

The Sabbath reformed.

Ester. Strange mariage reproofed.

g I declared vnto the, that God wolde not suffer such transgressors of his Law to be vn-punished.

h Was not this a great cause, why God plagued vs in times past? meaning, that if they transgressed now in the same againe, their plague shulde be greater.

i About the time that the sunne went downe: for the Sabbath lasted from the sunne going downe of the one day, to the sunne setting of the other.

k Meaning, of the Temple that none, that was vncleane, shulde enter.

wine presses on the Sabbath, & that brought in sheaues, and which laded asses also with wine, grapes, and figges and all burdens, and brought them into Ierusalem vpon the Sabbath day: and I protested to them in the day that they sold vitayles.

16 There dwelt men of Tyrus also therein, which brought fish and all wares, and sold on the Sabbath vnto the children of Iudah euen in Ierusalem.

17 Then reproofed I the rulers of Iudah, & said vnto them, What euill thing is this that ye do, and breake the Sabbath daye?

18 Did not your fathers thus, and our God brought all this plague vpon vs, and vpon this citie? yet ye increase the wrath vpon Israel, in breaking the Sabbath?

19 And when the gates of Ierusalem began to be darke before the Sabbath, I commanded to shut the gates, and charged, that they shulde not be opened til after the Sabbath, and some of my seruants set I at the gates, that there shulde no burden be brought in on the Sabbath daye.

20 So the chapmen and marchants of all marchandise remained once or twice all night without Ierusalem.

21 And I protested among them, and said vnto them, Why tary ye all night about the wall? If ye do it once againe, I wil lay hands vpon you. Fro that time came they nomore on the Sabbath.

22 ¶ And I said vnto the Leuites that they shulde cleanse them selues, and that they shulde come and kepe the gates, to sanctifie the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and pardone me according to thy great mercie.

23 In those dayes also I sawe Iewes that married wiues of Ammon, and of Moab.

24 And their children spake halfe in the speache of Ammon, & colde not speake in the Iewes language, and according to the language of the one people, & of the other people.

25 Then I reproofed them, and cursed them, and smote certeine of them, and pulled of their heere, & toke an othe of them by God, Ye shal not giue your daughters vnto their sonnes, nether shal ye take of their daughters vnto your sonnes, nor for your selues.

26 ¶ Did not Salomon the King of Israel sinne by these things: yet among manie nations was there no King like him: for he was beloued of his God, and God had made him King ouer Israel: yet strange women caused him to sinne.

27 ¶ Shal we then obey vnto you, to do all this great euill, and to transgresse against our God, euen to marry strange wiues?

28 And one of the sonnes of Ioiada the sonne of Eliahish the hye Priest was the sonne in law of Sanballat the Horonite: but I chased him from me.

29 Remember them, O my God, that defile the Priesthode, and the couenant of the Priesthode, and of the Leuites.

30 Then clenfed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wardes of the Priests & of the Leuites, euerie one in his office,

31 And for the offering of the wood at times appointed, & for the first frutes. Remember me, O my God, in goodnes.

l Which was a cite of the Philistims, & they had married wiues thereof, and so had corrupted their speache and religion.

1. King. 3. 7.

1. King. 11. 1.

n Punish the according to their fautes, & euill example, which they haue giuen to the rest of thy people, contrary to their vocation.

o That is, to shewe mercie vnto me.

ESTER.

THE ARGUMENT.

Because of the diuersitie of names, whereby they vsed to name their Kings, and the supputation of yeres, wherein the Ebrewes, and the Grecians do varie, diuers autors write diuersly as touching this Ahasuerus, but it semeth Daniel 6. 1. and 9. 1. that he was Darius King of the Medes, and sonne of Astyages, called also Ahasuerus, which was a name of honour, and signified great and chief, as chief head. Herein is declared the great mercies of God toward his Church: who neuer faileth them in their greatest dangers, but when all hope of worldly helpe faileth, he euer stirreth vp some, by whome he sendeth comfort, and deliuerance. Herein also is described the ambition, pride and cruelie of the wicked, when they come to honour, and their soley fall when they are at highest: and how God preserveth, and preferreth them which are zealous of his glorie, and haue a care and loue toward their brethren.

CHAP.

CHAP. I.

³ King Ahasuerus maketh a royal feast, ¹⁰ Wherunto the Quene Vashti wil not come, ¹⁹ For which cause she is diuorced, ²⁰ The Kings decree touching the preeminence of man.

^a Called also Darius, who was now the fourteing Monarch, & had ^g gouernemet of the Medes, Persians, and Chaldeans, some thinke he was Darius Hytaspis sonne, called also Artaxerxes. ^b Daniel chap. 6, 1. maketh mencion but of six score, leauing out the number that is vnderfit, as the Scripture in diuers places vseth. ^c That is, had rest, and quietnes. ² *Nehem. 1, 1.*



IN the dayes of ^a Ahasuerus (this is Ahasuerus) that reigned, from India euen vnto Ethiopia, ouer an ^b hundredreth, and seuen and twentie prouinces)

² In those dayes when the King Ahasuerus sate on his throne, which was in the palace of ^{*} Shushan,

³ In the thirde yere of his reigne, he made a feast vnto all his princes and his seruants, euen the power of Persia and Media, and to the captaines and gouernours of the prouinces which were before him,

⁴ That he might shewe the riches & glorie of his kingdome, and the honour of his great maiestie manie dayes, euen an hundredreth and foure score dayes.

