמֶּלֶכה, עַמְדָת בְּחַצֵּר-נְשָׂאָה חָנוֹ,

1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Queen 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 entrance of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court she obtained

בְּעִינֵינוּ ; וַיֹּוֹשַׁט הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְטָר, אַת-
שְׁרַבִּיט הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּיַדְוֹ, וַתִּקְרַב
אַסְטָר, וַתַּגְעַגְעַ בְּרַאשׁ הַשְּׁרַבִּיט.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר לְהַמֶּלֶךְ, מִה-לְךָ אַסְטָר
הַמֶּלֶכְתָּה ; וַיֹּאמֶר בְּקַשְׁתָּךְ עַד-חָצֵי
הַמֶּלֶכְתָּה, וַיַּגְתֵּן לְךָ.

ד וַתֹּאמֶר אַסְטָר, אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ
טוֹב—יָבוֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמּוֹן הַיּוֹם, אַל-
הַמְשַׁתָּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂיתִי לוֹ.

ה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ—מִהָרוּ אַת-הַמּוֹן,
לְעֵשֹׂות אַת-דִּבֶּר אַסְטָר ; וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהַמּוֹן, אַל-הַמְשַׁתָּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂתָה
אַסְטָר.

ו וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְטָר בְּמִשְׁתָּה
הַיּוֹם, מִה-שְׁאַלְתָּךְ וַיַּגְתֵּן לְךָ ; וַיֹּאמֶר
בְּקַשְׁתָּךְ עַד-חָצֵי הַמֶּלֶכְתָּה, וַתְּעַש.

ז וַתְּעַנוּ אַסְטָר, וַתֹּאמֶר: שְׁאַלְתִּי,
בְּקַשְׁתִּי.

ח אִם-מִצְאָתִי חִוּ בְּעִינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְאִם-
עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טֹב, לְתִתְתַּת אַת-שְׁאַלְתִּי,
לְעֵשֹׂות אַת-בְּקַשְׁתִּי—יָבוֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהַמּוֹן, אַל-הַמְשַׁתָּה אֲשֶׁר אָעַשָּׂה לָהֶם,
וּמִחרְבָּתָה, כִּדְבָר הַמֶּלֶךְ.

ט וַיֵּצֵא הַמּוֹן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, שְׂמֵחַ וַטּוֹב
לִבְבָּשׁ ; וּכְرָאוֹת הַמּוֹן אַת-מְרַדְכָּי בְּשַׁעַר
הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְלֹא-קָם וְלֹא-זָעַם מִפְנֵיו—
וַיִּמְלֹא הַמּוֹן עַל-מְרַדְכָּי, חָמָה.

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 troubles you, Queen Esther? For whatever your request, even to half of the kingdom, it shall be given to you.'

4 And Esther said: "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

5 Then the king said: "Cause Haman to make haste, that it may be done 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: "Whatever your petition, it shall be granted to you; and whatever your request, even to half of the kingdom, it shall be performed."

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 perform 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 forth Haman that day joyful and glad of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he did not stand, nor moved for him, Haman was filled with wrath against Mordecai.

וַיַּתְאַפֵּק הַמּוֹן, וַיָּבֹא אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ;
וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיִּבְאֶת-אֶת-אֶתְבָּיו, וְאֶת-זֶרֶשׁ
אֲשֶׁתוֹ.

וַיִּסְפֶּר לָהֶם הַמּוֹן אֶת-כְּבוֹד עַשְׂרוֹ,
וְרַב בָּנָיו; וְאֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר גָּדוֹלָה הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר נָשָׂא, עַל-הַשָּׂרִים וְעַבְדִּים
הַמֶּלֶךְ.

וַיֹּאמֶר, הַמּוֹן—אָף לְאֶת-הַבִּיאָה
אָסְטֵר הַמֶּלֶךְ עַם-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-
הַמְשֻׁתָּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂתָה, כִּי אִם-אָתָי;
וְגַם-לִמְחרָה אַנְיִ קְרוֹא-לָהּ, עַם-הַמֶּלֶךְ.

וְכֹל-זֶה, אִינּוֹ שְׂזָה לִי: בְּכָל-עַת,
אֲשֶׁר אַנְיִ רָאֶה אֶת-מְרֹדְכָּי הַיְהוּדִי—
יֹשֶׁב, בַּשְׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ.

וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ זֶרֶשׁ אֲשֶׁתוֹ וּכְלָיו,
אֶתְבָּיו, יַעֲשׂו-עֵץ גְּבָהָה חֲמִשִּׁים אַמִּה,
וּבְבָקָר אָמֵר לְמֶלֶךְ וַיַּתְלוּ אֶת-מְרֹדְכָּי
עַלְיוֹ, וּבְא-עַם-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-הַמְשֻׁתָּה
שְׁמָמָה; וַיִּיטְבֵּל הַדָּבָר לִפְנֵי הַמּוֹן, וַיִּעַשׂ
הַעַזָּה.

10 Nevertheless, Haman refrained himself and went home; and he sent and fetched his friends and his wife Zeresh.

11 And Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches and the multitude of his children, and all about how the king had promoted him and advanced him above all the princes and servants of the king.

12 Haman said moreover: “Queen Esther let no man but myself come in with the king to the banquet that she had prepared, and tomorrow I am also invited by her together with the king.

13 Yet all this means nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.”

14 Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him: “Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and in the morning speak to the king that Mordecai may be hanged on it; then go in merrily with the king to the banquet.” And the thing pleased Haman, and he caused the gallows to be made.

אסטר Esther 6:1-14

א בְּלִילָה הַהוּא, נִדְדָה שְׁנִית הַמֶּלֶךְ;
וַיֹּאמֶר, לְהַבִּיא אֶת-סְפִיר הַזְּכָרְנוֹת
דָּבְרֵי הַיּוֹם, וַיְהִי נִקְרָאים, לִפְנֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ.

ב וַיִּמְצָא כְּתוּב, אֲשֶׁר הָגִיד מְרֹדְכָּי
עַל-בְּגִתְנָא וְתִרְשָׁ שְׁנִי סְרִיסִי הַמֶּלֶךְ—

1 On that night the king could not sleep, and he commanded the book of records to be brought, and they were read before the king.

2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains who guarded the door, who

מָשָׁמְרִי, מְשִׁיר : אֲשֶׁר בְּקָשׁו לְשַׁלֵּח יָד,
בַּמֶּלֶך אַמְשִׁירֹשׁ.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶך – מִה – נָעֹשָׂה יִקְרָא
וְגִדּוֹלָה לְמֹרְדָּכָי, עַל – זה ; וַיֹּאמֶר
נָעַרְיָה הַמֶּלֶך, מִשְׁרְתָּיו, לֹא – נָעֹשָׂה עָמוֹ,
דָּבָר.

ד וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶך, מַי בְּחִצָּר ; וְהַמּוֹן
בָּא, לְחִצָּר בֵּית – הַמֶּלֶך הַחִיצָּנוֹה,
לְאָמֶר לְמֶלֶך, לִתְלֹוֹת אֶת – מֹרְדָּכָי עַל –
הַעַץ אֲשֶׁר – הַכִּין לוֹ.

ה וַיֹּאמֶר נָעַרְיָה הַמֶּלֶך, אֶל – הַגָּהָה
הַמּוֹן, עַמְד בְּחִצָּר ; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶך,
בָּוֹא.

ו וַיָּבֹא, הַמּוֹן, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶך, מַה –
לְעֹשָׂת בְּאִיש אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶך חִפֵּץ
בַּיְקָרָו ; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמּוֹן, בְּלִבְבוֹ, לְמַי יְחִפֵּץ
הַמֶּלֶך לְעֹשָׂת יִקְרָא, יוֹתֵר מִמְּנִי.

ז וַיֹּאמֶר הַמּוֹן, אֶל – הַמֶּלֶך : אִיש אֲשֶׁר
הַמֶּלֶך חִפֵּץ בַּיְקָרָו.

ח יִבְיאו לְבֹוש מֶלֶכְוֹת, אֲשֶׁר לְבַש – בָו
הַמֶּלֶך ; וְסֹסֶט, אֲשֶׁר רַכֵּב עַל – יְהוָה הַמֶּלֶך,
וְאֲשֶׁר נְפִנוּ כִּתְרָה מֶלֶכְוֹת, בְּרַאשׁו.

