

The Book of Esther

**A translation
from the Hebrew
by Linda Monyak**

This translation is a literal "word by word" translation, intended to give a feel for the meaning and word order of the original Hebrew. Alternative possible meanings for the translation of various Hebrew words are included, separating the possible meanings by slashes (meaning1 / meaning 2 . . .)

ESTHER

CHAPTER 1

1 And it was in the days of Ahasuerus, Ahasuerus was ruling from India and up to Cush 127 provinces.

2 In those days when the King Ahasuerus sat / remained upon the throne of his kingdom which was in the Susa palace / castle,

3 In the third year of his rule, he made a feast for all his chieftains / officials and his subjects of his army / power. The nobles of Persia and Medea and officials of the provinces before him

4 Were caused to see the wealth of the honor / glory of his royalty and lair / beautiful honor of his greatness for many days, 180 days (to be precise).

5 And these days being full / completed, the king made a feast for all the people who were found present in the palace / fortress / castle Susa from the greatest and (down) to the smallest / least for 7 days in the enclosed garden of the house of the king.

6 White stuff / cotton / linen was bound and violet thread was fastening / grasping with a cord of byssus / fine white Egyptian linen upon rods of silver and pillars of alabaster / ivory. (There were) couches of gold and silver upon a pavement of porphyry and alabaster / ivory and pearl / mother of pearl and paving stone.

7 And drinking (was) with vessels of gold, vessel to vessel differing, and much wine of the royal kingdom / power according to the hand of the king.

8 And the drinking (was) by decree / law; there was not a compulsion to constraint for thus the king had appointed to be done according to the will of each man with respect to / concerning all leaders / chiefs in his midst.

9 Moreover, Vashti the queen gave a feast for the women of the house of the kingdom which (belonged) to the king Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was good / merry with wine, he said to Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas, seven of the eunuchs who were serving before / the face of the king Ahasuerus,

11 To have Vashti, the queen, brought before the king with a royal crown to exhibit to the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was a good-looker / pleasant to look at / pleasing of appearance.

12 And Vashti the queen refused to come by word of the king which (was) by the hand of the eunuchs. And the king was exceedingly wrathful and he was consumed with his burning rage.

13 And the king said to the wise ones / the educated class / astrologers who knew the times / proper acceptable or favorable times for this was the general a word / thing / action of the king before all the ones who knew law / decrees and judgement / government,

14 And the seven princes of Persia and Medea (who were) near to him, Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marrona, (and) Memucan, who were seen (to be) seated first in the kingdom before the king.

15 "According to the law / decree, what is to be done with the queen Vashti about her not doing the word / command of the king Ahasuerus at the hand of / delivered by the eunuchs?"

16 And Memucan said before the king and the princes, "Not against the king alone has Vashti the queen done wrong, rather against all the princes and against all the peoples which with all Medea (are / belong to) the king Ahasuerus.

17 Because the word of the queen concerning all women went out to cause their husbands / owners / lords to be despised in their eyes. Then they will say (that) the King Ahasuerus said to bring Vashti the queen before him and she did not come.

18 And this day / today the princesses of Persia and Medea will speak to all the princes of the king when they hear the thing / word / response of the queen. (There is) sufficient contempt and wrath.

19 If to the king (it is / it seems) good, the word / thing of the kingdom will come from before his presence and he will write by the law / decree of Persia and Medea and it will not pass away that Vashti will not come before the King Ahasuerus and the king will give her kingdom to her fellow woman the best of her (Vashti's) portion.

20 And the edict / command / word of the king which he will make / do in all his kingdom will be heard because it is great and all the women will give honor to their husbands / owners / lords from the greatest and down to the smallest."

21 And the thing / word was pleasing in the eyes of the king and the princes and the king did according to the word / thing of Memucan.

22. And he sent written decrees to all the provinces of the king, to each and every province (lit. to province and province), and to each and every people / nation according to his language in order that every man / husband (is) ruling in his house and from the word according to the language of his people.

ESTHER CHAPTER 2

1 After these things / words, when the wrath of the king Ahasuerus abated, he remember Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against / concerning her.

2 And the one serving before the eyes of the king said to him, "Let them seek good looking virgins for the eyes of the king."

3 And let the king command commissioners in all of the provinces of his kingdom, and they gathered every young, good looking virgin to the palace at Susa to the house of the women to the hand of Hegai, a eunuch of the king, who was keeping the women and giving their rubbings."