⁵ And when these dayes were expired, the King made a feast to all the people that were found in the palace of Shushan, bothe vnto great and small, seuen dayes, in the courte of the garden of the Kings palace,

⁶ Vnder an hanging of white, grene, and blew clothes, fastened with cordes of fine linnen and purple, in siluer rings, and pillars of marble: the ^d beddes were of golde, and of siluer vpon a pavement of porphyre, and marble and alabaster, and blew colour.

⁷ And they gaue them drinke in vessels of golde, and changed vessel after vessel, and royal wine in abundance according to the power of the King.

⁸ And the drinking was by an ordre, none might ^e compel: for so the King had appointed vnto all the officers of his house, that they shulde do according to euerie mans pleasure.

⁹ ¶ The Quene Vashti made a feast also for the womē in the royal house of King Ahasuerus.

¹⁰ Vpon the ^s seuent day when the King was mery with wine, he commanded Memucan, Bizthan, Harbona, Bigthan, and Abagthan, Zethar, and Carcas, the seuen eunuches (that serued in the presence of King Ahasuerus)

¹¹ To bring Quene Vashti before the King with ^g crowne royal, that he might shewe the people and the princes her beautie: for she was faire to loke vpon.

¹² But the Quene Vashti refused to come at the Kings worde, which he had giuen in charge to the eunuches: therefore the King was very angrie, and his wrath kindled in him.

kindled in him.

¹³ Then the King said to the wise men, that knewe the times (for so was the Kings manner towards all that knewe the lawe and the iudgement:

¹⁴ And the next vnto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena & Memucan the seuen princes of Persia and Media, which sawe the Kings face, and sate the first in the kingdome)

¹⁵ What shal we do vnto ^h Quene Vashti according to the lawe, because she did not according to the worde of the King Ahasuerus by the commissiō of the eunuches?

¹⁶ Then Memucan answered before the King and the princes, The Quene Vashti hath not onely done ^k euil against the King, but against all the princes, & against all the people that are in all the prouinces of King Ahasuerus.

¹⁷ For the ^l acte of the Quene shal come abroad vnto all women, so that they shal despise their housbands in their owne eies, and shal say, The King Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the Quene to be brought in before him, but she came not.

¹⁸ So shal the ^m princeesses of Persia & Media this day say vnto all the Kings Princes, whē thei heare of the acte of the Quene: thus shal there be muche despitefulness and wrath.

¹⁹ If it please the King, let a royal decree procede from him, and let it be written among the statutes of Persia, and Media (and let it not be transgressed) that Vashti come ⁿ nomore before King Ahasuerus: and let the King giue her royal estate vnto her companion that is better then she.

²⁰ And when the decree of the King which shalbe made, shalbe published throughout all his kingdome (thogh it be ^o great) all the women shal giue their housbands honour, bothe great and small.

²¹ And this saying pleased the King & the princes, & the King did according to the worde of Memucan.

²² For he sent letters into all the prouinces of the King, into euerie prouince according to the writig thereof, & to euerie people after their language, that euerie man shulde beare rule in his owne house, and that he shulde publish it in the language of that same people.

CHAP. II.

² After the Quene is put away, certaine yong maidens are brought to the King ¹⁴ Ester pleaseth the King, & is made Quene. ²² Mordecai discloseth vnto the King those that wolde betray him.

¹ After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, & what she had do-

^h That had experience of things, as thei had learned by diligent marking in continuance of time.

ⁱ Which were his chief counsellers, that might haue alwaies access to him.

^k By her disobedience she hath giuen an example to all women to do the like to their housbands. ^l That is, her disobedience.

^m Meaning, for thei wolde take first occasiō hereof to do ^g like, & that ^g rest of womē wolde by continuance do ^g same.

ⁿ Let her be diuorced & another made Quene.

^o For he had vnder him an hundredreth twentie and seuen countreies.

^p That is, that ^g wife shulde be subiect to the housband and at his commandement.

^d Which they used in those countreies in stead of tables

^e As was becoming for so magnifical a King. ^f None might be compelled to drinke more then it pleased him.

^g Which was the last day of the feast that the King made for ^g people, as verse ^g.

^h Ebr. which was in the hand of the eunucher.

^a That is, the called ^g matter againe into comunicatiō.

The Kings commiffion.

Eftér.

Eftér Quene.

^b By the fene
wile men of
his counfel.

ne, and what was decreed ^b againft her.

2 And the Kings feruants that miniftred vnto him, faid, Let them feke for the King beautiful yong virgins,

3 And let ^y King appoint officers through all the prouinces of his kingdome, and let the gather all the beautiful yong virgins vnto the palace of Shufhán, into the houfe of the women, vnder the hand of Hegé the Kings eunuche, ^c keeper of the women, to giue them their things ^d for purification.

4 And the maid that fhall pleafe the King, let her reigne in the ftead of Vafhti. And this pleafed the King, and he did fo.