ט וְנִתְנוּן הַלְבֹוש וְהַסּוֹס, עַל – יְד – אִיש
מִשְׁרֵי הַמֶּלֶך הַפְּרַטְמִים, וְהַלְבִּישׁו
אֶת – הָאִיש, אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶך חִפֵּץ בַּיְקָרָו ;
וְהַרְכִּיבָהו עַל – הַסּוֹס, בְּרַחֲבוֹ הָעִיר,
וְקִרְאוּ לִפְנֵיו, כִּכְה יִعָשֶׂה לְאִיש אֲשֶׁר
הַמֶּלֶך חִפֵּץ בַּיְקָרָו.

had sought to lay hands 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 that ministered to him: “There is nothing that has been done for him.”

4 And the king said: “Who is in the court?”—For Haman had come into the outer court of the king’s house to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him—

5 And the king’s servants said to him: “Behold, it is Haman standing 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 for a man whom the king desires to honor?”—Now Haman said in his heart, “Whom would the king delight to honor besides myself?”—

7 And Haman said to the king: “For the man whom the king desires to honor,

8 Let royal apparel be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set;

9 And let the apparel and the horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king’s most noble princes, that they may array the man therewith whom the king desires to honor, and parade him on horseback through the city streets, and proclaim before him: ‘Thus shall it be done for the man whom the king desires to honor.’”

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַמּוֹן, מִהָּר קָח אֶת-
הַלְבּוֹשׁ וְאֶת-הַסּוֹס כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבְרָתָךְ,
וְעַשֵּׂה-כֵּן לִמְרְדָּכָי הַיְהוּדִי, הַיֹּשֵׁב
בַּשַּׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ: אֶל-תִּפְלֶל דָּבָר, מִפְלָאָה
אֲשֶׁר דִּבְרָתָךְ.

א וַיִּקְחַת הַמּוֹן אֶת-הַלְבּוֹשׁ וְאֶת-
הַסּוֹס, וַיְלַבֵּשׁ אֶת-מְרְדָּכָי; וַיִּרְכִּיבּוּ
בְּרַחְזֹב הָעִיר, וַיִּקְרָא לִפְנֵיו, כְּכֹה
עֲשָׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בַּיּוֹם.

ב וַיֵּשֶׁב מְרְדָּכָי, אֶל-שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ;
וְהַמּוֹן נִדְחַף אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ, אָבֶל וְחַפּוּ
רָאשׁ.

ג וַיִּסְפַּר הַמּוֹן לִזְרֶשׁ אַשְׁתוֹ, וְלִכְלָ-
אֲהָבָיו, אֶת, כָּל-אֲשֶׁר קָרָהוּ; וַיֹּאמְרוּ
לֹו חֲכָמָיו וְזָרָשׁ אַשְׁתוֹ, אֶם מִצְרָעָה
הַיְהוּדִים מְרְדָּכָי אֲשֶׁר הַמְלֹوت לְנַפְלָא
לִפְנֵיו לֹא-תוּכֶל לֹו--כִּי-גַּפְוָל תִּפְזֹל,
לִפְנֵיו.

ד עָזָם מִדְבָּרִים עַפְנוֹ, וְסְרִיסִי
הַמֶּלֶךְ הִגִּיעַ; וַיַּבְהַלְוּ לְהַבִּיא אֶת-
הַמּוֹן, אֶל-הַמִּשְׁתָּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂתָה
אֶسְתֵּר.

10 Then the king said to Haman: "Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate; let nothing fail of all that you have spoken."

11 So Haman took the apparel and the horse and arrayed Mordecai, and caused him to ride through the city streets, and proclaimed before him: "Thus shall it be done for the man whom the king desires to honor."

12 And Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house, mourning and covering his head.

13 And Haman recounted to his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had befallen him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him: "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, be of the seed of the Jews, you shall not prevail against him, but shall surely fall before him."

14 While they were yet talking with him, the king's chamberlains came and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

אסטר Esther 7:1-10

א וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמּוֹן, לְשִׁתּוֹת עַמְּדָה
אֶסְתֵּר הַמֶּלֶכְתָּה.

