Intricacy & Intrigue in the Persian court:

Themes in Megillat Esther יום א' לפרשת תצוה – ז' אדר תשע"ז





לעילוי נשמת גרשון בן יצחק מאיר ז״ל מוקדש ע״י בנו, ידידנו היקר והק׳ יצחק מאיר בן גרשון משקוף ז״ל

Character Profiles – Part 3 Esther: Machiavellian or Moribund Queen?

1) מגילת אסתר (פרק א')

1 This is what happened back when Ahasuerus lived, the very Ahasuerus who ruled from India to Cush-one hundred twenty-seven provinces in all. 2 At that time, Ahasuerus ruled the kingdom from his royal throne in the fortified part of Susa. 3 In the third year of his rule he hosted a feast for all his officials and courtiers. The leaders of Persia and Media attended, along with his provincial officials and officers. [...] 9 At the same time, Queen Vashti held a feast for women in King Ahasuerus' palace. 10 On the seventh day, when wine had put the king in high spirits, he gave an order to Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who served King Ahasuerus personally. 11 They were to bring Queen Vashti before him wearing the royal crown. She was gorgeous, and he wanted to show off her beauty both to the general public and to his important guests. 12 But Queen Vashti refused to come as the king had ordered through the eunuchs. The king was furious, his anger boiling inside. 13 Now, when a need arose, the king would often talk with certain very smart people about the best way to handle it. They were people who knew both the kingdom's written laws and what judges had decided about cases in the past. 14 The ones he talked with most often were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan. They were seven very important people in Persia and Media who, as the kingdom's highest leaders, were in the king's inner circle. So the king said to them, 15 "According to the law, what should I do with Queen Vashti since she didn't do what King Ahasuerus ordered her through the eunuchs?" 16 Then Memucan spoke up in front of the king and the officials. "Queen Vashti," he said, "has done something wrong not just to the king himself. She has also done wrong to all the officials and the peoples in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. 17 This is the reason: News of what the queen did will reach all women, making them look down on their husbands. They will say, 'King Ahasuerus ordered servants to bring Queen Vashti before him, but she refused to come.' 18 This very day, the important women of Persia and Media who hear about the queen will tell the royal officials the same thing. There will be no end of put-downs and arguments. 19 Now, if the king wishes, let him send out a royal order and have it written into the laws of Persia and Media, laws no one can ever change. It should say that Vashti will never again come before King Ahasuerus. It should also say that the king will give her royal place to someone better than she. 20 When the order becomes public through the whole empire, vast as it is, all women will treat their husbands properly. The rule should touch everyone, whether from an important family or not." 21 The king liked the plan, as did the other men, and he did just what Memucan said. 22 He sent written orders to all the king's provinces. Each province received it written in its own alphabet and each people received it in its own language. It said that each husband should rule over his own house.

(א) וַיָהָי בִּימֵי אַחַשְׁוַרוֹשׁ הוּא אַחַשְׁוַרוֹשׁ הַמֹּלֵדְ מַהֹדּוּ וְעַד פוש שָבַע וְעָשִרִים וּמֵאָה מִדִינָה: (ב) בַּיָּמִים הָהֶם כְּשֵּבֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֶרוֹשׁ עַל כְּסֶא מַלְכוֹתוֹ אֲשֵׁר בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבְּירָה: (ג) בּשְׁנֵת שָׁלוֹשׁ לְמָלְכוֹ עָשָּה מִשְׁתֶּה לְכֶל שָׁרָיו וַעְבָּדִיו חֵיל פָּרַס וּמָדֵי הַפַּרְתָּמִים וְשָׁרֵי הַמְּדִינוֹת לְפָנָיוֹ: [...] (ט) גַם וַשְּׁתִי הַמַּלְכָּה עָשְׁתָה מִשְׁתֵּה נָשִׁים בֵּית הַמַּלְכוּת אֲשֵׁר לַמֵּלֵדְ אַתַשְׁוֹרושׁ : סֹ (י) בַּיִּיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי כְּטוֹב ֹלֵב הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּיָּיָן אָמַר לְמְהוּמָן בִּוְּתָא חַרְבוֹנָא בִּגְתָא וַאֲבַגְתָא זַתַר וְכַרְכַּס שִׁבְעַת הַסְּרִיסִים הַמְשָּׁרְתִּים אֶת בְּנֵי הַפֶּּלֶךְ אֲחַשְּׁוֵרוֹשׁ : (יא) לְהָבִּיא אֶתֹ וַשְּׁתִּי הַלְּכַּה לִפְנִי הַפֶּלֶךְ בְּבֶּכֶתֶר מַלְכוּת לְהַרְאוֹת ָהָעַמִּים וְהַשָּׂרִים ֹאֶת יָפְיָה כִּי טוֹבַת מֵרְאֶה הִיא : (יב) וַהְּמָאֵן ַהַמַּלְכָּה וַשְׁתִּי לָבוֹא בִּדְבַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בְּיַד הַסְּרִיסִים וַיִּקְצֹף הַפֶּלֶדְ מְאֹד וַחֲמָתוֹ בְּעֲרָה בוֹ : (יגֹ) וַיּאֹמֶר הַפֶּלֶדְ לַחֲכָמִים יִדְעֵי הַעִּתִּים כִּי כֵן דָבַר הַמֵּלֵדְ לִפְנֵי כָּל יִדְעֵי דָּת וָדִין: (יד) וְהַקָּרֹב ֹאֵלָיו בַּרְשְׁנָא שַתָּר אַוֹדְמָתָה תַּרְשִׁישׁ מֶרֶס מַרְסְנָא מְמוֹּכָן שִּׁבְעַת שָׁרֵי פָּרַס וּמָדֵי רֹאֵי בְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶּדְ הַיּשְּׁבִים ראשנה בַּמַּלְכוּת: (טוֹ) כִּדָת מָה לַעֲשוֹת בַּמַּלְכֵּה וַשְׁתִּי עַל אַשר לא עָשְׂתָה אֵת מַאֲמַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ בְּיַֹד הַסְּרִיסִים : ס (טז) וַיּאמֶר מומכן מִמוּכָן לִפְנֵי הַמֵּלֶדְ וְהַשָּׁרִים לֹא עַל הַמֶּלֶדְ לְבַדוֹ עָוְתָה וַשְּׁתִּי הַמַּלְכָּה כִּי עַל כָּל הַשָּׁרִים וְעַל כָּל הָעַׂמִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ: (יז) כִּי יֵצֵא דבר הַמַּלְכָּה עַל כַּל הַנַּשִים לְהַבְּזוֹת בַּעַלֵיהֵן בְּעֵינֵיהֵן בְּאַמְרַם הַמֵּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרושׁ אָמַר לְהָבִיא אֶת וַשְּׁתִּי הַמַּלְכָּה לְפָנֵיוֹ וְלֹא בָאָה: (יח) וְהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה תּאמַרְנָה שָּׁרוֹת פָּרַס וּמָדַי אֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעוּ אֱת דָבַר הַמַּלְכָּה לְכֹל שָׁרֵי הַמֵּלֶדְ וּכְדֵי בְּזָיוֹן וַקְצֵף: (יטֹ) אִם עַל הַפֶֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יֵצֵא דְבַר מַלְכוֹת מִלְפָנִיוֹ וְיְּכָּתֵב בְּדְּתֵׁי ָפָרַס וּמָדַי וְלֹא יַעֲבוֹר אֲשֶׁר לֹא תָבוֹא וַשְׁתָּי לְּנְגֵי הַמֶּּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ וּמַלְכוּתָּה יִתָּוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ לִרְעוֹתָה הַטוֹבָה מִמֶּנָה: (כ) וֹנִשְׁמַע פָּתָגָם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׁה בָּכֶל מַלְכוּתוֹ כִּי רַבָּה הִיא ּוְכָּל הַנָּשִׁים יִתְּנוֹ יְקָּר לְבַעְלֵיהֶן לְמִנֶּדוֹל וְעַדׁ קָטָן: (כֹאֹ) וַיִּיטֵב (כב) : בָּרַבְּר בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ וְהַשָּׁרִים וַיַּעַשׁ הַמֶּלֶדְ כִּדְבַר מְמוּכָן וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָּרִים אֶל בָּל מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶּדְ אֶל מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה ַבִּלְתָבָה וְשֶׂל עַם וָעָם כִּלְשׁונוֹ לִהְיוֹת ׁכָל אִישׁ שֹׁרֵר בְּבֵיתוֹ ּומדַבֵּר כִּלְשוֹן עַמּו

