

ESTÉR

THE ARGUMENT

Because of the diversity of names, whereby they used to name their Kings, and the supputation of years, wherein the Ebrewes, and the Grecians do vary, divers authors write diversely as touching this Ahashuerósh, but it seemeth Daniél 6.1, and 9.1 that he was Darius King of the Medes, and son of Astyages, called also Ahashuerósh, which was a name of honor, and signified great and chief, as chief head. Herein is declared the great mercies of God toward his Church, who never faileth them in their greatest dangers, but when all hope of worldly help faileth, he ever stirreth up some, by whom he sendeth comfort, and deliverance. Herein also is described the ambition, pride and cruelty of the wicked, when they come to honor, and their folly is full when they are at highest, and how God preserveth, and preferreth them which are zealous of his glory, and have a care and love toward their brethren.

Chapter 1

8 King Ahashuerósh maketh a royal feast, 10 Whereunto the Queen Vashtí will not come, 19 For which cause she is divorced. 20 The King's decree touching the preeminence of man.

In the days of ^aAhashuerósh (this is Ahashuerósh that reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an ^bhundreth, & seven & twenty provinces.) 2 In those days when the King Ahashuerósh ^csate on his throne, which was in the palace of ^{*}Shushán, 3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants, *even* the power of Persia and Media, and to the captains and governours of the provinces *which were* before him, 4 That he might shewe the riches *and* glory of his kingdom, and the honor of his great majesty many days, *even* an hundreth and four score days. 5 And when these days were expired, the King made a feast to all the people that were found in the palace of Shushán, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the King's palace, 6 *Under* an hanging of white, green, and blue *clothes*, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple, in silver rings, and pillars of marble: the ^dbeds *were* of gold, and of silver upon a pavement of porphyry, and marble and alabaster, and blue color. 7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, and changed vessel after vessel, and royal wine in abundance according to the ^epower of the King. 8 And the drinking *was* by an order, none might ^fcompel: for so the King had appointed unto all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure. 9 ¶ The Queen Vashtí made a feast also for the women in the royal house of King Ahashuerósh. 10 Upon the ^gsevent day when the King was merry with wine, he commanded Mehumán, Bizthá, Harboná, Bighthá, and Abagthá, Zethár, and Carcás, the seven eunuches (that served in the presence of King Ahashuerósh) 11 To bring Queen Vashtí before the King with the crown royal, that he might shewe the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look upon. 12 But the Queen Vashtí refused to come at the King's word, ^hwhich he had given in charge to the eunuches: therefore the King was very angry, and his wrath kindled in him. 13 Then the King said to the wise men, ⁱthat knew the times (for

so was the King's manner towards all that knew the law and the judgement:

14 And the next unto him was Carshená, Shethár, Admátha, Tarshish, Méres, Marsená, *and* Memucán the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the King's face, and sate the first in the kingdom)

15 What shal we do unto the Queen Vashtí according to the law, because she did not according to the word of the King Ahashuerósh by the commission of the eunuches?

16 Then Memucán answered before the King and the princes, The Queen Vashtí hath not only done ^kevil against the King, but against all the princes, and against all the people that are in all the provinces of King Ahashuerósh.

17 For the ^lact of the Queen shal come abroad unto all women, so that they shal despise their husbands in their own eyes, and shal say, The King Ahashuerósh commanded Vashtí the Queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

18 So shal the ^mprincesses of Persia and Media this day say unto all the King's Princes, when they hear of the act of the Queen, thus *shal there be* much despitefulness and wrath.

19 If it please the King, let a royal decree proceed from him, and let it be written among the statutes of Persia, and Media (and let it not be transgressed) that Vashtí come ⁿnomore before King Ahashuerósh, and let the King give he royal estate unto her companion that is better then she.

20 And when the decree of the King which shalbe made, shalbe published throughout all his kingdom (though it be ^ogreat) all the women shal give their husbands honor, both great and small.

21 And this saying pleased the King and the princes, and the King did according to the word of Memucán.

22 For he sent letters into all the provinces of the King, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should ^pbear rule in his own house, and that he should publish it in the language of that same people.

Chapter 2

2 After the Queen is put away, certain young maids are brought to the King 14 Estér pleaseth the King, and is made Queen. 22 Mordecái discloseth unto the King those that would betray him.