5 ¶ In the citie of Shufhán, there was a certeine Iewe, whose name was Mordecái the fonne of Iair, the fonne of Shimeí, the fonne of Kifh a man of Iemini,

6 Which had bene caryed away from Ierufalém ^e with the captiuitie that was caryed away with Iekoniáh King of Iudáh (whome Nebuchadnezzár King of Babel had caryed away)

7 And he nourifhed Hadaffáh, that is Eftér, his vnckles daughter: for ſhe had nether father nor mother, and the maid was faire, and beautiful to loke on: & after the death of her father, and her mother, Mordecái toke her for his owne daughter.

8 And when the Kings commandement, & his decree was published, and manie maides were broght together to the palace of Shufhán, vnder the hád of Hegé, Eftér was broght alfo vnto the Kings houfe vnder ^y hand of Hegé the keeper of the women.

9 And the maid pleafed him, and the founde fauour in his fight: therefore he caufed her things for purification to be giuen her ſpedely, and her ^f ſtate, and ſeuen comely maides to be giuen her out of the Kings houfe, and he gaue change to her and to her maides of the beſt in the houfe of the women.

10 But Eftér ſhewed not her people and her kinred: for Mordecái had charged her, that ſhe ſhulde not tel it.

11 And Mordecái walked ^e euerie day before the courte of the womens houfe, to knowe if Eftér did wel, and what ſhulde be done with her.

12 And when the courſe of euerie maid came, to go in to King Ahaſhueróſh, after that ſhe had bene twelue moneths according to the maner of the women (for ſo were the dayes of their purifications accompliſhed, ſix moneths with oyle of myrrhe, & ſix moneths with ſwete odours and in the purifying of the women:

13 And thus went the maids vnto the King) whatſoeuer ſhe required, was ^g giuen her, to go with her out of the womens houfe vnto the Kings houſe.

14 In the euening ſhe went, and on the morrow ſhe returned into the ſeconde houſe of the women vnder the hand of Shaafh-gáz the Kings eunuche, which kept the cócubines: ſhe came into the King nomore, except ſhe pleaſed the King, & that ſhe were called by name.

15 Now when the courſe of Eftér ^y daughter of Abihail the vnckle of Mordecái (which had taken her as his owne daughter) came, ^y ſhe ſhulde go in to the King, ſhe deſired nothing, but what ^h Hegé the Kings eunuche the keeper of the women ſaid: and Eftér founde fauour in the fight of all them that loked vpon her.

16 ¶ So Eftér was také vnto King Ahaſhueróſh into his houſe royal in the tenth moneth, which is the ⁱ moneth Tebéth, in the ſeuent yere of his reigne.

17 And the King loued Eftér aboue all the women, and ſhe founde grace and fauour in his fight more then all the virgins: ſo that he ſet the crowne of the kingdome vpon her head, & made her Quene in ſteade of Vafhti.

18 Then the King made a great feaſt vnto all his princes and his ſeruants ^{which was} the feaſt of Eftér and gaue reſt ^k vnto the prouinces, and gaue giſtes, according to the power of a King.

19 And when the virgins were gathered the ^m ſeconde time, then Mordecái ſate in the Kings gate.

20 Eftér had not yet ſhewed her kinred nor her people, as Mordecái had charged her: for Eftér did after the worde of Mordecái, as when ſhe was nourifhed with him.

21 ¶ In thoſe daies when Mordecái ſate in the Kings gate, two of the Kings eunuches, Bigthán and Téreſh, which kept the dore, were wroth, & ſought to lay ⁿ hand on the King Ahaſhueróſh.

22 And the thing was knowé to Mordecái, and he tolde it vnto Quene Eftér, and Eftér certified the King thereof in Mordecáis name: and when inquiſició was made, it was founde ſo: therefore they were bothe hanged on a tre: and it was written in the booke of the ^o Chronicles before the King.

CHAP. III.

1 Hamán, after he was exalted, obtained of the King, that all the Iewes ſhulde be put to death, becauſe Mordecái had not done him ^p worſhip as other had.

2 After theſe things did King Ahaſhueróſh promote Hamán the ſonne of Hammedátha the Agagite, & exalted hi, and ſet his ſeat aboue all the princes that were with him.

3 And all the Kings ſeruants that were at the Kings gate, bowed their knees, & reueréced Hamán: for the King had ſo comāded

^e The abuſe of theſe courtes was ſo great, that they inuented manie meanes to ſerue the luſtes of princes, and therefore, as they ordeined wicked lawes that the King might haue whoſe daughters he wolde, ſo they had diuers houſes appointed, as one for them, whiles they were virgines, another where they were concubines, & for the Quenes another.

^d Read what this purification was, verſ. 13.

² Kin. 2. 4. 1.

^b Eſt. poſtulat.

^a For though ſhe was taken away by a cruel law, yet he ceaſed not to haue a fatherlie care ouer her, and therefore did reſort oft times to heare of her.

^g What appeared ſhe asked of the eunuch, that was he bounde to giue her.

^h Or, Hegai.

^g Wherein her modeſtie appeared becauſe ſhe ſought not appeare to commend her beautie, but ſhede to ^y eunuches appoint ment.

