

Apocrypha. ESTHER.

416

Certeine porcions of the storie of Esther, which are
founde in some Greke and Latin translations.

Which follow the tenth chapter.

4 **W**HEN Mardocheus said, God hath done these things.
5 For I remember a dreame, which I sawe concerning these matters, and there was nothing there of omitted.

6 A litle fountaine which became a flood, and was a light, and as the sunne, & as much water, this flood was Esther whome the King married, and made Queene.

7 And the two dragons are I and Aman.

8 And the people are they that are assembled to destroye the name of the Iewes.

9 And my people is Israel, which cryed to God, and are saued: for the Lord hath saued his people, and the Lord hath deliuered vs from all these euils, and God hath wrought signes, and great wonders, which haue not bene done among the Gentiles.

10 Therefore hath he made two lottes, one for the people of God, and another for all the Gentiles.

11 And these two lottes came before God for all nations, at the houre and time appointed, and in the day of iudgement.

12 So God remembered his owne people, & iustified his inheritance.

13 Therefore those dayes shalbe vnto the in the moneth Adar y^e fortenth and fifteth day of the same moneth, with an assemblie and ioye, and with gladnes before God, according to the generations for euer among his people.

CHAP. XI.

1 **I**N the fourth yere of the reigne of Ptolomeus and Cleopatra Dositheus, who said he was a Priest and Leuite, and Ptolomeus his sonne, that brought the former letters of Phurrai, which thei said Lysimachus the sonne of Ptolomeus, which was at Ierusalem, interpreted,

2 In the second yere of the reigne of great Artaxerxes in the first day of the moneth Nisan Mardocheus the sonne of Iarus, the sonne of Semei the sonne of Cis of the tribe of Beniamin had a dreame,

3 A Iewe dwelling in the citie of Susis, a noble man, that bare office in y^e Kings court.

4 He was also one of the captiuitie which Nabuchodonosor the King of Babylon brought from Ierusalem with Iechonias.

5 And this was his dreame, Beholde a noice

of a tempest with thunders, and earth quakes, and vproare in the land.

6 Beholde two great dragons came forth ready to fight one against another.

7 Their crye was great, whereby all the heathen were ready to fight against the righteous people.

8 And the same day was ful of darkenes & obscuritie, & trouble, & anguish: yea, aduersitie, and great affliction was vpon y^e earth.

9 For then the righteous fearing their afflictions, were amased, and being ready to dye, cryed vnto God.

10 And while they were crying, the litle wel grewe into a great riuer, and flowed ouer with great waters.

11 The light & the sunne rose vp, & y^e lowlie were exalted, & deuoured the glorious.

12 Now when Mardocheus had sene this dreame, he awoke and rose vp and thought in his heart vntil y^e night, what God wolde do, & so he desired to know all the matter.

CHAP. XII.

1 **A**T the same time dwelt Mardocheus in the Kings court with Bagathas, and Thara, the Kings eunuches & keepers of the palace.

2 *But when he heard their purpose, and their imaginacions, he perceiued that they went about to lay their hands vpon the King Artaxerxes, and so he certified the King thereof.

3 Then caused the King to examine y^e two eunuches with torments, and when they had confessed it, they were put to death.

4 This the King caused to be put in the Chronicles. Mardocheus also wrote the same thing.

5 So the King comanded that Mardocheus shulde remaine in the court, and for the aduertisement, he gaue him a rewarde.

6 But Ama the sonne of Amadathus y^e Agagite, w^h was in great honour and reputacion with the King, went about to hurt Mardocheus & his people, because of the two eunuches of y^e King y^e were put to death.

CHAP. XIII.

1 The copie of the letters of Artaxerxes against the Iewes, & The prayer of Mardocheus.

1 **T**He copie of the letters was this, The great King Artaxerxes writeth these things to y^e princes & gouernours y^e are vnder him from India vnto Ethiopia in an hundredth and seuen and twentie provinces.

Liii.ii.

Esther.