After these things, when the wrath of King Ahashuerósh was appeased, he ^aremembred Vashtí, and what she had done,

1 a Called also Darius, who was now the sovereign Monarch, and had the government of the Medes, Persians and Caldeans some think he was Darius Hystaspis' son, called also Artaxerxes.

1 b Daniel chapter 6.1 makes mention but of six score, leaving out the number that is imperfect, as the Scripture in divers places uses.

2 c That is, had rest, and quietness.

2 *Neh. 1.1.

6 d Which they used in those countries instead of tables.

7 e As was be seeming for so magnificent a King.

8 f None might be compelled to drink more then it pleased him.

10 g Which was the last day of the feast that the King made for the people, as verse 5.

12 ^hEbr., which was in the hand of the eunuches.

13 h That had experience of things, as they had learned by diligent marking in continuance of time.

14 i Which were his chief counselors, that might have always access to him.

16 k By her disobedience she has given an example to all women to do the like to their husbands.

17 l That is, her disobedience.

18 m Meaning, that they would take first occasion hereof to do the like, and that the rest of women would by continuance do the same.

19 n Let her be divorced and another made Queen.

20 o For he had under him a hundred twenty and seven countries.

22 p That is, that the wife should be subject to the husband and at his commandment.

Chapter 2

1 a That is, he called the matter again into communication.

and what was decreed ^bagainst her.

2 And the King's servants that ministered unto him, said, Let them seek for the King beautiful young virgins,

3 And let the King appoint officers through all the provinces of his kingdom, and let them gather all the beautiful young virgins unto the palace of Shushán, into the house of the women, under the hand of Hegé the King's eunuch, ^ckeeper of the women, to give them their things ^dfor purification.

4 And the maid that shal please the King, let her reign in the stead of Vashtí. And this pleased the King, and he did so.

5 ¶ In the city of Shushán, there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecái the son of Jair, the son of Shimeí, the son of Kish a man of Jemíní,

6 Which had been carried away from Jerusalém ^ewith the captivity that was carried away with Jekoniáh King of Judáh (whom Nebuchad-nezzár King of Babél had carried away)

7 And he nourished Hadassáh, that is Estér, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair, and beautiful to look on: and after the death of her father, and her mother, Mordecái took her for his own daughter.

8 And when the King's commandment, and his decree was published, and many maids were brought together to the palace of Shushán, under the hand of Hegé, Estér was brought also unto the King's house under the hand of Hegé the keeper of the women.

9 And the maid pleased him, and she found favor in his sight: therefore he caused her things for purification to be given her speedily, and her ^fstate, and seven comely maidens to be given her out of the King's house, and he gave change to her and to her maids of the best in the house of the women.

10 *But* Estér shewed not her people and her kindred: for Mordecái had charged her, that she should not tel it.

11 And Mordecái walked ^gevery day before the court of the women's house, to know if Estér did well, and what should be done with her.

12 And when the course of every maid came, to go in to King Ahashuerósh, after that she had been twelve months according to the manner of the women (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odors and in the purifying of the women:

13 And thus went the maids unto the King) whatsoever she required, was ^hgiven her, to go with her out of the women's house unto the King's house.

14 In the evening she went, and on the morow she returned into the second house of the women under the hand of Shaashgáz the King's eunuch, which kept the concubines: she came into the King number, except she pleased the King, and that she were called by name.

15 Now when the course of Estér the daughter of Abiháil the uncle of Mordecái (which had taken her as his own daughter) came, that she should go in to the King, she desired nothing, but what ⁱHegé the King's eunuch the keeper of the women ^jsaid: &

Estér found favor in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

16 ¶ So Estér was taken unto King Ahashuerósh into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the ^kmonth Tebéth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the King loved Estér above all the women, and she found grace and favor in his sight more then all the virgins: so that he set the crown of the kingdom upon her head, and made her Queen in stead of Vashtí.

18 Then the King made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants *which was* ^lthe feast of Estér and gave rest ^munto the provinces, and gave gifts, according to ⁿthe power of a King.

19 And when the virgins were gathered the ^osecond time, then Mordecái sate in the King's gate.

20 Estér had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people, as Mordecái had charged her: for Estér did after the word of Mordecái, as when she was nourished with him.

21 ¶ In those days when Mordecái sate in the King's gate, two of the King's eunuchs, Bigthán and Téresh, which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay ^phand on the King Ahashuerósh.