^h Which contained part of December & part of Ianuarie.

ⁱ That is, made for her ſake.

^k He releaſed their tribute.

^l That is, great & magnificent.

^m That is, at the marriage of Eftér, which was ^y ſeconde marriage of ^y King.

ⁿ Meaning, to kill him.

^o In the Chronicles of the Medes & Perſians, as Chap. 10. 2.

^a The Perfias
maner was to
knele downe
and reuerence
their Kings, &
fuche as he ap-
pointed in chief
authoritie, w^{ch}
Mordecái wol-
de not do to
this ambitious
& proude má.

^b Thus we fe
that there is
none fo wic-
ked, but thei
haue their flat-
terers to accu-
fe the godlie.

^c Ebr. defiled
in his eyes.

^e Which an-
swereth to
parte of Mar-
che and parte
of April.
^d To knowe
what moneth
and day fhul-
de be good to
enterprife this
thing, that it
might haue
good fuffeefe:
but God difa-
pointed their
lottes & expe-
dation.

^e Concerning
parte of Februa-
rie, & parte of
Marche.
^f Thefe be the
two argumets
which com-
monly y^e worl-
delings & the
wicked vie
toward prices
againft y^e godly,
that is, y^e con-
tempt of their
laws, & dimi-
nifhing of their
profite without
refpect how
God is either
pleafed or dif-
pleafed.

^g Ebr. weigh.
^h Or fecretaries.

ⁱ Ebr. the hands
of poffes.

ded cōcerning him: but Mordecái bowed not the knee, nether did reuerence.

3 Then the Kings feruants which were at the Kings gate faid vnto Mordecái, Why tranfgreffeft thou the Kings commande- ment?

4 And albeit they fpake dailey vnto hī, yet he wolde not heare them: therefore they tolde Hamán, that they might fe how Mordecáis matters wolde ftād: for he had tolde them, that he was a Iewe.

5 And when Hamán fawe that Mordecái bowed not the knee vnto him, nor did reuerence vnto him, then Haman was ful of wrath.

6 Now he thought it to litle to lay hands onely on Mordecái: & becaufe they had fhewed him the people of Mordecái, Hamán foght to deftroie all the Iewes, that were throughout the whole kingdome of Ahaſueróſh, euen y^e people of Mordecái.

7 In the firft moneth (that is the moneth Nilán) in the twelft yere of King Ahaſueróſh, they caſt Pur (that is a lot) before Hamán, from day to day, and frō moneth to moneth, vnto the twelft moneth, that is the moneth Adár.

8 Then Hamán faid vnto King Ahaſue- róſh, There is a people ſcattered, and dif- perſed among the people in all the prouin- ces of thy kingdome, and their lawes are diuers from all people, and they do not obferue the Kings lawes: therefore it is not the Kings profite to ſuffie them.

9 If it pleaſe the King, let it be written that they may be deſtroyed, & I wil paye ten thouſand talents of ſiluer by the hāds of them that haue the charge of this buſi- nes to bring it into the Kings treaſurie.

10 Then the King roke his ring from his hand and gaue it vnto Hamán the ſonne of Hammedátha the Agagite the Iewes aduerſarie.

11 And the King ſaid vnto Hamán, Let y^e ſiluer be thine, and the people to do with them as it pleaſeth thee.

12 Then were the Kings ſcribes called on the thirtent day of the firſt moneth, and there was written (according to all that Hamán commanded) vnto the Kings of- ficers, and to the captaines that were ouer euerie prouince, and to the rulers of eue- rie people & to euerie prouince, accordig to the writing thereof, & to euerie people according to their language: in the name of King Ahaſueróſh was it written, and ſealed with the Kings ring.

13 And the lettres were ſent by poſtes into all the Kings prouinces, to rote out, to kill and to deſtroie all the Iewes, bothe yong and olde, children and women, in one day vpon the thirtent day of the twelft mo- neth, (which is the moneth Adár) and to

ſpoile them as a pray.

14 The contents of the writing was, that there ſhulde be giuen a cōmandemēt in all prouinces, & publiſhed vnto all peo- ple, that thei ſhulde be ready againſt the ſame day.

15 And the poſtes compelled by the Kings cōmandement went forth, and the com- mandement was giuē in the palace at Shu ſhán: and the King and Hamán ſate drin- king, but the citie of Shuſhán was in perplexitie.

^g To wit, the
Iewes, y^e were
in Shuſhán.

CHAP. IIII.

5 Mordecái giueth the Queene knowledge of the cruel decree of the King againſt the Iewes. 16 She willeth that they pray for her.

1 Now when Mordecái perceiued all that was done, Mordecái rent his clothes, and put on ſackcloth, & aſhes, and went out into the middes of the citie, & cryed with a great crye, and a bitter.

2 And he came euē before the Kings gate, but he might not entre within the Kings gate, being clothed with ſackcloth.

3 And in cuerie prouince, & place, whether the Kings charge and his commiſſion came, there was great ſorowe among the Iewes, and faſting, & weping and mournig, and many laye in ſackcloth & in aſhes.