1 Sometime later when King Ahasuerus was less angry, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what he had decided about her. 2 So his young male servants said, "Let the king have a search made for beautiful young women who haven't yet married. 3 And let the king choose certain people in all the royal provinces to lead the search. Have them bring all the beautiful young women together to the fortified part of Shushan, to the women's house, to the care of Hegai the king's eunuch in charge of the women so that he might provide beauty treatments for them. 4 Let the young woman who pleases you the most take Vashti's place as queen." The king liked the plan and implemented it. 5 Now there was a Jew in the fortified part of Shushan whose name was Mordecai, Jair's son. He came from the family line of Shimei and Kish; he was a Benjaminite. (6 Benjaminites had been taken into exile away from Jerusalem along with the group, which included Judah's King Jeconiah, whom Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar exiled to Babylon.) 7 Mordecai had been a father to Hadassah (that is, Esther), though she was really his cousin, because she had neither father nor mother. The girl had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at. When her parents died, Mordecai had taken her to be his daughter. 8 When the king's order and his new law became public, many young women were gathered into the fortified part of Shushan under the care of Hegai. Esther was also taken to the palace to the care of Hegai, the one in charge of the women. 9 The young woman pleased him and won his kindness. He quickly began her beauty

<u>2) מגילת אסתר (פרק ב')</u>

(א) אַחַר הַדְּבַרִים הַאֵלֶה כִּשׁדְּ חַמַת הַמֵּלֶדְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ--זַכַר ָאֶת-וַשְּׁתִּי וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָּׂתָה, וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר-נִגְוַר עָלֶיהָ: (ב) וַיֹּאמְרוֹּ נַעְרֵי-הַמֶּלֶהְ, בְּשְׁרְתִיוֹ: יְבַקְשׁוּ בְּמֶלֶהְ נְעְרֵי-הַמֶּלֶהְ בְּלְידִים, בְּכָל-בְּתוּלוֹת, טוֹבוֹת מַרְאָה: (גֹ) וְיִפְקֵד הַמֶּלֶהְ פְּקִידִים, בְּכָל-ֶּמְדִינוֹת מֵלְכוּתוֹ, וְיִּלְּבְּצוּ אֱת-כָּלֹ-נֵעֲרַה-בְּתוֹלֶה טוֹבַת מַרְאֱה ָאֶל-שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה אֶלֹ-בֵּית הַנָּשִּׁים, אֶל-יַד הַגָּא סְרִיס הַמְּמֵלֵך שֹׁמֵר הַנָּשִׁים; וְנָתוֹן, תַּמְרָקִיהֶן: (דֹ) וְהַנַּעֲרָה, אֲשֶׁר תִּיֹטֵב בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ--תִּמְלדְ, תַּחַת וַשְׁתִּי ; וַיִּיטַב הַדְּבָר בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ, וַיַּעַשׁ כֵּן: (ה) אַישׁ יָהוּדִי הַיַּה בַּשׁוּשׁן הַבִּירָה וּשׁמוֹ מָרְדֶּכַי בֶּן יָאִיר בֶּן שִׁמְעִי בֵּן קִישׁ אִישׁ ימִינִי: (ו) אשר הגלה מירושלים עם הגלה אשר הגלתה עם יָכָנָיָה מֵלֶךְ יָהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר הַגָּלָה נְבוּכַדְנָאצַר מֵלֶךְ בַּבֶל: (ז) וַיִּהָי אֹמֶן אֶת הַדַּסָה הִיא אֱסְתֵּר בַּת דֹּדוֹ בִּי אֵין לַהַּ אַב וַאֶם וְהַנַּעֲרָה יְפַת תֹאַר וְטוֹבַת מַראָה ובִמות אַבִיהַ וְאִמֵּה לְקַחַה מַרדֵבֵי לו לַבַּת : (ח) וַיִּהִי בִּהִשָּׁמֵע דְבַר הַמֶּלֶדְ וְדָתוֹ וּבְהִקּבֵץ נערות רַבּוֹת אֵל שוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה אֵל יַד הַגֵּי וַתְּלֶּקָח אַסְתֵּר אֵל בֵּית הַמֶּלֶדְ אֵל יַד הַגַּי שמר הַנַּשִים: (ט) וַתִּיטַב הַנַּעַרָה בְעֵינַיו וַתִּשַּׂא חֵסֶד לְפַנַיו וַיבַהֶל אֶת תַּמְרוֹקֵיהַ וְאֶת מַנוֹתֶהַ לַתָּת לָהּ וְאֶת שַבַע הַנְעַרוֹת הַרְאִיוֹת לַתָּת לַהּ מְבֶּית הַמֵּלֶדְ treatments and gave her carefully chosen foods. He also gave her seven servants selected from among the palace servants and moved her and her servants into the nicest rooms in the women's house. (10 Esther hadn't told anyone her race and family background because Mordecai had ordered her not to.) 11 Each day found Mordecai pacing back and forth along the wall in front of the women's house to learn how Esther was doing and what they were doing with her. 12 According to the rules for women, the moment for each young woman to go to King Ahasuerus came at the end of twelve months. (She had six months of treatment with pleasant-smelling creams and six months with fragrant oils and other treatments for women.) 13 So this is how the young woman would go to the king: They gave her anything that she asked to take with her from the women's house to the palace. 14 In the evening she would go in, and the next morning she would return to the second women's house under the care of Shaashgaz. He was the king's eunuch in charge of the secondary wives. She would never go to the king again unless he was so pleased that he called for her by name. 15 Soon the moment came for Esther daughter of Mordecai's uncle Abihail, whom Mordecai had taken as his own daughter, to go to the king. But she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch in charge of the women told her. (Esther kept winning the favor of everyone who saw her.) 16 Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, to his own palace, in the tenth month (that is, the month of Tevet) in the seventh year of his rule. 17 The king loved Esther more than all the other women; she had won his love and his favor more than all the others. He placed the royal crown on her head and made her ruler in place of Vashti. 18 The king held a magnificent, lavish feast, "the feast of Esther," for all his officials and courtiers. He declared a public holiday for the provinces and gave out gifts with royal generosity. 19 When they gathered the young women to the second women's house, Mordecai was working for the king at the King's Gate. 20 Esther still wasn't telling anyone her family background and race, just as Mordecai had ordered her. She continued to do what Mordecai said, just as she did when she was in his care. 21 At that time, as Mordecai continued to work at the King's Gate, two royal eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, became angry with King Ahasuerus. They were among the guards protecting the doorway to the king, but they secretly planned to kill him. 22 When Mordecai got wind of it, he reported it to Queen Esther. She spoke to the king about it, saying the information came from Mordecai. 23 The matter was investigated and found to be true, so the two men were impaled on pointed poles. A report about the event was written in the royal record with the king present.

7 In the first month (that is, the month of Nisan) in the twelfth year of the rule of King Ahasuerus, servants threw pur, namely, dice, in front of Haman to find the best day for his plan. They tried every day and every month, and the dice chose the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar).