22 And the thing was knowen to Mordecái, and he told it unto Queen Estér, and Estér certified the King thereof in Mordecái's name: and when inquisition was made, it was found so: therefore they were both hanged on a tre: and it was written in the book of the ^qChronicles before the King.

Chapter 3

1 Hamán, after he was exalted, obtained of the King, that all the Jews should be put to death, because Mordecái had not done him worship as other had.

After these things did King Ahashuerósh promote Hamán the son of Hammedátha the Agagite, and exalted him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

2 And all the King's servants that were at the King's gate, bowed their knees, and revered Hamán: for the King had so commanded concerning him: but Mordecái ^rbowed not the knee, neither did reverence.

3 Then the King's servants which were at the King's gate said unto Mordecái, Why transgressest thou the King's commandment?

4 And albeit they spake daily unto him, yet he would not hear them: therefore they ^stold Hamán, that they might see how Mordecái's matter would stand: for he had told them, that he was a Jew.

5 And when Hamán saw that Mordecái bowed not the knee unto him, nor did reverence unto him, then Hamán was full of wrath.

6 Now he ^tthought it too little to lay hands only on Mordecái: and because they had shewed him the people of Mordecái, Hamán sought to destroy all the Jews, that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahashuerósh, *even* the people of Mordecái.

7 In the first month (that is the month ^uNisán) in the twelfth year of

1 b By the seven wisemen of his counsel.

3 c The abuse of these countries was so great, that they invented many means to serve the lusts of princes, and therefore, as they ordained wicked laws that the King might have whose daughters he would, so they had diverse houses appointed, as one for them, whiles they were virgins, another when they were concubines, and for the Queens another.

3 d Read what this purification was, verse 12.

6 ^e* 2 Kings 24. 15.

9 ^fEbr., portions.

11 e For though she was taken away by a cruel law, yet he ceased not to have a fatherly care over her, and therefore did resort oft times to hear of her.

13 f What apparel she asked of the eunuch, that was he bound to give her.

15 ^gOr, Hegai.

15 g Wherein her modesty appeared because she sought not apparel to commend her beauty, but stood to the eunuch's appointment.

16 h Which contained part of December and part of January.

18 i That is, made for her sake.

18 k He released their tribute.

18 l That is, great and magnificent.

19 m That is, at the marriage of Ester, which was the second marriage of the King.

21 n Meaning, to kill him.

22 o In the Chronicles of the Medes and Persians, as Ch. 10.2.

Chapter 3

2 a The Persian manner was to kneel down and reverence their Kings, and such as he appointed in chief authority, which Mordecái would not do to this ambitious and proud man.

4 b Thus we see that there is none so wicked, but they have their flatterers to accuse the godly.

6 ^uEbr., despised in his eyes.

7 c Which answers to part of March and part of April.

King Ahashuerósh, they cast Pur (that is a lot) ^dbefore Hamán, from day to day, and from month to month, *unto* the twelfth month, that is the month ^eAdár.

8 Then Hamán said unto King Ahashuerósh, There is a people scattered, and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom, and their laws *are* divers from all people, and they do not observe the ^fKing's laws: therefore it is not the King's profit to suffer them.

9 If it please the King, let it be written that they may be destroyed, and I will ^gpay ten thousand talents of silver by the hands of them that have the charge of this business to bring it into the King's treasury.

10 Then the King took his ring from his hand and gave it unto Hamán the son of Hammedátha the Agagite the Jew's adversary.

11 And the King said unto Hamán, Let the silver be thine, and the people to do with them as it pleaseth thee.

12 Then were the King's ^hscribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written (according to all that Hamán commanded) unto the King's officers, and to the captains that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people *and* to every province, according to the writing thereof, and to every people according to their language: in the name of King Ahashuerósh was it written, and sealed with the King's ring.

13 And the letters were sent ⁱby posts into all the King's provinces, to root out, to kill and to destroy all the Jews, both young and old, children and women, in one day upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, (which is the month Adar) and to spoil them as a prey.

14 The contents of the writing *was*, that there should be given a commandment in all provinces, *and* published unto all people, that they should be ready against the same day.

15 And the posts compelled by the King's commandment went forth, and the commandment was given in the palace at Shushán: and the King and Hamán sate drinking, but the ^jcity of Shushán was in perplexity.