4 And the maiden who is most pleasing in the eyes of the king will be made queen instead of / over Vashti, and the thing / word was pleasing in the eyes of the king and he did so.

5 A Jewish man lived in the palace / fortress / castle of Susa, and his name was Mordecai, son of Jair, son of Shimir, son of Kish, a Benjaminite man,

6 Who was carried into exile from Jerusalem with the exile, who was taken into exile with Jeconiah, king of Judah, who was exiled (when) Nebuchadnezzar (was) king of Babylon.

7 And he was supporting Hadassah, who was Esther, daughter of his uncle, because she had no father or mother. And the maiden was beautiful of form and good looking, and when her father and her mother died Mordecai took her to him as a daughter.

8 And it happened after hearing the word of the king and his law / decree, when many young maidens were gathered to the palace / castle / fortress of Susa to the hand of Hegai, (that) Esther was taken to the house of the king to the hand of Hegai who was keeping the women.

9 And the maiden was pleasing in his eyes and she received loving kindness from him and he hastened her rubbings and her portions which were taken to her and (to) seven of the selected maidens which she had taken from the house of the king. And he changed her and her maidens to a better (place in) the house of the women.

10 Esther did not disclose / tell her people and her kindred because Mordecai had commanded her that she should not tell.

11 And each and every day Mordecai was walking about before the court of the house of the women for information / knowledge of the well-being of Esther and what

would be done with her.

12 And with Hegai (was) the turn / opportunity of each maiden to go to the King Ahasuerus at the end of these (things) happening / occurring to her according to the law of the women" 12 months therefore will complete the days of their rubbings, 6 months with oil of myrrh and 6 months with spices / balsam and with the rubbings of the women.

13 And with this the women will go to the king" all which she desires / asks for will be given to her to go with her from the house of the women to the house of the king.

14 In the evening she will go and in the morning she returned to the second / to another house of the women to the hand of Shaashgaz, a eunuch of the king keeping the concubines. She will not go again to the king unless delighting in her, the king calls her by name.

15 And (when) by Hegai, the turn / opportunity of Esther, the daughter of Abihail, the uncle of Mordecai, who took her to him for a daughter, to go to the king, who did not seek for a thing unless Hegai, the eunuch of the king who kept the women, said / suggested it. And Esther was carrying / lifting / taking favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

16 And Esther was taken to the King Ahasuerus to the house of his kingdom in the tenth month, the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his kingdom.

17 And the king loved Esther out of all / better than all the women, and she took / carried favor and loving kindness in his face / from him out of all the virgins. And he placed the crown of royalty on her head and he made her queen instead of / above Vashti.

18 And the king made a great feast for all his princes / leaders and his servants, a feast of Esther and he made a holiday / he gave rest to the provinces and he gave a portion according to the hand of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered a second (time) / next / later, Mordecai was sitting by the gate of the king.

20 There was not (from) Esther a declaration of her kindred and her people as Mordecai had commanded her. And the word / command of Mordecai, Esther was doing / making in accordance with how she had been brought up.

21 And in those days, Mordecai was sitting by the gate of the king. Bigthan and Teresh, two of the eunuchs of the king who were keeping the threshold / door, were wroth and they sought to stretch out a hand against the king.

22 And the thing became known to Mordecai and he informed Esther the queen and Esther spoke to the king in the name of Mordecai.

23 And the thing was searched out and it was discovered / found out and they hanged the two of them upon a tree and it was written in the book of the events / things / words of the days before the king.

ESTHER CHAPTER 3

1 After these things the King Ahasuerus made powerful Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and he raised him and he set him in a seat of honor / throne above all his princes.

2 And all the servants of the king who (were) in the gate of the king bowed down to Haman when they saw (him) for so the king commanded them, but Mordecai did not bow and did not prostrate himself.

3 And the servants of the king who (were) in the gate of the king said to Mordecai, "Why are you bypassing / overstepping / transgressing the command of the king?"

4 And it happened when they spoke to him day after day / everyday and he did not listen to them, and they reported to / informed Haman to see (whether) he could abide the words / things of Mordecai for it was made known to them that he was Jewish.

5 And Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down and not prostrating himself and Haman was filled with rage.