ב וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם בַּיּוֹם
הַשְׁנִי, בְּמִשְׁתָּה הַיּוֹן--מִה-שָּׁאַלְתָּךְ

1 So the king and Haman came to the banquet with Queen Esther.

2 And the king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine: 'Whatever your petition, Queen Esther, it shall be granted

אֲסִטֶּר הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַתַּגְתִּן לְךָ ; וַיֹּהֶן-
בְּקַשְׁתֶּךָ עַד-חָצֵי הַמְּלָכוֹת, וַתַּעֲשֶׂה.

ג וַיַּעֲנוּ אָסִטֶּר הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיֹּאמֶר-
אָס-מְצָאָתִי חָנוּ בְּעֵינֵיךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְאָס-
עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טֹב : תַּגְתִּן-לִי נֶפֶשִׁי
בְּשָׁאָלָתִי, וְעַמִּי בְּבַקְשָׁתִי.

ד כִּי נִמְכַרְנוּ אַנְשֵׁי עַמִּי, לְהַשְׁמִיד
לְהַרְגוֹ וְלֹאָבֶד ; וְאֶלָּו לְעַבְדִּים
וְלְשָׁפְחוֹת נִמְכַרְנוּ, הַחֲרֵשָׁתִי—כִּי אֵין
מֵאָר שֹׁׁהָ, בְּגַזְקַת הַמֶּלֶךְ.

ה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲמִשְׁוֹרֹזֶשׁ, וַיֹּאמֶר
לְאָסִטֶּר הַמֶּלֶךְ : מִי הוּא ذָה וְאֵין-
זָה הוּא, אֲשֶׁר-מְלָאוֹ לְבוֹ לְעַשּׂוֹת כֵּן.

ו וַיֹּאמֶר אָסִטֶּר—אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב,
הַמּוֹרֵעַ הָזֶה ; וְהַמּוֹנֵבָעַת, מִלְּפָנֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּלֶךְ.

ז וְהַמֶּלֶךְ קָם בְּחַמְתוֹ, מִמְּשִׁתָּה
הַיּוֹן, אֶל-גַּנְתָּה, הַבִּתְנוֹ ; וְהַמּוֹעֵד,
לְבַקֵּשׁ עַל-נֶּפֶשׁוֹ מִאָסִטֶּר הַמֶּלֶךְ—כִּי
רָאָה, כִּי-כָּלָתָה אֶלְיוֹ הַרְעָה מֵאָת
הַמֶּלֶךְ.

ח וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁב מִגְּנַת הַבִּתְנוֹ אֶל-בֵּית
מִשְׁתָּה הַיּוֹן, וְהַמּוֹנֵבָעַת עַל-הַמְּפַטָּה
אֲשֶׁר אָסִטֶּר עַלְיָה, וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ,
הָגָם לְכִבּוֹשׁ אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ עַמִּי בְּבֵית ;
הַדָּבָר, יֵצֵא מִפְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וּפְנֵי הַמּוֹעֵד,
חַפּוֹ.

ט וַיֹּאמֶר חֲרַבּוֹנָה אֶחָד מִן-הַסְּרִירִים
לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, גַּם הַנִּהְה-הָעָז אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה

to you; and whatever you request, even to half of the kingdom, it shall be performed."

3 Then Queen Esther answered and said: "If I have found favor in your sight and if it pleases the king, let my life be given to me at my petition, and my people at my request;

4 For we are sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold only for bondmen and bondwomen, I would have held my peace, for the adversary is not worth the king's trouble."

5 Then spoke King Ahasuerus and said to Queen Esther: "Who is he, and where is he, that did presume in his heart to do so?"

6 And Esther said: "An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman." Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

7 And the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman remained to make request for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine, and Haman was fallen upon the couch where Esther reclined. Then said the king: 'Does he mean to force the queen before me in my own house?' As the word went out of the king's mouth, Haman's face was covered.

9 Then said Harbonah, one of the chamberlains before the king: "Behold also, the gallows fifty

הַמּוֹן לְמִרְדָּכַי אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-טוֹב עַל-
הַמֶּלֶךְ עִמָּד בְּבֵית הַמּוֹן—גַּבְּהָ, חֲמָשִׁים
אַפְּהָ; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, תְּלַהוּ עָלָיו.