Chapter 4

5 Mordecái giveth the Queen knowledge of the cruel decree of the King against the Jews 16 She willetth that they pray for her.

Now when Mordecái perceived all that was done, Mordecái rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth, and ashes, and went out into the middes of the city, & cryed with a great cry, & a bitter.

2 And he came even before the King's ^kgate, but he might not enter within the King's gate, being clothed with sackcloth.

3 And in every province, *and* place, whether the King's charge and his commission came, there *was* great sorrow among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping and mourning, and ^lmany lay in sackcloth and in ashes.

4 ¶ Then Estér's maids and her eunuchs came and told it her: therefore the Queen was very heavy, and she sent raiment to cloth Mordecái, and to take away his sackcloth from him, but he received it not.

7 d To know what month and day should be good to enterprize this thing, that it might have good success: but God disappointed their lots and expectation.

7 e Containing part of February, and part of March.

8 f These be the two arguments which commonly the worldlings and the wicked use toward princes against the godly, that is, the contempt of their laws, and diminishing of their profit: without respect how God is either pleased or displeased.

9 ^gEbr., weigh.

12 ^hOr, secretaries.

13 ⁱEbr., the hands of posts.

15 g To wit, the Jews, that were in Shushán.

Chapter 4

2 a Because he would advertise Ester of this cruel proclamation.

3 ^jEbr., sackcloth and ashes were spread for many.

5 Then called Estér Hatách *one* of the King's eunuchs, whom he ^khad appointed to serve her, and gave him a commandment unto Mordecái, to know what it was, and why it was.

6 So Hatách went forth to Mordecái unto the street of the city, which was before the King's gate.

7 And Mordecái told him of all that which had come unto him, & of the ^lsum of the silver that Hamán had promised to pay unto the King's treasuries, because of the Jews, for to destroy them.

8 Also he gave him the ^mcopy of the writing *and* commission that was given at Shushán, to destroy them that he might shewe it unto Estér and declare it unto her, and to charge her, that she should go in to the King, and make petition and supplication before him for her people.

9 ¶ So when Hatách came, he told Estér the words of Mordecái.

10 Then Estér said unto Hatách, and commanded him, *to* say unto Mordecái,

11 All the King's servants and the people of the King's provinces do know, that whosoever, man or woman, that commeth to the King into the inner court, which is not called, there *is* a law of his, that he shal die, except him to whom the King holdeth out the golden rod, that he may live. Now I have not been called to come unto the King these thirtie days.

12 And they certified Mordecái of Estér's words.

13 And Mordecái said, that they should answer Estér *thus*, Think not with thy self that thou shalt escape in the King's house, more then all the Jews.

14 For if thou holdest thy peace at this time, ⁿcomfort and deliverance ^oshal appear to the Jews out of another place, but thou and thy father's house shal perish: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for ^psuch a time?

15 Then Estér commanded to answer Mordecái,

16 Go, *and* assemble all the Jews that are found in Shushán, & fast ye for me, and eat not, nor drink in three days, day nor night. I also and my maids will fast likewise, and so will I go in to the King, which is not according to the Law: and if I perish, ^qI perish.

17 So Mordecái went his way, and did according to all that Estér had commanded him.

Chapter 5

1 Estér entreth in to the King, and biddeth him and Hamán to a feast. 11 Hamán prepareth a gallows for Mordecái.

And on the third ^rday Estér put on her royal apparel, and stood in the court of the King's palace within, over against the King's house: and the King sate upon his royal throne in the King's palace over against the gate of the house.

2 And when the King saw Estér the Queen standing in the court, she found favor in his sight: and the King ^sheld out the golden scepter that was in his hand: so Estér drew near, and touched the top of the scepter.

3 Then said the King unto her, What wilt thou, Queen Estér? and what is thy request? it shalbe even given ^tthee to the half of the

5 ^uEbr., had caused to stand before her.

7 ^vEbr., declaration.

8 ^wOr, contents.

14 ^xEbr., breathing.

14 b Thus Mordecái spoke in the confidence of that faith, which all God's children ought to have which is that God will deliver them, though all worldly means fail.

14 c For to deliver God's Church out of these present dangers.

16 d I will put my life in danger and refer the success to God, seeing it is for his glory and the deliverance of his Church.

