

9. Esther

[H]is attendants suggested, "Let us search the empire to find beautiful young virgins for the king ... who pleases you most will be made queen..." At the fortress of Susa there was a certain Jew named Mordecai ... had a beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah ... (Esther) ... father and mother had died, Mordecai adopted her ... raised her as his own daughter ... the king loved her more than any of the other young women ... set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti ... Esther continued to keep her nationality and family background a secret ... following Mordecai's orders...

... two of the king's eunuchs ... guards ... became angry at King Xerxes and plotted to assassinate him ... Mordecai heard about the plot and passed the information on to Queen Esther. She then told the king ... the two men were hanged on a gallows. (Esther 2: 2, 4, 5-7, 16-17, 20, 21-23 NLT)

Haman approached King Xerxes, "...If it please Your Majesty, issue a decree that they [Jews] be destroyed ... I will give 375 tons of silver to ... government administrators ... the royal treasury." (Esther 3: 6,8a, 9 NLT)

Mordecai [told Esther] "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape ... Esther [replied] ... "... gather together all the Jews ... in Susa ... fast for me ... for three days ... I and my maids will fast as you do. [then] I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:7, 13, 15-16 NIV)

[Esther said to the king] "If it pleases the king ... together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared ..." [Haman's] wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows built, seventy-five feet high, and ask the king ... to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go with the king to the dinner and be happy." ... Haman ... had the gallows built. (Esther 5:4, 14 NIV)

That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh ... who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. (Esther 6:1-2 NIV)

Esther ... "If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life—this is my petition ... spare my people ...[who] have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation ..."

King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "... Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman."

... Haman was terrified ... The king got up in a rage ... [Haman] beg Queen Esther for his life ... king said, "Hang him ..." ... on the gallows ... prepared for Mordecai ... king's fury subsided. (Esther 7: 3-7, 9-10 NIV)

... King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman ... The king took off his signet ring ... reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate. (Esther 8:1-2 NIV)



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ADVERSARY	GALLOWS	SIGNET
BANQUET	HADASSAH	SILVER
BIGTHANA	HAMAN	SLAUGHTER
CROWN	HANGED	SUSA
ENEMY	MAJESTY	TERESH
ESTATE	MORDECAI	TREASURY
ESTHER	PERISH	VASHTI
EUNUCHS	PETITION	VILE
FORTRESS	PLOTTED	XERXES
FURY	SECRET	ZERESH