6 And he despised in his eyes to stretch out a hand against Mordecai alone / by himself when the people of Mordecai were made known to him and Haman sought to annihilate / exterminate all the Jews / Judeans who (were) in all of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, the people of Mordecai.

7 In the first month, a lot / pur was caused to fall on the very month Nisan in the thirteenth month of the King Ahasuerus. The lot was thrown before Haman day after day and month to month, the twelfth month Adar.

8 And Haman said to the King Ahasuerus, "There is one people who are scattered and divided among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom, and their law / decrees is different from all of the people and doing the law of the king is not for them, add to the king, it is not fit / agreeable to leave them alone.

9 If to the king it (is/seems) good, let it be written to have them destroyed / killed and 10,000 weight of silver I will weigh out by my hand (?those who do the kingdom?) to go to the treasury of the king."

10 And the king removed his signet ring from his hand, and he gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

11 And the king said to Haman, "The silver is being given to you, and the people to do / deal with them as (is) pleasing in your eyes."

12 And the scribes of the king were called I summoned in the first month on the thirteenth day in it and it was written according to all that Haman commanded to the satraps of the king and to the governors who were over each and every province and to the princes of each and every people in each and every province being written according to the language of each and every people. In the name of the King Ahasuerus it was written and it was sealed with the signet ring of the king.

13 And the scrolls / edicts were sent in the hands of the runners to all the provinces of the king to exterminate, to kill (ruthlessly), and to cause to perish I annihilate all the Jews from the youth up to the elderly, children and women on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar, and to plunder their spoil.

14 A copy of the writing was issued, a law in all the provinces to be prepared, to all the peoples to be ready for this day.

15 The runners departed, being hurried with the word of the king, and the law was given in the citadel of Susa. And the king and Haman sat to drink. And the city of Susa was perplexed / confused.

ESTHER CHAPTER 4

1 And Mordecai knew all that was done. And Mordecai rent I tore his garment and he put on sackcloth and ashes, and he went in the midst of the city and he cried out a great and bitter outcry / cry of desolation.

2 And he went as far as the front of the gate of the king because it was not (permitted) to go to the gate of the king with clothing of sackcloth.

3 And in all of the provinces, each place that the word of the king and his law reached, for the Jews (there was) great mourning and fasting and weeping and wailing. Sackcloth and ashes were worn on many.

4 And the maidens of Esther and her eunuchs went and they told I informed her. And the queen writhed much and she sent clothes for wearing to Mordecai to change his sackcloth from himself, but he would not receive (them).

5 And Esther called / summoned Hathach from the eunuchs of the king who stood before her / served her. And she charged him concerning Mordecai to ascertain what (is) this and what is this about.

6 And Hathach went to Mordecai, to the plaza of the city which (is) in front of the gate of the king

7 And Mordecai told him all that befell him and an exact statement of the silver which Haman said would be weighed out into the treasury chests of the king when the Jews were caused to be destroyed.

8 And a copy of the writing / edict of the law which was published / issued in Susa to exterminate them he gave to him to show Esther and to inform her. And to charge her to go to the king to seek favor from him and to request concerning her people before him.

9 And Hathach went and he told Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 And Esther said to Hathach, and she commanded him about Mordecai,

11 "All of the servants of the king and people of the provinces know that every man and woman who goes to the king to the inner court when he does not call will be made to die under his law. Only if the king will hold out to him the sceptre of gold will he live. And I have not been called to go to the king these 30 days.

12 And they told / recounted to Mordecai the words of Esther.

13 And Mordecai said to report to Esther, "Do not think in your soul / being to

escape in the house of the king (apart) from all the Jews.

14 For if you are surely silent at this time relief / respite / space / an interval and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, and you and the house of your father will perish. And who knows if to a time like this you have been brought to the kingdom?

15 And Esther said to the one returning to Mordecai,

16 "Gather to you all the Jews who are found in Susa and fast concerning me and do not eat do not drink three days, night and day. I, also, and my maidens will fast thus and thusly I will go to the king (though) it is not according to the law and when I perish, I perish."

17 And Mordecai passed over / went on and did according to all which Esther commanded to him.

ESTHER CHAPTER 5

1 And it happened on the third day that Esther put on the kingdom / queenly attire / royal apparel and she stood in the court of the house of the king, the inner one in front of the house of the king. And the king was sitting upon the throne of his kingdom in the house of the kingdom in front of the door of the house.

2 And it happened when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she took / carried away favor in his eyes and the king extended to Esther the sceptre which was in his hand. And Esther approached and she touched the sceptre on the head / tip.

3 And the king said to her, "What is it to you, Queen Esther? (Loose translation: Yo, babe, what's happening?) and what (is) your request? Up to half the kingdom, it will be given to you."

4 And Esther said, "If to the king it is / seems good, let the king come today, and Haman, to the banquet feast which I have made for him."

5 And the king said, "Hasten Haman quickly to do the thing / word of Esther." And the king came, and Haman, to the banquet which Esther had made.

6 And the king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, "What (is) your request and it will be granted to you? And what (is) you entreaty and it will be done up to half the kingdom?"

7 And Esther answered and she said, "My request and my entreaty,

8 If I have found favor in the eyes of the king, and if to the king (it seems) good to grant my request and to do my entreaty, the king will come to the banquet, and Haman, which I will make for them. And tomorrow I will do according to the word of the king."

9 And Haman went on that day merry and good of heart, but / and when Haman saw Mordecai in the gate of the king and he did not rise and he did not tremble from / because of him and Haman was full of burning anger / rage toward Mordecai.

10 But Haman restrained himself and he went to his house and he sent and he brought his friends and Zeresh his wife.

11 And Haman related to them the honor of his riches and greatness of his sons and all that (how) the king had made him powerful and that he lifted him over the princes and servants of the king.

12 And Haman said, "Also Esther the queen did not invite with the king to the banquet which she made (anyone) except me, and also for tomorrow, I was summoned to her with the king.

13 And all this is not adequate to me with all the times which I (am) seeing Mordecai the Jew sitting in the gate of the king."

14 And Zeresh his wife said to him, and all his friends, "Let a tree / gallows be made of a height of 50 cubits and in the morning speak to the king. And he will hang Mordecai upon it. So go with the king to the banquet joyfully." And the word / thing was pleasing before / in the face of Haman and he made the tree / gallows.

ESTHER CHAPTER 6

1 In that night, sleep fled the king and he said to bring the book of memorials of the things / words / events of the days to be read aloud before the king.

2 And he found written that Mordecai had reported about Bigthan and Teresh, two of the eunuchs of the king who kept the door / threshold who sought to send a hand against the King Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, "What honor and greatness has been done for Mordecai concerning this?" And the youths / servants of the king who served him said, "Not a thing has been done with him."

4 And the king said, "Who (is) in the court?" And Haman was coming to the inner court of the house of the king to speak to the king to hang Mordecai upon the tree / gallows which he had prepared for him.

5 And the servants of the king said to him, "Behold, Haman is standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come."

6 And Haman came and the king said to him, "What is to be done with a man in whose honor the king delights?" And Haman said in his heart, "For whom does he desire to do honor more than me?"

7 And Haman said to the king, "A man in whose honor the king delights,

8 Let him be brought to put on royal clothing the king had worn himself, and a horse which the king has ridden upon and which has been put a royal crown on his head.

9 And entrust / designate / produce the clothing, and the horse to the hand of a man from the princes of the king. And the nobles will clothe the man which the king desires to honor, and they will cause him to mount upon the horse in the plaza of the city and they will call before him like (this): 'Thus it will be done to a man in whose honor the king delights.'"

10 And the king said to Haman, "Hasten. Take the clothing and the horse according to what you spoke and do this to Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting in the gate of the king. Do not omit / let drop a word / thing from all that you spoke."

11 And Haman took the clothing and the horse and caused Mordecai to be clothed, and he caused him to mount and ride in the plaza of the city and he announced before him, "Like this / In this manner it will be done to a man in whose honor the king delights."

12 And Mordecai sat at the gate of the king, and Haman hurried himself to his house mourning and covering his head.

13 And Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and to all his friends all that had befallen him, and the wise ones and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai is from the seed of the Jews when you have begun to fall before him, you will not prevail over him because you will certainly fall before him."

14 They were still speaking with him and the princes of the king arrived, and they hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had made.

ESTHER CHAPTER 7

1 And the king went, and Haman, to drink / feast with Esther the queen.

2 And the king said to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine also, "What is your request, Queen Esther?. And it will be given to you. And what is your entreaty up to half of the kingdom? And it is done."

3 And Esther the queen answered and said, "If I have found favor in your eyes O king, and if to the king (it is / seems) good, let my life / soul be granted to me at my request and my people at my entreaty.