1 When Mordecai learned what had been done, he tore his clothes, dressed in mourning clothes, and put ashes on his head. Then he went out into the heart of the city and cried out loudly and bitterly. 2 He went only as far as the King's Gate because it was against the law for anyone to pass through it wearing mourning clothes. 3 At the same time, in every province and place where the king's order and his new law arrived, a very great sadness came over the Jews. They gave up eating and spent whole days weeping and crying out loudly in pain. Many Jews lay on the ground in mourning clothes and ashes. 4 When Esther's female servants and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, the queen's whole body showed how upset she was. She sent everyday clothes for Mordecai to wear instead of mourning clothes, but he rejected them. 5 Esther then sent for Hathach, one of the royal eunuchs whose job it was to wait on her. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was going on and why he was acting this way. 6 Hathach went out to Mordecai, to the city square in front of the King's Gate. 7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He spelled out the exact amount of silver that Haman promised to pay into the royal treasury. It was in exchange for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave Hathach a copy of the law made public in Shushan concerning the Jews' destruction so that Hathach could show it to Esther and report it to her. Through him Mordecai ordered her to go to the king to seek his kindness and his help for her people. 9 Hathach came back and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 In reply Esther ordered Hathach to tell Mordecai: 11 "All the king's officials and the people in his provinces know

וַיִשַׁנֵהַ וָאֵת נַעַרוֹתִיהַ לְטוֹב בֵּית הַנַּשִׁים: (י) לא הגידה אסתר את עמה ואת מולדתה כי מרדכי צוָה עַלֵיהַ אֲשֵׁר לֹא תַגִּיד: (יא) וּבְכֵל יוֹם וַיוֹם מרדכי מתהלד לפני חצר בית הנשים לדעת את שלום אסתר ומה יעשה בה: (יב) ובהגיע תר נערה וְנַעֲרָה לָבוֹא אֶל הַמֶּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ מִקֵּץ הֱיוֹת לָהּ כְּדָת הַנָּשִׁים שנים עשר חדש כי כן ימלאו ימי מרוֹקיהו ששה חדשים בְּשֶׁמֶן הַמֹּר וְשִׁשָּׁה חֲדָשִׁים בַּבְּשָׁמִים וּבְתַמְרוּקֵי הַנָּשִׁים : (יג) וּבָיֶה הַנַּעֲרָה בָּאָה אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵת כָּל אֲשֶׁר תּאמֵר יִנָתַן לָהּ לַבוֹא עַפֶּה מְבֵּית הַנָּשִים עַד בֵּית הַפֶּלֶך: (יד) בָּעֶרֶב הִיא בָאָה וּבַבּקֶר הִיא שָבָה אֶל בֵּית הַנָּשִׁים שֵׁנִי אֵל יַד שַׁעַשְׁגַּז סְרִיס הַמֵּלֶדְ שֹמֵר הַפִּילַגִּשִּׁים לא תָבוא עוד אֱל הַמֵּלֶדְ כִּי אִם ַחָפֵץ בָּה הַמֶּלֶדְ וְנִקְרָאָה בְשֵׁם : (טוֹ) וּבְהַגִּיעַ תֹּר אֵסְתֵּר בַּת אַבִּיחַיִל דד מַרדַכִי אֵשֵׁר לָקַח לוֹ לְבַת לָבוֹא אַל הַמֶּלֶדְ לֹא בִקשָׁה דָבַר כִּי אָם אָת אֲשֶׁר יאׁמֵר הגי סריס המלך שמר הנשים ותהי אסתר נשאת חן בעיני כל ראיה: (טז) ותלקח אסתר אַל הַמֵּלֶדְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ אֵל בֵּית מַלְכוּתוֹ בַּחֹדֵשׁ העשירי הוא חדש טבת בשנת שבע למלכותו: (יז) וַיַּאֲהַב הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת אֱסְתֵּר מְכָּל הַנָּשִׁים וַתִּשָּׂא חו וַחֶסֶד לְפַנֵיוֹ מִכֵּל הַבְּתוּלת וַיַּשֶׁם כֶּתֵר מַלְכוּת בָּרֹאשָׁה וַיַּמְלִיכֶהַ תַּחָת וַשְׁתִּי: (יח) וַיַּעֲשׁ הַמֵּלֶדְ משתה גדול לכַל שָׁרָיו וַעֲבָדָיו אֵת מִשְׁתֵּה אֶסְתֵר וַהַנַחָה לַמִּדִינות עַשָּה וַיִּתְן מַשְּאֵת כְּיַד הַמְּלֶד: (יט) ובהקבץ בתולות שנית ומרדכי ישב בשער ַהַמֵּלֶדְ: (כ) אֵין אֶסְתֵּר מַגָּדֶת מוֹלַדְתַּה וְאֵת עַמַה בַּאֵשֵר צְוָה עָלֵיהָ מָרְדֶכָי וְאֵת מַאֵמַר מָרְדֶּכַי אסתר עשה כאשר היתה באמנה אתו: ס (כא) בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמָרְדֶּכַי יֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ קָצַף בְּגְתָן וָתֶרֶשׁ שְׁנֵי סָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ מִשׁמְרֵי הַפַּף וַיְבַקְשׁוּ לִשְׁלֹחַ יָד בַּמֶּלֶדְ אָחַשְׁוֵרשׁ : (כב) וַיִּנְדַע הַדָּבָר לְמָרְדֶּכַי **וַיַּגִּד לְאֶסְתֵּר** הַמַּלְכַּה וַתּאמר אָסְתָּר לַמֵּלֶךְ בְּשָׁם מַרְדָּכַי: (כג) וַיְבָקַשׁ הַדָּבָר וַיִּפָּעֵא וַיִּתָּלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם עַל עֵץ וַיִּכְּתֵב בְּסֵפֶר דּבְרֵי הַיָּמִים לִפְנֵי הַמֵּלֵךְ: פ

(פרק גי) מגילת אסתר (פרק גי)

[...] (ז) בַּתֹדֶשׁ הָרְאשׁוֹן הוּא חֹדֶשׁ נִיסְן **בְּשְׁנַת שְׁתַּים עֶשְׂרֵה לַמֶּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוַרוֹשׁ** הָפֵּיל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוֹרֶל לְפְנֵי הָמָן מִיּוֹם לְיוֹם וּמֵחדֶשׁ לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר הוּא חֹדֶשׁ אֲדָר: ס [...]

4) מגילת אסתר (פרק ד')