וַיַּתְלוּ, אֶת-הַמּוֹן, עַל-הַעֲזָז, אֲשֶׁר-
הָכִין לְמִרְדָּכַי; וַחֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ, שָׁכַּחַ.

cubits high which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, stands in the house of Haman.” And the king said: “Hang him on it.”

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath was assuaged.

אסתר Esther 8:1-3

א בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲמְשִׁירוֹשׁ
לְאִסְטֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶת-בֵּית הַמּוֹן, צִרְרָ
הַיְהוּדִים; וּמִרְדָּכַי, בָּא לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
כִּי הָגִידָה אִסְטֶר, מָה הַוֹּא-לָה.

ב וַיַּשְׂרֵר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-טְבֻעַתוֹ, אֲשֶׁר
הָעַבֵּר מִהַּמּוֹן, וַיַּתְנֵה, לְמִרְדָּכַי; וַתִּשְׁמַם
אִסְטֶר אֶת-מִרְדָּכַי, עַל-בֵּית הַמּוֹן.

ג וַתַּזְעַק אִסְטֶר, וַתִּזְבַּר לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ,
וַתִּפְלֶל, לִפְנֵי רְגָלָיו; וַתַּבְךְ וַתִּתְחַנּוּ לָוֹ
לְהָעַבֵּר אֶת-רְעֵת הַמּוֹן הָאָגָּגִי, וְאֶת
מִחְשְׁבַּתוֹ, אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁב עַל-הַיְהוּדִים.

1 On that day, King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, to Queen Esther. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told [the king] who 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 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 plot that he had devised against the Jews.

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

“If it please Your Majesty,” she said, “let dispatches be written countermanding those which were written by Haman, embodying his plot to annihilate the Jews throughout the king's provinces. 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!”

P: The king agreed. Immediately, the king's scribes were summoned and the letters were composed, as dictated by Mordechai, to the Jews and to the satraps, the governors and the officials of the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia: 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.

Mordechai made sure they were 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, and they read as follows:

P: "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 its armed force and plunder their possessions—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."

P: 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 on that day to defend themselves from their attackers. 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 and beyond.

אֲסֵתֶר Esther 8:15-17

טו וְמִרְדָּכַי יָצָא מִלְּפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ,
בְּלֹבֶשׂ מֶלֶכְתָּא תְּכִלָּתׁ וְחוֹרֶב, וְעַטְרָתָ
זָהָב גְּדוֹלָה, וְתְּכִרֵיךְ בּוֹזָה וְאַרְגָּמָן;
וְהַעֲרֵר שָׁוֹשָׁן, אַחֲלָה וְשְׁמִיחָה.

טז לִיהוּדִים, הִתְהַאֲרֹה וְשְׁמִיחָה,
וְשָׁשָׁן, וַיִּקְרֶר.

יז וּבְכָל-מִדְיָנָה וּמִדְיָנִה וּבְכָל-עִיר
עִיר, מָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר ذָבַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתָו
מַגִּיעַ, שְׁמִיחָה וְשָׁשָׁן לִיהוּדִים,
מִשְׁפָּתָה וְיּוֹם טוֹב; וּרְבִים מַעֲמִידִים
הָאָרֶץ, מִתִּיהְדִּים--כִּי-גַּפֵּל פְּחַד-
הַיהוּדִים, עֲלֵיכֶם.

15 And Mordechai went forth from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan shouted and was glad.

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

17 And in every province, and in every city, when the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had gladness and joy, a feast and a good day. And many from among the peoples of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews was fallen upon them.

P: And thus it was, 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 very opposite happened,

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

P: 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. For Mordecai was now highly esteemed in the royal palace, and his fame was spreading through all the provinces; the man Mordecai was growing ever more powerful. The Jews killed the enemies who attacked them in Shushan.

אֲסָתֶר Esther 9:7-10

וְאֵת פְּרַשְׁנְדָתָא וְאֵת דָלְפּוֹן, וְאֵת
אַסְפְּתָא. 7 And Parshandatha and Dalphon, and
Apatha,

וְאֵת פּוֹרָתָא וְאֵת אַדְלִיא, וְאֵת
אַרְיִידָתָא. 8 and Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,

וְאֵת פְּרַמְשָׁתָא וְאֵת אַרְיִיסִי, וְאֵת
אַרְיִידִי וְאֵת וַיְזָתָא. 9 and Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and
Vaizatha,

עֲשָׂרָת בְּנֵי הָמָן בְּן-מִמְּדָתָא, צִרְרָ
הַיְהוּדִים--חֶרְגוֹי; וּבְבָזָה--לֹא שָׁלַחֲוּ
אֶת-זָדָם. 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of
Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy, were slain;
but on the spoil they laid not their hand.