Chapter 5

1 a To wit, after that the Jews had begun to fast.

2 b Which was a sign that her comming was agreeable unto him, as Ch. 4.11.

3 Meaning hereby, that whatsoever she asked, should be granted, as Mk. 6.23.

kingdom.

4 Then said Estér, If it please the King, let the King and Hamán come this day unto the banquet, that I have prepared for him.

5 And the King said, Cause Hamán to make hast that he may do as Estér hath said. So the King and Hamán came to the banquet that Estér had prepared.

6 And the King said unto Estér at the banquet of ^dwine, What is thy petition, that it may be given thee? and what is thy request? it shall even be performed unto the half of the kingdom.

7 Then answered Estér, 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 give me my petition, and to perform my request, let the King and Hamán come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow according to the King's ^esaying.

9 ¶ Then went Hamán forth the same day joyful and with a glad heart. But when Hamán saw Mordecái in the King's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, then was Hamán full of indignation at Mordecái.

10 Nevertheless Hamán refrained him self: and when he came home, he sent, and called for his friends, and Zéresh his wife.

11 And Hamán 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 that he had set him above the princes and servants of the King.

12 Hamán said moreover, Yea, Estér the Queen did let no man come in with the King to the banquet that she had prepared, save me: and tomorrow am I bidden unto her also with the King.

13 But all this doeth nothing avail me, as long as I see Mordecái the Jew sitting at the King's gate.

14 Then said Zéresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let them make a tre of fifty ^gcubites hie, and tomorrow speak thou unto the King, that Mordecái may be hanged thereon: then shalt thou go joyfully with the King unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Hamán, and he caused to make the tre.

Chapter 6

1 The King turneth over the chronicles, and findeth the fidelity of Mordecái, 10 And commandeth Hamán, to cause Mordecái to be had in honor.

The same night ^athe King slept not, and he commanded to bring the book of the records *and* the chronicles: and they were read before the King.

2 Then it was found written that Mordecái ^ahad told of Bigtána, and Téresh two of the King's eunuchs, keepers of the door, who sought to lay hands on the King Ahashuerósh.

3 Then the King said, What honor and dignity hath been given to Mordecái ^afor this? And the King's servants that ministered unto him, said, There is nothing done for him.

4 And the King said, Who is in the court? (Now Hamán was come into the inner court of the King's house, that he might speak unto the King to ^bhang Mordecái on the tre that he had prepared for him.)

5 And the King's servants said unto him, Behold, Hamán

6 ^d Because they used to drink excessively in their banquets, they called the banquet by the name of that, which was most in use or esteemed.

8 ^e I will declare what thing I demand.

11 ^f Thus the wicked when they are promoted, instead of acknowledging their charge and humbling themselves, wax ambitious disdainful & cruel.

14 ^g Meaning, the highest that could be found.

Chapter 6

1 ^aEbr., The King's sleep departed.

2 ^aCh. 2.21.

3 ^a For he thought it unworthy his estate to receive a benefit, and not reward it.

4 ^b Thus while the wicked imagine the destruction of others, they themselves fall into the same pit.

standeth in the court. And the King said, Let him come in.

6 And when Hamán came in, the King said unto him, What shall be done unto the man, whom the King will honor? Then Hamán thought in his heart, To whom would the King do honor more than to me?

7 And Hamán answered the King, The man whom the King would honor,

8 Let them bring *for him* royal apparel, which the King *useth* to wear, and the ^chorse that the King rideth upon, and that the crown royal may be set upon his head.

9 And let the raiment and the horse be delivered by the hand of one of the King's most noble princes, and let them apparel the man (whom the King will honor) and cause him to ride upon the horse through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man, whom the King will honor.

10 Then the King said to Hamán, Make haste, take the raiment and the horse as thou hast said, and do so unto Mordecái the Jew, that sitteth at the King's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

11 So Hamán took the raiment and the horse, and arrayed Mordecái, and brought him on horse back through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the King will honor.

12 And Mordecái came again to the King's gate, but Hamán hastened home mourning and his head covered.

13 And Hamán told Zéresh his wife, and all his friends all that had befallen him. Then said his wise men, and Zéresh his wife unto him, If Mordecái *be* of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, ^abut shalt surely fall before him.

14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the King's eunuchs and hastened to bring Hamán unto the banquet that Estér had prepared.