(א) וּמַרדַּכַי יַדַע אֱת כָּל אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשֶׂה וַיִּקְרַע מָרדָּכַי אֱת בְּגָדָיו ַוּיִלְבַּשׁ שַּׁק וָאֵפֶר וַיִּצֵא בְּתוֹדְ הָעִיר וַיִּזְעַק זְעָקָה גְדֹלֶה וּמָרָה : (בֹ) וַיָּבוֹא עַד לִפְנֵי שַעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אֵין לָבוֹא אֶל שַעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ (בֹ) בּלְבוּשׁ שָׁק: (ג) וּבְּכָל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה, מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר דְבַר-ָהַבֶּּלֶדְ וְדָתוֹ מַגִּיעַ--אֵבֶל גָּדוֹל לַיְהוֹדִים, וְצוֹם וּבְּכִי וּמִסְפֵּד, שַׂק וָאֵפֶּר, יָצַע לָרִבִּים: (ד) וַתָּבוֹאנָה נַעַרוֹת אֵסְתֵּר וְסַרִיסֵיהָ וַיַּגִּידוּ לָהּ וַתְּתְחַלְחַל הַמַּלְכָּה מְאד וַתְשָׁלַח בְּגָדִים לְהַלְבִּישׁ אֵת מַרְדֵּכֵי וּלְהָסִיר שַׁקּוֹ מַעַלַיו וְלֹא קַבָּל: (ה) וַתִּקְרָא אֶסְתֵּר לַהֲתָדְ מְּסָרִיסֵי הַמֵּלֵךְ אֲשֵׁר הֵעֵמִיד לְפָנֵיהָ וַתִּצַוָהוּ עַל מַרְדַּכַי לַדַעַת מַה זֶה וְעַל מַה זֶה: (ו) וַיָּצֵא הַתַּדְּ : אֶל מַרְדֵּכַי אֵל רָחוֹב הַעִיר אֲשֶׁר לָפָנֵי שַעַר הַמֵּלֶדְ (ז) וַיַּגָּד לוֹ מַרְדָּכַי אָת כַּל אֲשֶׁר קַרָהוּ **וְאֵת פַּרְשַׁת** הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר אַמַר הַמַן לְשִׁקוֹל עַל גְּנְזֵי הַמֵּלֶדְּ בַּיָּהוֹדִים לָאַבָּדָם: (ח) וָאֵת פַּתִשְׁגֵן כִּתַב הַדַּת אָשֶׁר נִתַּן בִּשׁוּשַׁן לְהַשִּׁמִידַם נַתַן לוֹ לְהַרְאוֹת אֶת אָסְתֵּר וּלְהַגִּיד לָהּ וּלְצֵוּוֹת עָלֵיהָ לָבוֹא אֵל הַמֵּלֵדְ לְהָתְחֵנֵן לוֹ וּלְבַקֵּשׁ מִלְפַנֵיו עַל עַמַה: (ט) וַיַּבוֹא הַתָּדְ וַיַּגֵּד לְאֵסְתֵּר אֵת דְּבָרֵי מָרְדָּכָי: (י) וַתּאֹמֵר אָסְתֶּר לַהַתַּדְ וַתְּצַוָּהוּ אֱל מַרְדַּכֵי: (יא) כַּל עַבְדֵי ַהַמֵּלֵךְ וַעָם מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֶךְ יוֹדְעִים אֲשֵׁר כַּל אִישׁ וָאשָׁה אֲשֵׁר יָבוֹא אֵל הַמֵּלֶךְּ אֵל הַחָצֵר הַפִּנִימִית אַשֶּׁר לֹא יָקָרָא אַחַת דַּתוֹ לְהַמִּית לְבַד מֵאֲשֵׁר that there's a single law in a case like this. Any man or woman who comes to the king in the inner courtyard without being called is to be put to death. Only the person to whom the king holds out the gold scepter may live. In my case, I haven't been called to come to the king for the past thirty days." 12 When they told Mordecai Esther's words, 13 he had them respond to Esther: "Don't think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you'll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. 14 In fact, if you don't speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family." 15 Esther sent back this word to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are in Shushan and tell them to give up eating to help me be brave. They aren't to eat or drink anything for three whole days, and I myself will do the same, along with my female servants. Then, even though it's against the law, I will go to the king; and if I am to die, then die I will." 17 So Mordecai left where he was and did exactly what Esther had ordered him

יוֹשִׁיט לוֹ הַמֶּלֶדְ אֶת שַׁרְבִּיט הַזָּהָב וְחָיָה וַאֲנִי לֹא נִקְרָאתִי לָבוֹא אֶל הַמֶּלֶדְ זֶה שְׁלוֹשִׁים יוֹם: (יב)
נִקְרַאתִי לָבוֹא אֶל הַמֶּלֶדְ זֶה שְׁלוֹשִׁים יוֹם: (יב)
נַצְּידוּ לְמְרְדֶּכִי אֵת דִּבְרֵי אֶסְתֵּר: פּ (יג) וַיּאֹמֶר
מְרְדֵּכִי לְהָשִיב אֶל אֶסְתֵּר אֵל תְּדַמִּי בְנַפְשַׁדְּ
הַמְּלֵט בִּית הַמֶּלֶדְ מִכְּל הַיְּהוּדִים: (יד) כִּי אִם
הַמְרִשׁי בְּעֵת הַזֹּאת רָוַח וְהַצְּלָה יַצְמוֹד וֹמִי יוֹדֵע אִם לְעֵת כָּזֹאת הָגַעַתְּ לַמַּלְכוֹת: (טו)
נִיְהוֹדְע אִם לְעֵת כָּזֹאת הָגַעַתְּ לַמַּלְכוֹת: (טו)
וַתְּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְהָשִׁיב אֶל מְרְדֵּכִי: (טו) לַדְּ כְּנוֹט
אֶת כָּל הַיְּהוּדִים הַנִּמְאִים בְּשׁוּשְׁן וְצוֹמוּ עָלַי
וְאֵל תּאכְלוּ וְאֵל תִּשְׁתֵּ שְׁלְשֶׁת יָמִים לַיְלָה וְיוֹם
גַּם אֲנִי וְנַצְרַתִּ יִבְּאֲשִׁר אָבִרְתִּי אָבוּת בְּן אָבוֹא אֶל הַמֶּלֶדְ
גְּשִׁ בְּיִרְ וְנַצְעִשׁ כִּכֹּל אֲשֶׁר צְּוְתָּה עָלִיו אֵסְתָּר: כִּי

1 Three days later, Esther put on royal clothes and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace, facing the palace itself. At that moment the king was inside sitting on his royal throne and facing the palace doorway. 2 When the king noticed Queen Esther standing in the entry court, he was pleased. The king held out to Esther the gold scepter in his hand, and she came forward and touched the scepter's tip. 3 Then the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What do you want? I'll give you anything—even half the kingdom." 4 Esther answered, "If the king wishes, please come today with Haman for the feast that I have prepared for him." 5 "Hurry, get Haman," the king ordered, "so we can do what Esther says." So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared. 6 As they sipped wine, the king asked, "Now what is it you wish? I'll give it to you. What do you want? I'll do anything-even give you half the kingdom." 7 Esther answered, "This is my wish and this is what I want: 8 If I please the king, and if the king wishes to grant my wish and my desire, I'd like the king and Haman to come to another feast that I will prepare for them. Tomorrow I will answer the king's questions." 9 That day Haman left Esther's place happy, his spirits high, but then he saw Mordecai in the King's Gate. Mordecai neither stood up nor seemed the least bit nervous around him, so Haman suddenly felt great rage toward Mordecai. 10 But Haman held himself back and went on home. He sent word that his friends and his wife Zeresh should join him there. 11 Haman boasted to them about his great wealth and his many sons. He told all about how the king had honored him by promoting him over the officials and high royal workers. 12 "Best of all," Haman said, "Queen Esther has invited no one else but me to join the king for food and drinks that she has prepared. In fact, I've been called to join the king at her place tomorrow! 13 But all this loses its meaning every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the King's Gate." 14 So his wife Zeresh and all his friends told him: "Have people prepare a pointed pole seventy-five feet high. In the morning, tell the king to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then you can go with the king to the feast in a happy mood." Haman liked the idea and had the pole prepared.