- 2 When I was made lord ouer manie people, & had subdued the whole earth vnto my dominion, I wolde not exalte my self by the reason of my power, but purposed with equitie alway and gētelnes to gouerne my subiects, and wholly to set them in a peaceable life, and thereby to bring my kingdome vnto trāquilitie, that mē might safely go thorow on euerie side, and to renew peace againe, which all men desire.
- 3 Now when I asked my counsellers how these things might be brought to passe, one that was conuersant with vs, of excellent wisdome, and constant in good wil, and shewed him self to be of sure fidelitie, which had the seconde place in the kingdome, euen Aman,
- 4 Declared vnto vs, that in all naciōs there was scatered abroade a rebellious people, that had Lawes contrarie to all people, and haue alway dispised the commandments of Kings, and so that this general empire, that we haue begonne, cannot be gouerned without offence.
- 5 Seing now we perceiue, that this people alone are altogether contrarie vnto euerie man, vsing strange and other maner of lawes, and hauing an euil opinion of our doings, and go about to stablishe wicked matters, that our kingdome shulde not come to good estate,
- 6 Therefore haue we commanded, that all they that are appointed in writing vnto you by Aman (which is ordeined ouer the affaires, & is as our seconde father) shal all with their wiues and childrē be destroyed and rooted out with the sworde of their enemies without all mercie, and that none be spared the fortieth day of the twelfth moneth Adar of this yere,
- 7 That they which of olde, and now also haue euer bene rebellious, may in one day with violence be thrusse downe into the hell, to the intente that after this time our affaires may be without troubles, and wel gouerned in all pointes.
- 8 Then Mardocheus thought vpon all the workes and of the Lord, and made his prayer vnto him,
- 9 Saying, O Lord, Lord, the King almightie (for all things are in thy power) and if thou hast appointed to saue Israel, there is no man that can withstande thee.
- 10 For thou hast made heauen and earth, and all the wonderous things vnder the heauen.
- 11 Thou art Lord of all things, and there is no man that can resist thee, which art the Lord.
- 12 Thou knowest all things, & thou knowest, Lord, that it was nether of malice, nor presumption, nor for anie desire of glorie, that I did this, and not bowe downe to proude Aman.
- 13 For I wolde haue bene cōtent with good wil for the saluation of Israel, to haue kist the sole of his fete.
- 14 But I did it, because I wolde not preferre the honour of a man aboue the glorie of God, and wolde not worship anie but onely thee, my Lord, and this haue I not done of pride.
- 15 And therefore, O Lord God and King, haue mercie vpon thy people: for they imagine how they may bring vs to naught, yea, they wolde destroye the inheritance, that hathe bene thine frō the beginning.
- 16 Dispise not the porcion, which thou hast deliuered out of Egypt for thine owne self.
- 17 Heare my prayer, and be merciful vnto thy portion: turne our sorowe into ioye, that we may liue, O Lord, and praise thy Name: shut not the mouthes of them that praise thee.
- 18 All Israel in like maner cryed most earnestly vnto the Lord, because that death was before their eyes.

CHAP. XIII.

The prayer of Esther for the deliuerance of her, and her people.

- 1 **Q** Vene Esther also, being in danger of death, resorted vnto the Lord,
- 2 And laid away her glorious apparel, and put on the garments of sighing, and mourning. In the stead of precious ointement, she scattered ashes, and dongue vpon her head: and she humbled her bodie greatly with fasting, and all the places of her ioye filled she with the heere that she plucked of.
- 3 And she prayed vnto the Lord God of Israel, saying, O my Lord, thou onely art our King: helpe me desolate womā, which haue no help: but thee.
- 4 For my danger is at hand.
- 5 Frō my youth vp I haue heard in the kindred of my father, that thou, O Lord, tokest Israel from among all people, and our fathers from their predecessours for a perpetual inheritance, and thou hast performed that which thou didest promise them.
- 6 Now Lord, we haue sinned before thee: therefore hast thou giuen vs into the hāds of our enemies.
- 7 Because we worshipped their gods, O Lord, thou art righteous.
- 8 Neuertheles, it satisfieth them not, that we are in bitter captiuitie, but they haue stroken hands with their idoles,
- 9 That thei wil abolish the thing that thou with thy mouth hast ordeined, & destroye thine inheritance, to shut vp the mouthe of them that praise thee, and to quence the glorie of thy tēple, and of thine altar,
- 10 And