Chapter 7

3 The Queen biddeth the King and Hamán again and praieth for her self and her people 6 She accuseth Hamán and he is hanged on the gallows, which he had prepared for Mordecái.

So the King and Hamán came to banquet with the Queen Estér. 2 And the King said again unto Estér on the second day at the banquet of ^awine, What is thy petition, Queen Estér, that it may be given thee? and what is thy request? It shall even be performed unto the half of the kingdom.

3 And Estér the Queen answered, and said, If I have found favor in thy sight, ô 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 perish: but if we were sold for servants, and for handmaids, I would have held my tongue: although the adversary could not ^brecompense the King's loss.

5 Then King Ahashuerósh answered, and said unto the Queen Estér, Who is he? and where is he that ^apresumeth to do thus?

6 And Estér said, The adversity and enemy is this wicked Hamán. Then Hamán was afraid before the King and the Queen.

7 And the King arose from the banquet of wine in his wrath, *and went* into the palace garden: but Hamán stood up, to make

8 ^c Meaning hereby, that the King should make him next unto himself, as Joseph hereby was known to be next to Pharaoh, Gen. 41.41.

13 ^d Thus God sometime puts in the mouth of the very wicked, to speak that thing, which he has decreed shall come to pass.

Chapter 7

2 ^a Read Ch. 5.6.

4 ^b Haman could not so much profit the King by this his malice, as he should hinder him by the loss of the Jews, and the tribute which he had of them.

5 ^aEbr., fills his heart.

request for his life to the Queen Estér: for he saw that there was a ^cmischief prepared for him of the King.

8 And when the King came again out of the palace garden, into the house where they drank wine, Hamán was ^dfallen upon the bed whereon Estér ^{sate}: therefore the King said, Will he force the Queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the King's mouth, they ^ecovered Hamán's face.

9 And Harbonáh one of the eunuchs, said in the presence of the King, Behold, there standeth yet the tre in Hamán's house fiftie cubites hie, which Hamán had prepared of Mordecái, that spake ^fgood for the King. Then the King said, Hang him thereon.

10 So they hanged Hamán on the tre, that he had prepared for Mordecái: then was the King's wrath pacified.

Chapter 8

1 After the death of Hamán was Mordecái exalted. 14 Comfortable letters are sent unto the Jews.

The same day did King Ahashuerósh give the house of Hamán the adversary of the Jews unto the Queen Estér. And Mordecái ^acame before the King: for Estér told what he was ^bunto her.

2 And the King took off his ring, which he had taken from Hamán, and gave it unto Mordecái: and Estér set Mordecái over the house of Hamán.

3 And Estér spake yet more before the King, and fell down at his feet weeping, and besought him that he would put away the ^cwickedness of Hamán the Agagite, and his devise that he had imagined against the Jews.

4 And the King held out the golden ^dscepter toward Estér. Then arose Estér, 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 be acceptable before the King, and I please him, let it be written, that the letters of the devise of Hamán the son of Ammedátha the Agagite may be called again, which he wrote to destroy the Jews, that are in all the King's provinces.

6 For how can I suffer and see the evil, that shal come unto my people? Or how can I suffer & see the destruction of my kindred?

7 And the King Ahashuerósh said unto the Queen Estér, and to Mordecái the Jew, Behold, I have given Estér the house of Hamán, whom they have hanged upon the tre, because he ^layed hand upon the Jews.

8 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 writings written in the King's name, & sealed with the King's ring, may no ^eman revoke)

9 Then were the King's scribes called at the same time, even in the third month, that is the month ⁱSiván, on the three and twentieth ^{day} thereof: and it was written, according to all as Mordecái commanded unto the Jews and to the provinces, and captains, and rulers of the princes, which were from India even

7 c His conscience did accuse him that as he had conspired the death of innocents, so the vengeance of God might fall upon him for the same.

8 d He fell down at the bed's feet or couch, whereupon she sat, and made request for his life.

8 e This was the manner of the Persians, when one was out of the King's favor.

9 f Which discovered the conspiracy against the King, Ch. 2.21.

Chapter 8

1 a That is, was received into the King's favor and presence.

1 b That he was her uncle and had brought her up.

3 c Meaning, that he should abolish the wicked decrees, which he had made for the destruction of the Jews.