4 ¶ Then Eſters maides and her eunuches came and tolde it her: therefore the Que- ne was very heauy, and ſhe ſent raiment to clothe Mordecái, and to take away his ſackcloth frō him, but he receiued it not.

5 Then called Eſtér Hatách one of y^e Kigs eunuches, whome he had appointed to ſerue her, and gaue him a commande- ment vnto Mordecái, to knowe what it was, and why it was.

6 So Hatách wēt forth to Mordecái vnto the ſtreat of the citie, which was before the Kings gate.

7 And Mordecái tolde hī of all that which had come vnto him, and of the ſumme of the ſiluer that Hamán had promiſed to paye vnto the Kings treaſures, becauſe of the Iewes, for to deſtroie them.

8 Alſo he gaue him the copie of the writig & commiſſion that was giuen at Shuſhán, to deſtroie thet that he might ſhewe it vnto Eſtér and declare it vnto her, and to charge her, that ſhe ſhulde go in to the King, & make petition and ſupplication before him for her people.

9 ¶ So when Hatách came, he tolde Eſtér the wordes of Mordecái.

10 Then Eſtér ſaid vnto Hatách, and com- manded him, to ſay vnto Mordecái,

11 All the Kings ſeruants and the people of the Kings prouinces do knowe, that whoſocuer, man or woman, that commeth to the King into the inner court, which is not called, there is a lawe of his,

II.iiii.

^a Becauſe he
wolde aduer-
ſite Eſtér of
this cruel pro-
clamation.

^b Ebr. ſackcloth
& aſhes were
ſpread for man-
ny.

^c Ebr. had cau-
ſed to ſtand be-
fore her.

^d Ebr. declara-
tion.

^e Or, contents.

Gods prouidence.

Ester.

Hamans galous.

that he shal dye, except him to whom the King holdeth out the golden rod, that he may liue. Now I haue not bene called to come vnto the King these thirtie dayes.

12 And they certified Mordecái of Esters wordes.

13 And Mordecái said, that thei shulde answer Ester thus, Thinke not with thy self that thou shalt escape in the Kings house, more then all the Iewes.

14 For if thou holdest thy peace at this time, comfort and deliuerance shal appeare to the Iewes out of another place, but thou and thy fathers house shal perish: and who knoweth whether thou art come to y kingdome for such a time?

15 Then Ester commadèd to answer Mordecái,

16 Go, & assemble all the Iewes that are found in Shushán, & fast ye for me, & eat not, nor drinke in thre dayes, day nor night. I also and my maides wil fast likewise, and so wil I go in to the King, which is not according to the Law: and if I perish, I perish.

17 So Mordecái went his way, and did according to all that Ester had commanded him.

CHAP. V.

1 Ester entreth in to the King, and biddeth him and Hamán to a feast. 11 Hamán prepareth a galous for Mordecái.

a To wit, after that the Iewes had begone to fast.

1 **A**Nd on the third day Ester put on her royal apparel, and stode in the court of the Kings palace within, ouer against the Kings house: and the King sate vpon his royal throne in the Kings palace ouer against the gate of the house.

2 And when the King sawe Ester the Queene standing in the court, she found fauour in his sight: & the King helde out the goldē sceptre y was in his hād: so Ester drewe nere, and touched the toppe of the sceptre.

3 Then said the King vnto her, What wilt thou, Queene Ester? & what is thy request? it shalbe euen giuen thee to the halfe of the kingdome.

4 Then said Ester, If it please the King, let the King and Hamán come this day vnto the bāket, y I haue prepared for him.

5 And the King said, Cause Hamán to make hast that he maie do as Ester hath said. So the King and Hamán came to the bāket that Ester had prepared.

6 And the King said vnto Ester at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, that it may be giuen thee? and what is thy request? it shal euen be performed vnto the halfe of the kingdome.

7 Then answered Ester, and said, My petition and my request is,

8 If I haue founde fauour in the sight of

the King, and if it please the King to giue me my petition, and to performe my request, let the King and Hamán come to the banquet that I shal prepare for them, & I wil do tomorowe according to the Kings saying.

9 ¶ Then went Hamán forth the same day ioyful & with a glad heart. But when Hamán sawe Mordecái in the Kings gate, that he stode not vp, nor moued for him, then was Hamán ful of indignacion at Mordecái.

10 Neuertheles Hamán refrained him self: and when he came home, he sent, and called for his friends, and Zéresh his wife.

11 And Hamán tolde them of the glorie of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the King had promoted him, and how that he had set him about the princes and seruants of the King.

12 Hamán said moreover, Yea, Ester the Queene did let no man come in with the King to the banquet that she had prepared, saue me: and tomorowe am I bidden vnto her also with the King.

13 But all this doeth nothing auaile me, as long as I se Mordecái the Iewe sitting at the Kings gate.

14 Then said Zéresh his wife and all his friends vnto him, Let them make a tre of fiftie cubites hie, and tomorowe speake thou vnto the King, that Mordecái may be hanged thereon: the shalt thou go ioyfully with the King vnto the banquet. And the thing pleased Hamán, and he caused to make the tre.

CHAP. VI.

1 The King turneth ouer the chronicles, and findeth the fidelitie of Mordecái. 10 And commandeth Hamán, to cause Mordecái to be had in honour.