<u>5) מגילת אסתר (פרק ה')</u>

(א) וַיִהִי בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַתְּלְבַּשׁ אֵסְתֵּר מַלְכוּת וַתַּעֲמִד בַּחַצֵּר בֵּית הַמֵּלֶדְ הַפְּנִימִית נֹכַח בֵּית הַמֶּלֶדְ וָהַמֶּלֶדְ יוֹשֶׁב עַל כְּסֵא מַלְכוּתוֹ בְּבֵית הַפַּלְכוּת נֹכַח פֶּתַח הַבָּיִת : (ב) וַיִּהִי כִרְאוֹת הַפֵּלֵךְ אָת אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה עֹמֶדֶת בָּחַצֵּר נַשְׂאַה חֶן בְּעֵינַיו וַיּוֹשֵׁט הַמֵּלֶדְּ לָאֵסְתֵּר אֵת שַׁרְבִיט הַזַּהַב אֲשֵׁר ביַדוֹ וַתַּקָרָב אַסתַר וַתּגָע בּראשׁ הַשַּׁרְבִיט : ס (ג) וַיּאמֶר לָהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ מַה לָךְ אֵסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וּמַה בַּקַשָּׁתֵדְ **עַד חֵצִי הַמַּלְכוּת וִינָּתֵן לָדְ**: (ד) וַתּאמֵר אָסְתֵּר אָם עַל הַמֶּלֶדְ טוֹב יַבוֹא הַמֶּלֶדְ וְהַמַּן הַיּוֹם אַל הַמְּשָׁתָּה אֲשֵׁר עֲשִׂיתִי לוֹ: (ה) וַיּאמֵר הַמֵּלֶדְ מַהַ**רוּ אֵת הַמַּן** לַעֲשׁוֹת אֵת דְבַר אֶסְתֵּר וַיַּבא ָהַמֶּלֶדְ וָהַמַן אֵל הַמִּשְׁתֵּה אֲשֶׁר עֲשְׁתַה אֱסְתֵּר: (ו) וַיּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶדְּ לְאֶסְתֵּר בִּמִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן **מַה שְׁאֵלַתִּד**ְּ ּ וִינַתוֹ לַדְּ וֹמַה בַּקַשְׁתֵּךְ עַדְ חֲצִי הַמַּלְכוֹת וָתַעַשׁ (ז) וַתַּעַן אֵסְתֵּר וַתּאמֵר שָׁאֶלֶתִי וּבַּקּשְׁתִי: (ח) אָם מַצַאתִי חֶן בָּעִינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וָאָם עַל הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב לתת את שאלתי ולעשות את בּקשׁתי יבוֹא הַמֶּלֶדְ וָהָמַן אֵל הַמְּשׁתָה אֲשׁר אַעשה להם ומחר אָעשֶׂה כִּדְבַר הַמֵּלֶדְ: (ט) וַיָּצֵא הַמַּן בַּיוֹם הַהוֹא שַׁמֶּחַ וְטוֹב לֶב וְכִרְאוֹת הַמֵּן אֵת מַרְדַּכֵי בִּשְׁעַר הַמֶּלֶדְ וָלֹא קָם וָלֹא זַע מִמֶּנוּ וַיִּמֵּלֵא הַמַן עַל מַרְדָּכַי חֶמַה: (י) וַיִּתְאַפַּק הָמֶן וַיָּבוֹא אֱל בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיָּבֶא אֵת אֹהַבָּיו וָאֵת זֵרֵשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ : (יא) וַיִּסְפֶּר לַהֶּם הַמַּן אָת כָּבוֹד עָשִׁרוֹ וִרֹב בָּנָיו וָאֵת כָּל אֲשֵׁר גִּדְּלוֹ ַ הַמֵּלֶדְ וָאָת אֲשֶׁר נִשְּאוֹ עַל הַשַּׁרִים וְעַבְדֵי הַמֵּלֶדְ: (יב) וַיּאמֵר הַמַּן אַף לֹא הַבִּיאַה אַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכַּה עם המלך אל המשתה אשר עשתה כי אם אותי וְגָם לְמַחַר אֵנָי קַרוּא לַהּ עָם הַמֵּלַדְ: (יג) וְכַל זָה אֵינֵנוּ שׁוֶה לִי בָּכָל עת אַשֶּׁר אַנִי ראָה אֶת מַרדָּכַי הַיְּהוּדִי יושב בַּשַּׁעַר הַמֵּלֶדְ: (יד) וַתּאמֶר לוֹ זֶרָשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ וְכַל אֹהַבַיו יַצְשוּ עֵץ נָבֹהַ חֲמִשִּׁים אַפָּה וֹבַבּקֶר אֱמר לַמֶּלֶךְ וְיִתְלוּ אֶת מַרדַכַי עַלָּיו ובֹא עם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵל הַמְּשִׁתֵּה שָׁמֵח וַיִּיטַב הַדָּבָר לִפְנֵי הָמָן וַיַּעַשׂ הָעֵץ : פ

1 That same night, the king simply couldn't sleep. He had the official royal records brought in, and his young male servants began reading them to the king. 2 They came to the report about Mordecai informing on Bigthan and Teresh. (They were the two royal eunuchs among the guards protecting the king's doorway, who secretly planned to kill King Ahasuerus.) 3 "What was done to honor and reward Mordecai for this?" the king asked. His young male servants replied, "Nothing was done for him, sir." 4 "Who is that out in the courtyard?" the king asked. (Haman had just entered the outer courtyard of the palace. He had come to tell the king to impale Mordecai on the pole that he had set up for him.) 5 The king's servants answered, "That's

6) מגילת אסתר (פרק ו׳)

(א) בּלַיְלָה הַהּוֹא נְדְדָה שְׁנַת הַמֶּלֶּךְ וַיּאמֶר לְהָבִיא אֶת סֵפֶר הַזִּכְרנוֹת דְּבְרֵי הַיָּמִים וַיִּהְיוּ נְקְרָאִים לִפְנִי תַּמֶּלֶף: (ב) וַיִּמֶצְא כָתוּב אֲשֶׁר הִגִּּיד מְלְדְבָי עַל בִּנְתָנָא וְתֶרֶשׁ שְׁנֵי סְרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶף מְשְׁרֵרוֹשׁ: (ג) וַיּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מַה נַּעֲשְׁה יְקָר אָחַשְׁוַרוֹשׁ: (ג) וַיּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מַה נַּעֲשְׁה יְקָר וֹהְדּלָּה לְמְרְדֵּכִי עַל זָה וַיִּאמֶרוּ נַעֲרִי הַמֶּלֶּדְ מִי מְשֶּׁרְתָיו לֹא נַעֲשָׂה עִמּוֹ דְּבָר: (ד) וַיִּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶדְּ מִי לַמֶּלֶךְ לִתְלוֹת אֶת מְרְדֵּכִי עַל הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר הַכִּין לוֹ: לַה) וַיִּאמִרוּ נַעֲרִי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵלִי הְנֵּה הַמַּן עִמֶּד בָּחַצְר (ה) וַיִּאמִרה הַמֶּן עִמֶּד בַּחָצֵר Haman standing out in the courtyard, sir." So the king said, "Have him come in." 6 When Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man whom the king really wants to honor?" Haman thought to himself, Whom would the king really want to honor more than me? [...]

1 When the king and Haman came in for the banquet with Queen Esther, 2 the king said to her, "This is the second day we've met for wine. What is your wish, Queen Esther? I'll give it to you. And what do you want? I'll do anything-even give you half the kingdom." 3 Queen Esther answered, "If I please the king, and if the king wishes, give me my life—that's my wish—and the lives of my people too. That's my desire. 4 We have been sold—I and my people—to be wiped out, killed, and destroyed. If we simply had been sold as male and female slaves, I would have said nothing. But no enemy can compensate the king for this kind of damage." 5 King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is this person, and where is he? Who would dare do such a thing?" 6 Esther replied, "A man who hates, an enemy—this wicked Haman!" Haman was overcome with terror in the presence of the king and queen. 7 Furious, the king got up and left the banquet for the palace garden. But Haman stood up to beg Queen Esther for his life. He saw clearly that the king's mood meant a bad end for him. 8 The king returned from the palace garden to the banquet room just as Haman was kneeling on the couch

where Esther was reclining. "Will you even molest the queen while I am in

the house?" the king said. The words had barely left the king's mouth before

covering Haman's face with dread. 9 Harbona, one of the eunuchs serving the king,

said, "Sir, look! There's the stake that Haman made for Mordecai, the man who spoke up and

did something good for the king. It's standing at Haman's house-seventy-five feet high."

"Impale him on it!" the king ordered. 10 So they impaled Haman on the very pole that he had

set up for Mordecai, and the king's anger went away.