4 d Read Ch. 5.2.

7 ^hEbr., went about to slay the Jews.

8 e This was the Law of the Medes and Persians, as Daniel 6.15, notwithstanding the King revoked the former decree granted to Haman, for Ester's sake.

9 f Which contains part of May and part of June.

unto Ethiopia, an hundreth and seven and twenty provinces, unto every province, according to the ^gwriting thereof, and to every people after their speech, and to the Jews, according to their writing, and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the King Ahashuerósh name, and sealed it with the King's ring: & he sent letters by posts on horseback ^{and} that rode on ^{beasts} of price, as dromedaries ^{and} colts of mares.

11 Wherein the King granted the Jews (in what cities soever they were) to gather them selves together, and to stand for ^htheir life, ^{and} to root out, to slay and to destroy all the power of the people and of the province that vexed them, ^{both} children and women, and to spoil their goods:

12 Upon one day in all the provinces of King Ahashuerósh, ^{even} in the thirtent ^{day} of the twelft month, which is the month ⁱAdár

13 The copy of the writing was, how there should be a commandment given in all and every province, published among all the people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to ^kavenge them selves on their enemies.

14 So the posts rode upon ^{beasts} of price, ^{and} dromedaries, ^{and} went forth with speed, to execute the King's commandment, and the decree was given at Shushán the palace.

15 And Mordecái went out from the King in royal apparel of blue, and white, & with a great crown of gold, & with a garment of fine linen and purple, and the city of Shushán rejoiced and was glad.

16 ^{And} unto the Jews was come light and ^jjoy and gladness, and honor.

17 Also in all and every province, and in all and every city and place, where the King's commandment and his decree came, ^{there} was joy and gladness to the Jews, a feast and good day, and many of the people of the land ^mbecame Jews: for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Chapter 9

1 At the commandment of the King the Jews put their adversaries to death. 14 The ten sons of Hamán are hanged. 17 The Jews keep a feast in remembrance of their deliverance.

So in the twelft month, which is the month Adár, upon the thirtent 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 (but it ^aturned contrary: for the Jews had rule over them that hated them)

2 The Jews gathered them selves together into their cities throughout all the provinces of the King Ahashuerósh, 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 princes and the captains, and the officers of the King ^bexalted the Jews: for the fear of Mordecái fell upon them.

4 For Mordecái was great in the King's house, and the report of him went through all the provinces: for this man Mordecái waxed greater and greater.

5 Thus the Jews smote all their ^cenemies with strokes of the sword and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would

9 g That is, in such letters and language, as was usual in every province.

10 ^hOr, mules.

11 h That is, to defend themselves against all that would assail them.

12 i Which has part of February and part of March.

13 k The King gave them liberty to kill all that did oppress them.

16 l He shows by these words that follow what this light was.

17 m Conformed themselves to the Jew's religion.

Chapter 9

1 a This was by God's great providence, who turned the joy of the wicked into sorrow, and the tears of the godly into gladness.

3 b Did them honor, and showed them friendship.

5 c Which had conspired their death by the permission of the wicked Haman.

unto those that hated them.

6 And at Shushán the palace slew the Jews and destroyed ^dfive hundred men,

7 And Parshandátha, and Dalphón, and Aspátha,

8 And Porátha, and Adaliá, and Aridátha,

9 And Parmáshta, and Arisái, and Aridái, and Vajezátha,

10 The ten sons of Hamán, the son of Ammedátha, the adversary of the Jews slew they: but they layed not their hands ^eon the spoil.

11 On the same day came the number of those that were slain, unto the palace of Shushán before the King.

12 And the King said unto the Queen Estér, The Jews have slain in Shushán the palace and destroyed five hundred men, and the ten sons of Hamán: what have they done in the rest of the King's provinces? and what is thy petition, that it may be given thee? or what is thy request moreover, that it may be performed?

13 Then said Estér, If it please the King, let it be granted also tomorrow to the Jews that are in Shushán, to do according ^funto this day's decree, that they may hang upon the tre Hamán's ten sons.

14 And the King charged to do so, and the decree was given at Shushán, and they hanged Hamán's ten sons.

15 ¶ So the Jews that were in Shushán, assembled them selves upon the fourtente day of the month Adár, & slew three hundred men in Shushán, but on the spoil they layed not their hand.