1 **T**He same night the King slept not, & he commanded to bring the booke of the records & the chronicles: and thei were red before the King.

2 Then it was founde written that Mordecái had tolde of Bigtāna, & Téresh two of the Kings eunuches, keepers of the dore, who sought to lay hands on the King Ahasuerós.

3 Thē the King said, What honour & dignitie hath bene giuen to Mordecái for this? And the Kings seruants that ministered vnto him, said, There is nothing done for him.

4 And the King said, Who is in the court? (Now Hamán was come into the inner court of the Kings house, that he might speake vnto the King to hang Mordecái on the tre that he had prepared for him.)

5 And the Kings seruants said vnto him, Beholde, Hamán standeth in the court. And the King said, Let him come in.

e I will declare what thing I demaunde.

f Thus I wicked when they are promoted, in stead of acknowledging their charge & humbling the felous, waxe ambitious disdainful and cruel.

g Meaning, y highest that could be founde.

h Ebr. the Kings slepe departed.

Chap. 2. 22

a For he thought it vnworthie his estate to receive a benefite, & not reward it.

b Thus while the wicked imagine the destruction of others, thei felous fall into the same pic.

6 And

"Ebr. brathig. b Thus Mordecái spake in y confidence of that faith, y all Gods children ought to haue: which is that God wil deliuer them, though all worldly meanes faile. c For to deliuer Gods Church out of the se preient dangers.

d I wil put my life in danger & referre the successe to God, seig it is for his glorie & the deliuerance of his Church.

b Which was a signe y her comming was agreeable vnto him, as Chap. 4. 21.

c Meaning hereby, y what soeuer she asked, shuld be granted, as Mar. 6. 23.

d Because thei used to drinke excessively in their banquets, they called the bāket by the name of that, which was most in vse or esteemed.

6 And when Hamán came in, the King said vnto him, What shalbe done vnto the mā, whome the King wil honour? Thē Hamán thoght in his heart, To whome wolde the King do honour more then to me?

7 And Hamán answered the King, The man whome the King wolde honour,

8 Let thē bring for him royal apparel, which the King wish to weare, and the horse that the King rydeth vpon, and that the crowne royal may be set vpon his head.

9 And let the rayment and the horse be deliuered by the hand of one of the Kings moste noble princes, and let them apparel the man (whome the King wil honour) & cause him to ride vpon the horse through the strete of the citie, & proclaime before him, Thus shal it be done vnto the man, whome the King wil honour.

10 Then the King said to Hamán, Make haste, take the raymēt & the horse as thou hast said, & do so vnto Mordecái & Iewe, that sitteth at the Kings gate: let nothing faile of all that thou hast spoken.

11 So Hamán toke the raymēt & the horse, and arrayed Mordecái, and broght him on horse backe through the strete of the citie, and proclaimed before him, Thus shal it be done to the man whome the King wil honour.

12 And Mordecái came againe to the Kings gate, but Hamán hastened home mourning and his head couered.

13 And Hamán tolde Zéresh his wife, & all his friends all that had befallen him. Thē said his wife men, and Zéresh his wife vnto him, If Mordecái be of the fede of the Iewes, before whome thou hast begone to fall, thou shalt not preuaile against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the Kings eunuches and hastened to bring Hamán vnto the báket that Estér had prepared.

CHAP. VII.

3 The quene biddeth the King & Hamán againe & praieth for her selfe and her people. 6 She accuseth Hamán and he is hanged on the gallows, which he had prepared for Mordecái.

1 SO the King and Hamán came to banquet with the Quene Estér.

2 And the King said againe vnto Estér on the seconde day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, Quene Estér, that it may be giue thee? and what is thy request? It shalbe euen performed vnto the halfe of the kingdome.

3 And Estér the Quene answered, and said, If I haue founde fauour in thy sight, o King, and if it please the King, let my life be giuen me at my petition, & my people at my request.

4 For we are solde, I, and my people, to be

destroyed, to be slayne and to perishe: but if we were solde for seruants, & for handmaidens, I wolde haue helde my tongue: althogh the aduersarie colde not recōpense the Kings losse.

5 Thē King Ahashuerósh answered, & said vnto the Quene Estér, Who is he? & where is he that presumeth to do thus?

6 And Estér said, The aduersarie and enemye is this wicked Hamán. Then Hamán was afraied before the King & the Quene.

7 And the King arose from the banquet of wine in his wrath, & went into the palace garden: but Hamán stode vp, to make request for his life to the Quene Estér: for he sawe that there was a mischief prepared for him of the King.

8 And when the King came againe out of the palace garden, into the house where they dranke wine, Hamán was fallen vpon the bed whereon Estér sat: therefore the King said, Wil he force the Quene also before me in the house? As the worde wet out of the Kings mouth, they couered Hamans face.

9 And Harbonáh one of the eunuches, said in the presence of the King, Beholde, there standeth yet the tre in Hamans house fiftie cubites hie, which Hamán had prepared for Mordecái, that spake good for the King. Then the King said, Hang him thereon.

10 So they hanged Hamán on the tre, that he had prepared for Mordecái: then was the Kings wrath pacified.

CHAP. VIII.