1 That same day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther what Haman the enemy of the Jews owned. Mordecai himself came before the king because Esther had told the king that he was family to her. 2 The king took off his royal ring, the one he had removed from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther put Mordecai in charge of what Haman had owned. 3 Esther again spoke before the king. She bowed at his feet, wept, and begged him to treat her kindly. She wanted him to overturn the evil plot of Haman the Agagite—his secret plan directed against the Jews. 4 The king held out the gold scepter to Esther, and she got up and stood before him. 5 She said, "If the king wishes, and if I please him—that is, if the idea seems right to the king, and if he still sees me as a good person—then have people write something to call back the order—the order that put into effect the plan of Haman, Hammedatha the Agagite's son, that he wrote to destroy the Jews in all the royal provinces. 6 How can I bear to watch the terrible evil about to sweep over my people? And how can I bear to watch others destroy my own family?" 7 King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Look, I've given Esther everything Haman owned. And Haman himself my servants have impaled on the pole because he planned to attack the Jews. 8 So you yourselves write to the Jews whatever you like in the name of the king and seal the letters with the king's royal ring. Anything written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's royal ring can't be called back." 9 So that was when the royal scribes were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month (that is, the month of Sivan). They wrote exactly what Mordecai ordered to the Jews, rulers, governors, and officials of the provinces from India to Cush—one hundred twenty-seven in all. They wrote in the alphabet of each province and in the language of each people. 10 They wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed the order with the king's royal ring. He sent letters with riders mounted on royal horses bred from mares known to run fast. 11 The order allowed Jews in each town to join together and defend their lives. The Jews were free to wipe out, kill, and destroy every army of any people and province that attacked them, along with their women and children. They could also take and keep anything their attackers owned. 12 The one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus on which they could do so was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar). 13 A copy of the writing was to become law in each province and be on public display for all its peoples to read. The Jews were to be ready on this

וַיּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ יָבוֹא: (ו) וַיָּבוֹא הָמֶן וַיּאמֶר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְּ מַה לַצְשׁוֹת בָּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְּ חָבֶץ בִּיקְרוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן בְּלָבוֹ לְמִי יַחְפֹּץ הַמֶּלֶךְּ לַצְשׁוֹת יְקָר יותר ממני: [...]

7) מגילת אסתר (פרק ז׳)

(א) וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶדְ וְהָמָן לִשִּׁתּוֹת עִם אֱסְתֵּר הַמַּלִכַּה: (ב) וַיֹּאמֵר הַמֵּלֶדְ לָאֵסְתֵּר גָּם בַּיּוֹם הַשָּׁנִי בִּמְשְׁתֵּה היין מה שאלתד אסתר המלכה ותנתן לד ומה בַּקַשַּתֶדְ **עַד חַצִּי הַמַּלְכוּת וְתַעש**ֹּ : (ג) וַתַּעַן אֵסְתֵּר המלכה ותאמר אם מצאתי חן בעיניד המלד ואָם עַל הַמֶּלֶדְ טוֹב תַּנַתָן לִי נַפְשִׁי בְּשָׁאֵלֶתִי וַעַמִּי בבקשתי: (ד) כי נמכרנו אני ועמי להשמיד לַהַרוֹג וּלַאַבַּד וָאָלוּ לַעֲבַדִים וַלְשְׁפַחוֹת נִמְכַּרְנוּ החרשתי בי אין הצר שוה בנזק המלך: ס (ה) וַיּאֹמֶר הַמֵּלֶדְ אָחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ וַיּאמֶר לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכַּה מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי זֶה הוּא אֲשֵׁר מְלָאוֹ לְבּוֹ לַעֲשׁוֹת כֵן: (ו) וַתּאֹמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אִישׁ צַר וְאוֹיֵב הַמַּן הַרַע הַנָּה וְהָמֶן נְבָעַת מְלְפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ וְהַמְּלְכָּה: (ז) וָהַמֶּלֶדְ קָם בַּחֲמַתוֹ מִמְשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיוָ אֵל גְּנַת הַבִּיתַן וָהַמַן **עַמַד לִבַּקּשׁ עַל נַפְשׁו** מֵאֱסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכַּה כִּי רַאַה כִּי כַּלְתַה אֵלֵיו הַרַעָה מֵאֵת הַמֵּלֶדְ: (ח) והמלד שב מגנת הביתן אל בית משתה היין והמן נפל על המטה אשר אסתר עליה ויאמר הַמֶּלֶדְ הַגַּם לִכְבּוֹשׁ אֶת הַמַּלְכָּה עִמִּי בַּבַּיִת הַדְּבַר יָצָא מִפִּי הַמֵּלֶדְ וּפְנֵי הָמָן חָפוּ: ס (ט) וַיּאמֵר חַרבונה אָחַד מון הַסַּרִיסִים לְפָנֵי הַמֵּלֶדְ גַּם הְנָה הָעֵץ אַשֵּׁר עָשָה הָמָן לִמָּרְדֶּכֵי אֲשֵׁר דְבֶּר טוֹב עַל הַמֶּלֶדְ עמֶד בָּבֵית הָמֶן נָבהַ חַמִּשִּים אַמַה וַיאמֵר ַהַפֶּלֶךְ תִּלָהוּ עַלַיוּ : (י) וַיִּתָלוּ אֵת הָמָן עַל הָעֵץ אֲשֵׁר הֵכִין לְמָרְדֶּכָי וַחֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁכָכָה : פ

8) מגילת אסתר (פרק ח')

(א) בַּיוֹם הַהוּא נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ לְאֵסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה אֵת בֵּית הָמָן צרַר הַיִּהוֹדִים וּמָּרְדֻּבַי בָּא לפני המלך כי הגידה אסתר מה הוא לה: (ב) וַיַּסֶר הַמֵּלֶדְ אָת טַבַּעתוֹ אָשֵר הַעביר מַהַמַן ויתנה למרדכי ותשם אסתר את מרדכי על בית הַמוֹ: פ (ג) וַתּוֹסֶף אָסְתֵּר וַתְּדַבֵּר לְפַנֵי הַמֵּלֶדְ וַתְּפַּל לִפְנֵי רַגְּלַיו וַתְּבָדְ וַתְּתְחַנֵּן לוֹ לְהַעֲבִיר אֵת רַעַת הַמַן הַאַגַגִי וָאָת מַחַשַּׁבְתוֹ אֲשֵׁר חַשַּׁב עַל הַיָּהוּדִים: (דֹ) וַיּוֹשֵּׁט הַמֵּלֵדְ לְאֵסְתֵּר אֶת שַׁרְבָּט ַ**הַזָּהַב** וַתַּקָם אֶסְתֵּר וַתַּעֲמֹד לִפָנֵי הַמֵּלֶךְ: (ה) וַתֹּאמֵר אָם עַל הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב וָאָם מַצֵאתִי חֵן לְפַנֵיו וכשר הדבר לפני המלך וטובה אני בעיניו יכתב להשיב את הספרים מחשבת המן בן המדתא האגגי אשר כתב לאבד את היהודים אשר בכל מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֶדְ: (ו) כִּי אֵיכָכָה אוּכַל וְרָאִיתִי בָּרָעָה אשר ימצא את עמי ואיככה אוכל וראיתי בָּאַבְדַן מוֹלַדְתִּי: ס (ז) וַיּאמֶר הַמֵּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרְשׁ לאַסְתֵּר הַמֵּלְכָּה וּלְמַרְדָּכִי הַיְּהוּדִי הְנָה בִּית הַמַּן נתתי לאסתר ואתו תלו על העץ על אשר שלח ידו ביהודים : (ח) ואתם כתבו על היהודים כטוב בעיניכם בשם המלך וחתמו בטבעת המלך כי כתב אשר נכתב בשם המלד ונחתום בטבעת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵין לְהָשִׁיב : (ט) וַיִּקֶרְאוּ ספְרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בָּעֵת הַהִּיא בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי הוּא חֹדֶשׁ סִיוָן בִּשְׁלוּשָׁה וְעֶשְׁרִים בּוֹ וַיִּכָּתֵב בַּכַל אַשֵּׁר צָנָה מָרדָּכַי אֶל הַיְּהוּדִים וְאֶל הָאֲחַשְׁדַּרְפְּנִים וְהַפַּחוֹת וְשָׁרֵי הַמִּדִינות אֲשֶׁר מֶהדוּ וְעַד כוּשׁ שֶׁבַע וְעֵשְּׁרִים וֹמֵאָה מְדִינָה מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כִּכְתָבָהּ וְעַם וָעָם כִּלְשׁׁנוֹ וְאֶל הַיָּחוּדִים כָּכְתַבֶּם וְכָלְשוֹנֵם : (י) וַיִּכְתוֹב בְּשֶׁם הַמֵּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרשׁ וַיַּחְתם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְלַח סְפָרִים בְּיֵד הָרָצִים בַּסוֹסִים רֹכָבֵי הָרֶכֵשׁ הָאֲחַשְׁתְּרָנִים בְּנֵיֹ הָרַפַּכִים: (יֹא) אֲשֵׁר נָתַן הַבֶּּלֶדְ לַיְּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל עִיר וָעִיר לְהִקּהֵל וְלַעֲמֹד עַל נַפְשָׁם לְהַשְּׁמִידֹ וְלַהֲרֹג וּלְאַבֵּדֹ אֶת ֹכָּל חֵיל עַם וֹמְדִינָה הַצָּרִים אֹתָם טף וְנַשִּׁים וּשָׁלַלֶם לָבוֹז: (יב) בִּיוֹם אֲחַד בְּכַל מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֶדְ ּ אֲחַשְּׁוֵרוֹשׁ בִּשְׁלוֹשָׁהֹ עָשָּׁר לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנִים עָשָּׂר הוֹא חֹדֶשׁ אֲדָׁר day to get back at their enemies. 14 The riders mounted on royal horses left Susa, spurred on by the king's order, and the law also became public in the fortified part of Susa. 15 Mordecai went out from the king's presence in a blue and white royal robe wearing a large gold crown and a white and red-purple coat. The city of Susa greeted him with shouts of joy. 16 For the Jews it was a day of light, happiness, joy, and honor. 17 In every province and in every town—wherever the king's order and his law arrived—for the Jews it was a day of happiness and joy. For them it meant feasts and a holiday. Many people in the land became Jews themselves, out of fear of the Jews.