- 10 And to open the mouthes of the hea-
then, that they may praise the power of the
idoles, and to magnifie a fleshlie King for
euer.
- 11 O Lord, giue not thy scepter vnto them
that be nothing, lest they laugh vs to scorn
in our miserie: but turne their deuise
vpon them selues, and make him an ex-
ample, that hath begonne the same a-
gainst vs.
- 12 Thinke vpon vs, o Lord, and shewe
thy self vnto vs in the time of our distres-
se, and strengthen me, o King of gods, and
Lord of all power.
- 13 Giue me an eloquent speache in my mouth
before the Lion: turne his heart to hate
our enemy, to destroye him, and all such
as consent vnto him.
- 14 But deliuer vs with thine hand, and helpe
me that am solitarie, which haue no de-
fence but onely thee.
- 15 Thou knowest all things, o Lord: thou
knowest, that I hate the glorie of the vn-
righteous, & that I abhorre the bed of the
uncircumcised, and of all the heathen.
- 16 Thou knowest my necessitie: for I hate
this token of my preeminence, which I
beare vpon mine head, what time as I must
shewe my self, & that I abhorre it as a me-
struous cloth, & that I weare it not when
I am alone by my self,
- 17 And that I thine hand maide haue not
eaten at Amans table, and that I haue had
no pleasure in the Kings feast, nor drun-
ke the wine of the drinke offerings,
- 18 And that I thine hand maide haue no
ioye sence the day that I was brought he-
ther, vntil this day, but in thee, o Lord
God of Abraham.
- 19 O thou mightie God aboute all, heare
the voyce of them, that haue none other
hope, and deliuer vs out of the hand of
the wicked, and deliuer me out of my
feare.

CHAP. XV.

*1 Mardocheus moueth Esther to go in to the King and
make intercession for her people. 2 And she performeth
his request.*

- 1 **M**ardocheus also bade Esther to go
in vnto the King, and pray for her
people, and for her countrey.
- 2 Remember, saith he, the daies of thy lowe
estate, how thou wast nourished vnder mi-
ne hand: for Aman which is next vnto
the King, hath giuen sentence of death a-
gainst vs.
- 3 Call thou therefore vpon the Lord, and
speake for vs vnto the King, and deliuer vs
from death.
- 4 And vpon the thirde day when she had
ended her prayer, she laid away the mour-
ning garments, and put on her glorious
apparel,

- 5 And deckt her self goodly, after that she
had called vpon God, which is the behol-
der and sauour of all things, & toke two
handmaidens with her.
- 6 Vpon the one she leant her self, as one
that was tender.
- 7 And the other followed her, and bare the
traine of her vesture.
- 8 The shine of her beautie made her face
rose coloured: and her face was chearful
& amiable, but her heart was sorowful for
great feare.
- 9 Then she went in thorow all the dores,
and stode before the King, and the King
sate vpon his royal throne, & was clothed
in his goodlie araye, all glittering with
golde and precious stones, and he was ve-
ry terrible.
- 10 Then he lift vp his face, that shone with
maiestie, and looked fiercely vpon her: the-
refore the Quene fel downe, and was pale
and faint and leant her self vpon the head
of the maide, that went with her.
- 11 Neuertheles, God turned the Kings min-
de y he was gentle, who being careful, lea-
ped out of his throne, and toke her in his
armes, til she came to her self againe: and
comforted her with louing wordes, and
said,
- 12 Esther, what is the matter? I am thy bro-
ther, be of good cheare,
- 13 Thou shalt not dye: for our commande-
ment toucheth the commons, and not thee.
Come nere.
- 14 And so he helde vp his golden sceptre, &
laid it vpon her necke,
- 15 And kissed her, and said, Talke with me.
- 16 Then said she, I sawe thee, o lord, as an
Angel of God, & mine heart was troubled
for feare of thy maiestie.
- 17 For wonderful art thou, o lord, and thy
face is ful of grace.
- 18 And as she was thus speaking vnto him,
she fel downe againe for faintnes.
- 19 Then the King was troubled, and all his
seruants comforted her.

CHAP. XVI.

*The copie of the letters of Artaxerxes, whereby he reuoketh
those which he first sent forth.*

- 1 **T**he great King Artaxerxes, which
reigneth from India vnto Ethiopia,
ouer an hundred and seuen and twentie
prouinces, sendeth vnto the princes and
rulers that haue the charge of our affaires,
Salutation.
- 2 There be many that through the goodnes
of Princes and honour giuen vnto them,
become very proude,
- 3 And indeuoure not onely to hurt our
subiects, but not content to liue in wealth,
do also imagine destruction against those
that do them good,
- 4 And take not onely all thankfulness away

*Joseph Anti.
11. chap. 6.*

Wisdom of Salomon.