4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be annihilated, to be killed, to be destroyed. And even if as servants and as maid-servants we were to be sold, I would be silent except there is not an adversary / enemy equal in injury to the king."

5 And King Ahasuerus spoke and he said to Esther the queen, "Who is this person? And where is this person whose heart has filled him to do this?"

6 And Esther said, "A man (who is) an adversary and an enemy, this evil Haman." And Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

7 And the king arose in his burning rage from the banquet of the wine to the garden / orchard of the palace. And Haman remained / stood to seek concerning his life / soul from Esther the queen when he saw that she had determined / plotted evil upon him from the king.

8 And the king returned from the garden of the palace to the house of the banquet of wine and Haman was lying prostrate upon the couch which Esther was upon. And the king said, "Will he also force / subdue the queen with me in the house?" The word went out from the mouth of the king and the face of Haman they covered.

9 And Harbona, one of the eunuchs before the king, said, "Also behold the gallows / tree standing in the house of Haman 50 cubits high which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good concerning / for the good of the king, and the king said, "Hang him upon it."

10 And they hanged Haman upon the gallows / tree which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the burning rage of the king decreased.

ESTHER CHAPTER 8

1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Esther the queen the house of Haman, who showed hostility toward the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king for Esther had told / reported what he was to her.

2 And the king removed his signet ring which had been taken away / caused to pass over from Haman and he gave it to Mordecai and Esther placed Mordecai Over the house of Haman.

3 And Esther was caused again to speak before the king and she fell before his feet, and she wept and she sought favor of him to cause to take away / pass over the evil of Haman the Agagite and his scheme which he planned against the Jews.

4 And the king extended to Esther the scepter of gold and Esther rose and she stood before the king.

5 And she said, "If to the king (it is), good, and if I have found favor before him and the thing / word will be advantageous / proper before the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, he will write to reverse the edict / scrolls of the scheme of Haman, son of Hammedata the Agagite, which he wrote to cause the Jews which (are) in all the provinces of the king to be killed.

6 For how will I be able to endure / bear to look upon the evil which will befall my people and how will I be able to look upon his destruction of my kindred?"

7 And King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, the house of Haman I have given to Esther and him they hanged upon the gallows / tree because he sent his hand against the Jews.

8 And you write concerning / for the benefit of the Jews as (is) good in your eyes in the name of the king and seal it with the signet ring of the king for an edict / writing which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the signet ring of the king is not to be revoked."

9 And they summoned / called the scribes of the king at this time in the third month, the 23rd of the month Sivan, and it was written according to all which Mordecai commanded to the Jews and to the satraps and the governors and the princes / chieftains of the provinces which (are) from India and up to Cush, 127 provinces, (to) each and every province according to its writing and (to) each and every people according to its language, and to the Jews according to their writing and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and he sealed (it) with the signet ring of the king and he sent the edicts by the hand of the messengers / riders / runners

on horses, riders of the steeds of the royal sons of the mares,

11 So that the king gave to the Jews who (were) in all the cities / each and every city to assemble and to make a stand for their lives to exterminate / annihilate and to kill and to destroy all armed bands / armies, people, and provinces who were showing hostility (to) them, children and women and their booty / spoil / plunder to plunder.

12 On a certain / one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, Adar.

13 A copy of the writing was issued / caused to be given as law in each and every province to be revealed to all the peoples, and for the Jews to take place to be ready for this day to avenge themselves from their enemies.

14 The messengers, riders of the royal steeds went out hastening and driving with the word of the king.. And the law was given in the palace / fortress Susa.

15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal clothing of violet thread and white stuff and a large crown of gold and a robe of bysus / linen and purple. And the city of Susa neighed / cried shrilly and rejoiced.

16 For the Jews it was her light and she rejoiced intensely and exultation and honor

17 In each and every province and each and every city, any place the word of the king and his law reached / arrived, she rejoiced greatly. And (it was) exultation for the Jews, a feast and a good day, and many of the peoples of the land were becoming Jews for dread of the Jews had fallen upon them.

ESTHER CHAPTER 9

1 And in the twelfth month, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day that the word of the king arrived. And his law was to be done on the day which the enemies of the Jews hoped to dominate them. But it was reversed So that the Jews became masters / dominant of the ones hating them.

2 The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to send a hand against the ones seeking their evil. And a man did not stand before them for their dread fell upon all the peoples,

3 And all the chieftains of the provinces and the satraps and the governors were doing work which supported the Jews to the king, for dread of Mordecai had fallen upon them.

4 For Mordecai was great in the house of the king and they heard (his fame) growing in all the provinces for the man Mordecai had grown great.

5 And the Jews killed all their enemies with a blow of the sword. And slaughter and destruction they did to the ones hating them according to their will / pleasure.

6 And in Susa the palace / fortress the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men.

7 And Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha

8 And Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha

9 And Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha,

10 Ten of the sons of Haman, son of Hammedatha, the ones showing hostility to the Jews, they killed. And against their spoil they did not send their hand.

11 On that day, the number of the ones who were slain in Susa, the palace, came before the king.

12 And the king said to Esther the queen, "In Susa, the palace / citadel, the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men and 10 sons of Haman. In the provinces of the king, what has been done? And what do you desire, and it will be given to you. And what do you still seek, and it will be done."

13 And Esther said, "If to the king, (it is / seems) good, he will give tomorrow also to the Jews which are in Susa to be done according to the law of today. And the ten sons of Haman should be hanged upon the gallows / tree."

14 And the king said, "Let it be done therefore, and a law will be given / issued in

Susa." And the ten sons of Haman were hanged.

15 And the Jews who were in Susa assembled on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar. And they killed 300 men in Susa and against spoil they did not send their hand.

16 And the Jews who were in the provinces of the king assembled and stood for their lives. And they had rest from their enemies, killing 75,000 of the ones hating them. But against spoil they did not send their hand

17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar. And they took rest on the fourteenth of it and made it a day of feasting and joy.

18 And the Jews who were in Susa assembled on the thirteenth of it and on the fourteenth of it, and taking rest on the fifteenth of it and making it a day of feasting and joy.

19 Therefore the Jews of the hamlets, the ones living in the cities of hamlets made day fourteen of the month Adar, joy and a feast. And it was a good day, (one of) sending portions, each man to his friend.

20 And Mordecai wrote these words and he sent scrolls to all the Jews who (were) in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus (both) near and far,

21 To impose an obligation upon them to observe day fourteen of the month Adar and day fifteen of it, each and every year / year after year.

22 According to the days in which the Jews had rest from their enemies and the month in which their grief changed to joy and feasting for a good day. To observe them, the days (consisted of / were) feasting and joy and sending portions each man to his friend and gifts to the needy.

23 And the Jews received that which they began to do and that which Mordecai wrote to them.

24 For Haman, son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the one showing hostility toward the Jews planned / devised upon the Jews to destroy them and he cast a lot to determine (when) to confuse / discomfit them and to destroy them.

25 And when she went before the king, he said, ""With the scroll his evil device / plan which he planned against the Jew will be returned upon his head. And they hanged him and his sons upon the gallows / tree."

26 Therefore, they called these days Purim from the name of the lot. Therefore, together with all the words of this letter (was) what they saw and what befell them.

27 They stood and the Jews assembled against them and against their seed and against all the ones joined against them and it will not be passed over / become invalid to observe these two days according to their writing and according to their appointed time in each and every year.

28 And these days (are) the ones to be remembered and to be done in this generation and the next within each and every tribe, within each and every province, and in each and every city. And these days of Purim will not be passed over / become obsolete on account of the oppression of the Jews. And their remembrance will not cease from their seed.

29 And Esther the queen, daughter of Abihail, wrote, and Mordecai the Jew, (with) all power / authority to impose a letter of this second Purim.

30 And he sent scrolls to all the Jews to 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, words of peace and truth,

31 To impose these days of Purim with their appointed time according to which it will be imposed upon them. Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen accordingly imposed upon themselves and upon their seed, words of fasts and their cry of distress / outcry / lamentation.

32 And the command of Esther imposed these words of Purim and he wrote in a scroll.

ESTHER CHAPTER 10

1 And King Ahasuerus turned back tribute upon the land and the coasts of the sea.

2 And all achievement of his power and his might and an exact statement of the greatness of Mordecai whom the king made great, are they not written upon a scroll of the words of the days of the king of Medea and Persia?

3 For Mordecai the Jew (was) second to the king Ahasuerus and great to the Jews and was favorable to many of his brothers, seeking good for his people and a word of peace to all his seed.