17 In every province and in every town-wherever the king's order and his law arrived-for the Jews it was a day of happiness and joy. For them it meant feasts and a holiday. Many people in 1 It was on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar) that the king's order and his law were to be enforced. On the very day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to overpower them, the tables were turned against them. The Jews overpowered their enemies instead. 2 The Jews joined together in their towns in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to defend themselves against those who tried to harm them. No one was able to stand in their way because everyone was afraid of the Jews. 3 All the leaders of the provinces, rulers, governors, and those in charge of the king's business helped the Jews because they were afraid of Mordecai. 4 Because Mordecai was very important in the palace, news about him was sweeping through the provinces. Indeed, Mordecai was becoming more and more important every day, 5 The Jews put down all their enemies with sword blows, killing, and destruction. They did whatever they wanted with those who hated them. 6 In the fortified part of Susa, the Jews killed five hundred people. 7 They also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha. 10 These were the ten sons of Haman, Hammedatha's son, the enemy of the Jews. But the Jews didn't lay a hand on anything their enemies owned. 11 That same day, a report concerning the number killed in the fortified part of Susa reached the king. 12 So the king said to Queen Esther in the fortified part of Susa, "The Jews have killed five hundred people as well as the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the royal provinces? What do you wish now? I'll give it to you. What is your desire? I'll do it this time too." 13 Esther answered, "If the king wishes, let the Jews who are in Susa also have tomorrow to do what the law allows for today. And let them also impale the ten sons of Haman on pointed poles." [...] 20 Mordecai wrote these things down and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces, both near and far, of King Ahasuerus. 21 He made it a rule that Jews keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as special days each and every year. 22 They are the days on which the Jews finally put to rest the troubles with their enemies. The month is the one when everything turned around for them from sadness to joy, and from sad, loud crying to a holiday. They are to make them days of feasts and joyous events, days to send food gifts to each other and money gifts to the poor. 23 The Jews agreed to continue what they had already begun to do-just what Mordecai had

written to them. 24 Indeed, Haman, Hammedatha the Agagite's son, the

enemy of all the Jews, had planned to destroy the Jews. He had servants

throw pur (that is, the dice) to find the best month and day to trouble greatly

and destroy them. 25 But when Esther came before the king, his written

order said: The wicked plan that Haman made against the Jews should turn

back on him instead. So they impaled him and his sons on pointed poles, 26

That is why people call these days Purim, by using the ancient word pur. It all fit with what this

letter said, with what they saw happen, and with what they themselves went through. 27 The

Jews agreed that they, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as all

non-Jews who become Jews, should always keep these two days. They agreed to follow the

written rules—and at the proper time too-every year. 28 So forever every family, province,

and town remembers to keep these days. These days of Purim won't die out among the Jews.

They will remember to keep them forever. 29 Queen Esther daughter of Abihail,

along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with her full royal power to show that

this second letter about Purim was correct. 30 Letters conveying good

wishes and words of friendship were sent to all the Jews throughout the one

hundred twenty-seven provinces in the kingdom of Ahasuerus. 31 Their aim

was to make sure that the Jews kept these days of Purim at the proper time,

following the rule that Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had made. The

rule fit well with what they themselves had agreed to do forever and with

other things they did—like fasting and lamenting. 32 Esther's order made

these features of Purim part of the law, so it was written down.

(יג) פְּתְשֶׁגֶּן הַכְּתָב לְהִנָּתֵן דְּת בְּכֶל מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה גָּלוּי לְכָל הָעָמִים וְלְהְיוֹת הַיְּהוּדִים עתודים עְתִידִים לֵּיוֹם הַגֶּּה לְהָנָקֵם מֵאֹיְבֵיהָם: (יד) הָרָצִים רֹבְּיַ הָרֶכֶשׁ הָאָחשְׁתְּרָנִים יָצְאוּ מְבֹּהָלִם וְּחְוּפִים בִּדְבַר הַפְּיְלָדְ וְתַדָּת נִּמְּלָה בְּשׁׁרְּרִיִּ הַבְּירָה: פ (טו) וּמִרְדְּבֵי יָצָא מִלֹפְנֵי הַשֶּׁלֶּךְ בְּלְבוּשׁׁ בֹּיץ וְאַרְגָּמֶן וְהָאִיר שׁוּשְׁן צָהְלָה וְשְׁמֵחָה: (טו) בַּיְלְכוֹת הְּבֶלֶת אוֹרָה וְשְׁמְחָה וְשָשׁו וְיִקְר: (יו) וּבְּלֶ מְדִינָה הַּמְינָה וּבְּלֵל עִיר וָעִיר מְשִׁמְחָה וְשְשׁו וְיִקר: (יו) וּבְּלֶ מְדִינָה שְׁמְחָה וְשְׁמֹחָה בְּשִׁר מְּיְהוּדִים מִשְׁתָּה וְיִם שִׁנְיֵם מֵעַמֵּי הָאֶרֶץ מְתְנִחָדִים כִּי נָפֵל פַּחָד הַיְּהוּדִים מַעְלֵיהָם:

9) מגילת אסתר (פרק ט')