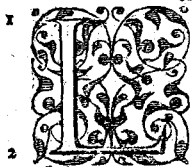
- from men, but in pride & presumption, as they that be vnmindeful of benefites, thei thinke to escape the vengeance of God, that seeth all things, & is contrary to euil.
- 5 And oft times manie, which be set in office, and vnto whome their friends causes are committed, by vaine intisements do wrappe them in calamities, that can not be remedied: for thei make them partakers of innocent blood,
- 6 And disceitfully abuse the simplicitie, & gentlenes of princes with lying tales.
- 7 This may be proued not onely by olde histories, but also by those things that are before our eyes, and are wickedly committed of suche pestilences as are not worthie to beare rule.
- 8 Therefore we must take hede hereafter, that we may make y^e kingdome peaceable for all mē, what chāge so euer shal come,
- 9 And discerne the things that are before our eyes, to withstand the with gentlenes.
- 10 For Aman, a Macedonian, the sonne of Amadathus, being in dede a stranger from the Persians blood, and farre from our goodnes, was receiued of vs,
- 11 And hathe proued the friendship that we beare towarde all nations, so that he was called our father, and was honored of euerie man, as the next persone vnto the King.
- 12 But he coldenot vse him self soberly in this great dignitie, but wet about to depriue vs of the kingdome, & of our life.
- 13 With manifolde disceite also hathe he desired to destroye Mardocheus our preferuer, which hath done vs good in all things, and innocent Esther the partaker of our kingdome, with all her nation.
- 14 For his minde was (when he had taken them out of the way) to lay waite for vs, and by this meanes to translate the kingdome of the Persians vnto them of Macedonia.
- 15 But we finde that the Iewes (which were accused of this moste wicked mā that thei might be destroyed) are no euil doers, but vse moste iust Lawes,
- 16 And that they be y^e children of the moste high and almightie and euer liuing God, by whome the kingdome hath bene preserved vnto vs, and our progenitours in verie good ordre.
- 17 Wherefore ye shal do wel, if ye do not put in execution those letters, that Aman the sonne of Amadathus did write vnto you.
- 18 For he that inuented them, hāgeth at Susis before the gates with all his familie, & God (which hathe all things in his power) hathe spedely rewarded him after his deseruing.
- 19 Therefore ye shal publishe the copie of this letter in all places, that the Iewes may frely liue after their owne Lawes.
- 20 And ye shal aide them, that vpon the thirteenth day of the twelfth moneth Adar thei may be aduenged of them, which in the time of their trouble wolde haue oppressed them.
- 21 For almightie God hathe turned to ioye the day, wherein the chosen people shulde haue perished.
- 22 Moreouer, among other solemne daies ye shal kepe this day with all gladnes,
- 23 That bothe now & in time to come this day may be a remembrance of deliuerance for vs and all suche as loue the prosperitie of the Persians, but a remembrance of destruction to those that be sedicious vnto vs.
- 24 Therefore all cities and countreis that do not this, shal horribly be destroyed with sworde and fyre, and shal not onely not be inhabited of men, but be abhorred also of the wilde beastes and foules for euer.

THE WISDOME of Salomon.

CHAP. I.

1 How we ought to searche and enquire after God. 2 Who be those that finde him. 3 The holy Ghost. 4 We ought to flee from backbiting and murmuring. 5 Whereof death cometh. 6 Righteousnes & vnrightheousnes.

1. King. 3. 3.
isa. 30. 1.



Deu. 4. 29.
act. 17. 24.

1 Due * righteousnes, ye that be Iudges of the earth: thinke reuerently of the Lord, & seke him in simplicitie of heart.

2 * For he wil be founde of them that tempte him not, & appeareth

vnto suche as be not vnfaithful vnto him.

3 For wicked thoughts seporate from God: and his power when it is tryed, reproveth the vnwise,

4 Because wisdom can not enter into a wicked heart, nor dwell in the body that is subiect vnto sinne.

5 For the holy * Spirit of discipline fleeth from disceit, & withdraweth him self from the thoughts y^e are without vnderstanding, and is rebuked when wickednes cometh.

6 For the Spirit of wisdom * is louing, and

1er. 4. 22.

Gal. 5. 22.