P: The Jews in the provinces fought 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. But the Jews in Shushan fought on both the thirteenth and fourteenth days, and finally rested on the fifteenth, and made it a day of feasting and merrymaking.

P: That is why—to this day—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. And Jews who live in towns with walls from ancient times (like Shushan and Jerusalem) celebrate the next day, on the fifteenth day of the month of Adar.

אֲסֵתֶר Esther 9:20-22; 9:28

כ וַיַּכְתֵּב מְרֹדְכָּי, אֶת-הַדָּבָרִים
הָאֶלְهָ ; וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֲלָכָּל-
הַיְהוּדִים, אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-מִדְינּוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ
אַחֲשִׁירּוֹשׁ-הַקָּרוֹבִים, וְהַרְחֹקִים.

כָּא לְקִים, עַלְיָהָם--לְהִיּוֹת עֲשִׂים
אֶת יוֹם אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר לְחֶדֶשׁ אָדָר,
וְאֶת יוֹם-חַמְשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ : בְּכָל-
שָׁנָה, וּשָׁנָה.

כְּבָ פִּימִים, אֲשֶׁר-נָחוּ בְּהָם
הַיְהוּדִים מִאִיבִיהָם, וּמְחַדֵּשׁ אֲשֶׁר
נָחַפְדָּלָה מִגּוֹן לְשִׁמְחָה, וּמְאַבְלָל
לְיּוֹם טוֹב ; לְעֹשָׂת אֹתָם, יְמִי
מִשְׁתָּחָה וּשִׁמְחָה, וּמְשַׁלֵּחַ מִנּוֹת אִישׁ
לְרַעָהוֹ, וּמִתְנּוֹת לְאָבִינִים.

כְּחָ וּמִימִים הָאֶלְهָ נָזְקָרִים וּנְעָשִׂים
בְּכָל-דָּוָר וְדָוָר, מִשְׁפְּחָה וּמִשְׁפְּחָה,
מִדִּינָה וּמִדִּינָה, וּעִיר וּעִיר ; וּמִי
הַפּוֹרִים הָאֶלְهָ, לֹא יַעֲבְרוּ מִתוֹךְ
הַיְהוּדִים, וּזְכָרָם, לֹא-יִסּוֹף מִזְרָעָם

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 enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, every year—

22 The days when the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned to them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make themselves days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

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.

P: Then Queen Esther wrote a second letter of Purim for the purpose of confirming with full authority the one previously sent by Mordechai. Dispatches were sent to all the Jews in the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the realm of Ahasuerus as follows:

“These days of Purim shall be observed at their proper time, as Mordechai 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.”

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

אֲסֵתֶר Esther 10:1-3

א וַיְשַׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשְׁרָשׁ (אֲחַשּׁוֹרֶשׁ)
מֵס עַל-הָאָרֶץ, וְאֵי הַיּוֹם.

ב וְכֹל-מְעִשָּׂה תְּקֹפוֹ, וְגִבּוּרָתוֹ,
וְפִרְשָׁת גִּדְלָת מְרַדְּכַי, אֲשֶׁר גִּדְלָו
הַמֶּלֶךְ-חָלוֹא-הָמָן כְּתוּבִים, עַל-סִפְרָ
דְּבָרֵי מִימִים, לְמַלְכִי, מִדי וּפְרָסָר.

ג כִּי מְרַדְּכַי מִיהוּדי, מְשֻׁנָּה לְמֶלֶךְ
אֲחַשּׁוֹרֶשׁ, וְגָדוֹל לִיהוּדִים, וּרְצִיִּ
לְרַב אֶחָיו-דִּרְשׁ טֹב לְעַמּוֹ, וְדִבֶּר
שְׁלוֹם לְכָל-זָרָעוֹ.

1 And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.

2 And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai and how the king advanced him, are 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 of the multitude of his brethren; seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his seed.