(א) וּבִשְׁנֵים עָשָּׁר חֹדֵשׁ הוּא חֹדֵשׁ אֲדַר בִּשְׁלוֹשַׁה עָשָר יוֹם בּוֹ אֲשֶׁר הִגִּיעַ דְבַר הַמֶּלֶדְ וְדָתוֹ לְהֵעָשוֹת בַּיוֹם אַשֵּׁר שִׁבָּרוּ אִיבֵי הַיִּהוֹדִים לְשָׁלוֹט בַּהֶם וְנַהַפוֹדְ הוּא אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלְטוּ הַיִּהוּדִים הָפֵּה בָּשׁנְאֵיהֶם: (ב) נִקְהֵלוּ הַיִּהוּדִים בַּעַרִיהֶם בְּכַל מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֶדְ אָחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ לְשָׁלֹחַ יַד בְּמַבַּקְשֵׁי רַעַתָּם וְאִישׁ לֹא עַמַד לְפָנֵיהֶם כִּי נַפַּל פַּחְדַם עַל כַּל הַעַמִּים: (ג) וְכַל שַׁרֵי הַמַּדִינוֹת וְהַאֲחַשְׁדַּרְפָּנִים ּוְהַפַּחוֹת וְעֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה אֲשֶׁר לַמֶּלֶדְ מְנַשְּׂאִים אֶת הַיָּהוּדִים כִּי נָפַל פַּחַד מָרְדֶּכַי עֵלֵיהֵם : (ד) כִּי גָדוֹל מַרְדֶּכֵי בְּבֵית הַמֶּלֶךְ וִשְּׁמִעוֹ הוֹלֶךְ בְּכָל הַמְּדִינוֹת בִּי הַאִישׁ מַרְדֵּכִי הוֹלֶדְ וְגַדוֹל: פ (ה) וַיַּכּוּ הַיְּהוּדִים בַּכַל איִבֵיהֶם מַכַּת חֶרֶב וְהֶרֶג וְאַבְדַן וַיַּעשוּ בְשׁנְאֵיהֶם כָּרְצוֹנָם: (ו) וּבְשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה הָרְגוּ הַיְּהוּדִים וְאַבֵּד חֲמֵשׁ : מַאוֹת אִישׁ: (ז) וְאֶת פַּרְשַׁנְדָּתָא וְאֵת דַּלְפוֹן וְאֶת אַסְפָּתָא (ח) וְאֵת פּוֹרָתָא וְאֵת אֲדַלְנָא וְאֵת אֲרִידָתָא: (ט) וְאֵת (ח) פַרְמַשָּׁתָּא וְאֵת אַרִיסַי וְאֵת אַרְדַי וְאֵת וַיְזָתָא: (י) עַשְּׁרֶת בְּנֵי הַמוֹ בֵּן הַמִּדָתָא צרַר הַיָּחוֹדִים הַרגוּ ובַבְּנַה לא שַׁלְחוּ אֶת יָדָם: (יא) בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא בָּא מִסְפַּר הַהַרוּגִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה לפני המלף: ס (יב) ויאמר המלף לאסתר המלפה בשושן הבירה הרגו היהודים ואבד חמש מאות אִישׁ וְאֶת עֲשֶׁרֶת בְּנֵי הַמַן בְּשָׁאֵר מְדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֶדְ מָה עָשׂוּ וּמַה שָּׁאֵלֶתֵדְ וִינָּתֵן לָדְ וּמַה בַּקַשְׁתַדְּ עוֹד וָתָעשׁ: (יג) וַתֹּאמֶר אֱסְתֵּר אָם עַל הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יְנַתֶּן גָּם מֶחֶר לַיִּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּשׁוּשַׁן לַעֲשׁוֹת כְּדַת הַיּוֹם וָאֵת עֲשֵׂרֵת בְּנֵי הָמָן יִתְלוּ עַל הָעֵץ: [...] (כ) וּיִ**כְתֹב מַרְדֵכֵי** אֶת הַדְּבַרִים הַאֶלֵה וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפַרִים אֶל כָּל הַיְּחוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל מְדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֵדְ אַחַשורוש הַקּרוֹבִים והַרחוֹקִים : (כא) לְקַיֵּם עַלְיהֵם לָהָיוֹת עשִים אֶת יוֹם אַרְבַּעָה עַשַּׁר לָחֹדֶשׁ אַדַר וְאֶת יוֹם חֲמִשָּׁה עָשָּׁר בּוֹ בְּכָל שָׁנָה וְשָׁנָה: (כב) כַּיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר נָחוּ בָהֶם הַיָּהוֹדִים מֵאוֹיִבֵיהֶם וְהַחֹדֵשׁ אֲשֵׁר נֵהְפַּדְ לָהֶם מִיָּגוֹן לְשְׁמְחָה וּמֶאֲבֶל לִיוֹם טוֹב לַעֲשׁוֹת אוֹתָם יִמֵי מִשְׁתֵּה וְשְׁמְחָה וּמְשְׁלוֹחַ מָנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעָהוּ וּמַתָּנוֹת לָאֶבְיוֹנִים: (כֹג) וִקְבֵּל הַיָּהוּדִים אָת אֲשֶׁר הָחֶלוּ לַעֲשׁוֹת וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר כַּתַב ַמָּרְדֶּכַי אֵלֵיהֶם: (כד) כִּי הָמָן בֵּן הַמִּדָתָא הָאֵגָגִי צרר כַּל הַיִּהוּדִים חַשַּׁב עַל הַיִּהוּדִים לְאַבְּדַם וָהְפִּיל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוֹרֵל לְהַמֵּם וּלְאַבְּדֵם: (כה) וּבָבאַהּ לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ אַמַר עם הַסֶּפֵר יַשׁוּב מַחַשַּׁבִתוֹ הַרַעַה אֲשֵׁר חַשַּׁב עַל הַיָּהוּדִים עַל ראשו ותלו אתו ואת בניו על העץ: (כו) על כו קראו לַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶה פוּרִים עַל שֶם הַפּוּר עַל כֵּן עַל כָּל דְּבְרֵי הָאִגְּרַת הַזֹאת וּמָה רָאוּ עַל כָּכָה וּמָה הָגִּיעַ אֲלֵיהֶם: (כז) קִימוּ וְקְבָּלוּ הַיָּהוּדִים עַלֵיהֶם וְעַל זַרְעָם וְעַל כָּל הַנָּלְוִים עַלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יַעבור לַהָּיוֹת עשִׁים אֶת שְׁנֵי הַיַּמִים הָאֶלֶה כְּכְתַבָם וְכִּזְמַנַם בְּכָל שָׁנָה וְשָׁנָה: (כח) וְהַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶה נְזְכָּרִים וְנַעֲשִׂים בְּכָל דור וַדור מִשְּפַּחָה וִמִשְפַּחָה מִדִינָה וּמִדִינָה וַעִיר וַעִיר וִימֵי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלֶה לֹא יַעַבְרוֹ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְּהוֹדִים וְזְכְרָם לֹא יָסוּף מַזַרעַם: ס (כט) וַתִּכְתֹּב אֱסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכַּה בַת אַבִּיחַיָל וּמַרְדַּכֵּי הַיָּהוּדִי אַת כַּל תקף לְקַיֵם אַת אָגֵרָת הַפּוּרִים הַזֹּאת הַשְּׁנִית : (ל) וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפַרִים אל כל היהודים אל שבע ועשרים ומאה מדינה מַלְכוּת אַחַשְׁוַרוֹשׁ דָבָרִי שַׁלוֹם וַאֲמֵת : (לא) לְקַיֵם את ימי הפרים האלה בזמניהם כאשר קים עליהם מרדבי היהודי ואסתר המלכה וכאשר קימו על נפשם ועל זרעם דברי הצמות וזעקתם:

(לב) וּמַאֲמַר אֶסְתֵּר קיַּם דְּבְרֵי הַפַֻּּרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְנָרָתַּב בַּסְבֵּר: פ

(פרק יי) מגילת אסתר (פרק יי)

1 King Ahasuerus taxed the entire kingdom, including the islands of the Mediterranean. 2 Now some may want to know about all the king's mighty, great deeds. They may also want a full report about how important Mordecai became after the king honored him. Are they not written in the official records of the kings of Media and Persia? 3 Certainly, Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus in importance. The Jews also admired him greatly, and his many brothers and sisters were proud of him. He always wanted to do good things for his Jewish people and to speak up for all his family whenever they needed help.

(א) וַיָּשֶׂם הַמֶּלֶּדְ אחשרש אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ מֵס עַל הָאָרֶץ וְאִיֵּי הַיָּם: (ב) וְבֶל מֵעֲשֵׁה תָּקְּפּוֹ וּגְבוּרָתוֹ וּפָּרָשַׁת וְאִיֵּי הַיָּם: (ב) וְבֶל מֵעֲשֵׁה תָקְפּוֹ וּגְבוּרָתוֹ וּפָּרָשַׁת נְּאָיֵלְת מִרְיָבִי אֲשֶׁר וּדְּבִים בְּתוֹבִים עַל סֵפֶּר דִּבְרִי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי מְדֵי וּפָרָס: (ג) כִּי מֵיְרְדֵּכִי הַיְּהוּדִי מִשְׁנֶה לַמֶּלֶּךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ וְגָדוֹל לַיְרְדֵּי מִשְׁנֶה לַבְּלְבִּי מִדִי וּבְישׁ טוֹב לְעַמוֹ וְדֹבֵר שַׁלוֹם לְכַל זָרְעוֹ: שִׁלוֹם לְכַל זָרְעוֹ: