**The Inspiration of Esther from the Yosef Story**

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| Comparisons | Yosef Story | Megillah |
| Beauty and smarts = rise to power | Yosef | Esther |
| Long forgotten | Yosef’s dream interp. for butler | Mordechai’s saving king |
| Sleep (or lack thereof) reminds | Pharaoh’s dreams | King can’t sleep |
| Hanging | Baker | Haman |
| Meal brings a revelation | Yosef | Esther |
| Three parties | Yosef- Egyptians-Brothers | Esther-Haman-Achashveirosh |
| Sold as slaves | Was sold | If we’d only been sold… |
| TEXTUAL PARALLELS |  |  |
| Pekidim | 41:34 | 2:3-4 |
| Necessary days | 50:3 | 2:12 |
| Day after day | 39:10 (arayos) | 3:4 (Avodah zara?) |
| Sacrifice for others | 43:14 | 4:16 |
| How can I…? | 44:34 | 8:6 |
| Rise (including horse) | 41:42-43 | 6:9, 8:2 |
| נמכרנו | 37:27 | 7:4 |

Author of the Megillah is emphasizing that the story of the Megillah is not a one-time event, but it is part of a series of historical cycles of events. The hand of the Almighty is surely present.

Yehuda = Yehudim

Yehuda saves Binyamin (after having sold Yosef) (Who are in the Kingdom of Judea?)

Like Yehuda who could’ve said I tried

Esther could’ve said I tried