16 And the rest of the Jews that were in the King's provinces assembled them selves, and stood for ^gtheir lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of them that hated them, ^hseventie and five thousand:

17 *This they did* on the ⁱthirtente day of the month Adár, & rested the fourtente day thereof, and kept it a day of feasting and joy.

18 But the Jews that were in Shushán, assembled them selves on the thirtente *day*, and on the fourtente thereof, & they rested on the fiftente of the same, and kept it a day of feasting and joy.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages that dwelt in the unwallèd towns, ^kkept the fourtente day of the month Adár with joy and feasting, *even* a joyful day, and every one sent presents unto his neighbor.

20 ¶ And Mordecái wrote ^lthese words, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were through all the provinces of the King Ahashuerósh, *both* near and far,

21 Injoining them that they should keep the fourtente day of the month Adár, and the fiftente day of the same, every year.

22 According to 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 joyful day, to keep them the days of feasting, and joy, and ^mto send presents every man

to his neighbor, and gifts to the poor.

23 And the Jews promised to do as they had begun, and as Mordecái had written unto them,

24 Because Hamán the son of Hammedátha the Agagite all the Jew's adversary, had imagined against the Jews, to destroy them, and had ⁿcast Pur (that is a lot) to consume and destroy them.

25 And when ^oshe came before the King, he commanded by letters, Let his wicked ^pdevise (which he imagined against the Jews) turn upon his own head, and let them hang him and his sons on the tre.

26 Therefore they called these days Purím, by the name of Pur, *and* because of all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen besides this, and of that which had come unto them.

27 The Jews *also* ordained, and promised for them and for their seed, and for all that joined unto them, that they would not ^qfail to observe those ^rtwo days every year, according to their writing, and according to their season,

28 And that these days should be remembered, and kept throughout every generation and every family, and every province, and every city: even these days of Purím should not fail among the Jews, and the memorial of them should not perish from their seed.

29 And the Queen Estér the daughter of Abihail and Mordecái the Jew wrote with all ^sauthority (to confirm this letter of Purím the second time)

30 And he sent letters unto all the Jews to the hundred and seven and twentie provinces of the kingdom of Ahashuerósh, with ^twords of peace and truth,

31 To confirm these days of Purím according to their seasons, as Mordecái the Jew and Estér the Queen had appointed them, and as they had promised for them ^uselves and for their seed with ^vfasting and prayer.

32 And the decree of Estér confirmed these words of Purím, and was written in the book.

Chapter 10

The estimation and authority of Mordecái.

And the King Ahashuerósh layed 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 declaration of the dignity of Mordecái, wherewith the King magnified him, are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia?

3 For Mordecái the Jew was the second unto King Ahashuerósh, and great among the Jews, and ^waccepted among the multitude of his brethren, who procured the wealth of his people, and spake peaceably to all his seed.

6 d Besides those three hundred, that they slew the second day, as verse 15.

10 e Whereby they declared, that this was God's judgement upon the enemies of his Church, forasmuch as they sought not their own gain, but to execute his vengeance.

13 f Thus she required not for desire of vengeance, but with zeal to see God's judgements executed against his enemies.

16 g Read Ch. 8.11.

16 h Meaning that they layed hands on none, that were not the enemies of God.

17 i Meaning, in all places saving in Shushan.

19 k As the Jews do, even to this day, calling it in the Persian's language Purim, that is the day of lots.

20 l The Jews gather hereof that Mordecái wrote this story, but it seems that he wrote but only these letters, and decrees that follow.

22 m He sets before our eyes the use of this feast, which was for the remembrance of God's deliverance, the maintenance of mutual friendship, and relief of the poor.

24 n Read Ch. 3.7.

25 o That is, Ester.

25 p These are the words of the King's commandment to disannul Haman's wicked enterprise.

27 ^qOr, transgress.

27q Meaning the fourteenth, and the fifteenth day of the month Adar.

29 ^rOr, strength and efficacy.

30 r Which were letters declaring unto them quietness, and assurance and putting them out of doubt and fear.

31 ^sEbr., souls.

31 s That they would observe this feast with fasting, and earnest prayer, which in Ebrew is signified by this word (their cry).

Chapter 10

3 a These three points are here set forth as commendable, and necessary for him, that is in authority to have the favor of the people: to procure their wealth, and to be gentle, and loving toward them.