1 After the death of Hamán was Mordecái exalted, 14 Comfortable letters are sent vnto the Iewes.

1 THE same day did King Ahashuerósh giue the house of Hamán the aduersarie of the Iewes vnto the Quene Estér. And Mordecái came before the King: for Estér tolde what he was vnto her.

2 And the King toke of his ring, which he had taken from Hamán, and gaue it vnto Mordecái: and Estér set Mordecái ouer the house of Hamán.

3 And Estér spake yet more before the King, and fell downe at his fete weping, and besoght him that he wolde put away the wickednes of Hamán the Agagite, and his deuise that he had imagined against the Iewes.

4 And the King helde out the goldē sceptre toward Estér. Then arose Estér, and stode before the King,

5 And said, If it please the King, and if I haue founde fauour in his sight, and the thing be acceptable before the King, and I please him, let it be written, that the letters of the deuise of Hamán the sonne of Ammedátha the Agagite may be called againe, which he wrote to destroye the Iewes.

Kkii.

b Hamán cold not so muche prouide by this his malice, as he shulde hinder him by the losse of the Iewes, & the tribute which he hath of them.
c Estér, filleth his heart.

c His conscience did accuse him that as he had conspired the death of innocents, for the vengeance of God might fall vpon him for the same.
d He fel downe at the beddes fete or couche, whereupon she sat, and made request for his life.
e This was the manner of the Persians, when one was out of the Kings fauour.
f Which discouered the conspiracie against the King, Chap. 7, 22.

a That is, was receiued into the Kings fauour and presence.
b That he was her vncke and had broght her vp.

c Meaning, the he shulde abolish the wicked decrees, which he had made for the destruction of the Iewes.
d Read Chap. 5, 2.

e Meaning hereby, that the King shulde make himselfe vnto him selfe, as Ioseph hereby was knowne to be next to Pharaoh, Gen 41, 42.

d Thus God sometime putteth in the mouth of the very wicked, to speake that thing, which he hath decreed shal come to passe.

e Read Chap. 5, 9.

that are in all the Kings prouinces.

6 For how can I suffer and se the euil, that shal come vnto my people? Or how can I suffer and se the destruction of my kinred?

7 And the King Ahashuerósh said vnto y^e Quene Ester, & to Mordecái the Iewe, Beholde, I haue giuen Ester the house of Hamán, whome they haue hanged vpon the tre, because he^e layed hand vpon the Iewes.

8 Write ye also for the Iewes, as it liketh you in the Kings name, and seale it with the Kings ring, (for the writings written in the Kings name, and sealed with the Kings ring, may no^e man reuoke)

9 The^e were the Kings scribes called at the same time, eué in the third moneth, that is the moneth^e Siuán, on the thre & twétieth day thereof: and it was written, according to all as Mordecái commanded vnto the Iewes and to the prouinces, & captaines, and rulers of the princes, which were from India euen vnto Ethiopia, an hundred & seuen and twentie prouinces, vnto euerie prouince, according to the^e writing thereof, and to euerie people after their speache, and to the Iewes, according to their writing, and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the King Ahashuerósh name, and sealed it with the Kings ring: & he sent lettres by postes on horsebacke & that rode on *beastes* of price, as dromedaries & coltes of mares.

11 Wherein the King granted the Iewes (in what cities fouer they were) to gather them selues together, & to stand for^e their life, & to roote out, to slay & to destroye all the power of the people & of the prouince that vexed them, *bothe* children and wómen, and to spoyle their goods:

12 Vpon one day in all the prouinces of King Ahashuerósh, *euen* in the thirteenth day of the twelfth moneth, which is the moneth^e Adár.

13 The copie of the writing *was*, how there shulde be a commandement giuen in all and euerie prouince, published among all the people, and that the Iewes shulde be readie against that day to^e auenge them selues on their enemies.

14 So the postes rode vpon *beastes* of price, & dromedaries, & wét forth with speede, to execute the Kings commandement, & the decree was giuen at Shushán y^e palace.

15 And Mordecái went out from the King in royal apparel of blew, and white, and with a great crowne of golde, and with a garment of fine linen and purple, and the citie of Shushán reioyced and was glad.

16 And vnto the Iewes was come light and

ioye and gladnes, and honour.

17 Also in all and euerie prouince, and in all and euerie citie and place, where the

Kings commâdement & his decree came, there was ioye and gladnes to the Iewes, a feast and good day, and many of the people of the lãd^m became Iewes: for the feare of the Iewes fell vpon them.

CHAP. IX.

1 At the commandement of the King the Iewes put their aduersaries to death. 14 The ten sonnes of Hamán are hanged. 17 The Iewes kepe a feast in remembrance of their deliuerance.

1 SO in the twelfth moneth, which is the moneth Adár, vpon the thirteenth day of the same, when the Kings commâdement and his decree drew nere to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Iewes hoped to haue power ouer them (but it^a turned contrary: for the Iewes had rule ouer them that hated them)

2 The Iewes gathered the^e selues together into their cities throughout all the prouinces of the King Ahashuerósh, to laye hand on fuche as soght their hurt, and no man colde withstande them: for the feare of them fell vpon all people.

3 And all the rulers of the prouinces, & the princes and the captaines, and the officers of the King^b exalted the Iewes: for the feare of Mordecái fell vpon them.

4 For Mordecái was great in the Kigs house, and the reporte of him went through all the prouinces: for this man Mordecái waxed greater and greater.

5 Thus the Iewes smote all their^c enemies with strokes of the sworde and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they wolde vnto those that hated them.

6 And at Shushán the palace slewe y^e Iewes and destroyed^d fíue hundred men,

7 And Parshandátha, and Dalphón, and Aspátha,

8 And Porátha, and Adaliá, and Aridátha,

9 And Parmáshta, and Arisái, and Aridái, and Vaiezátha,

10 The ten sonnes of Hamán, the sonne of Ammedátha, the aduersarie of the Iewes slewe they: but they layed not their háds^e on the spoyle.

11 On the same day came the number of those that were slayne, vnto the palace of Shushán before the King.

12 And the King said vnto the Quene Ester, The Iewes haue slayne in Shushán the palace and destroyed fíue hundred men, and the ten sonnes of Hamán: what haue they done in the rest of the Kings prouinces? and what is thy peticion, that it may be giuen thee? or what is thy request moreouer, that it may be performed?

13 Then said Ester, If it please the King, let it be granted also to morowe to the Iewes that are in Shushán, to do according^f vnto

^{Or} went alone to slay the Iewes.

^e This was y^e lawe of the Medes & Persians, Dan. 6. 15. without standing the King reuoked the former decree grãted to Hamán, for Esters sake.

^f Which containeth parte of May and parte of Iune.

^g That is, in fuche letters & language, as was vsual in euerie prouince.

^{Or} mules.

^h That is, to defend them selues against all that wolde assaile them.

ⁱ Which hath parte of Februarie & part of Marche.

^k The King gaue them libertie to kill all y^e did oppose them.

^l He sheweth by these wordes that follow what this light was.

^m Cõformed them selues to the Iewes religion.

^a This was by Gods great prouidence, who turneth y^e ioie of the wicked into sorow, & the reares of the godlie into gladnes.

^b Did the honour, & shewed the friendship.

^c Which had cõspired their death by the permission of the wicked Hamán.

^d Besides those three hundred, y^e they slewe the residue day, as ver. 15.

^e Whereby they declared, that this was Gods iust iudgement vpon y^e enemies of his Church, forasmuch as they soght not their owne gaine, but to execute his vengeance.

f This he requirith not for desire of vengeance, but v^z zeale to se Gods iudgements executed against his enemies.

vnto this dayes decree, that they may hang vpon the tre Hamans ten sonnes.

14 And the King charged to do so, and the decree was giuen at Shushán, and they hanged Hamans ten sonnes.

15 ¶ So the Iewes that were in Shushán, assembled them selues vpon the fourtent day of the moneth Adár, and slewe thre hundred men in Shushán, but on the spoile they layed not their hand.

16 And the rest of the Iewes that were in the Kings prouinces assembled the selues, and stode for s^r their liues, and had rest from their enemies, & slewe of them that hated them, h^u seuentie and fyue thousand: but they layed not their had on the spoile.

17 This they did on the i^h thirte day of the moneth Adár, and rested the fourtete day thereof, and kept it a daye of feasting and ioye.

18 But the Iewes that were in Shushán, assembled them selues on the thirte day, & on the fourtente thereof, & thei rested on the fiftente of the same, & kept it a day of feasting and ioye.

19 Therefore the Iewes of the villages that dwelt in the vnwalld townes, k^e kept the fourtente day of the moneth Adár with ioye and feasting, euen a ioyful day, and euerie one sent presents vnto his neigbour.

20 ¶ And Mordecái wrote i these wordes, and sent letters vnto all the Iewes that were through all the prouinces of the King Ahashuerósh, bothe n^re and farre,

21 Inioining them that they shulde kepe the fourtente day of the moneth Adár, and the fiftente day of the same, euerie yere.

22 According to the dayes wherein the Iewes rested from their enemies, and the moneth which was turned vnto them fró sorow to ioye, and from mourning into a ioyful day, to kepe them the dayes of feasting, and ioye, and m^e to send presents euerie man to his neigbour, and giftes to the poore.

23 And the Iewes promised to do as they had begonne, and as Mordecái had writen vnto them,

24 Because Hamán the soane of Hammedátha the Agagite all the Iewes aduersarie, had imagined against the Iewes, to destroye them, & had cast Pur (that is a lot) to consume and destroye them.

25 And whē she came before the King, he

cōmanded by letters, Let his wicked p^r deuiſe (which he imagined against y^e Iewes) turne vpon his owne head, and let them hang him and his sonnes on the tre.

26 Therefore they called these dayes Purím, by the name of Pur, and because of all the wordes of this lettre, and of that which they had sene besides this, & of that which had come vnto them.

27 The Iewes also ordeined, and promised for them and for their seds, and for all that ioined vnto them, that they wolde not faile to obserue those q^u two dayes euerie yere, according to their writing, and according to their season,

28 And that these dayes shulde be remembered, and kept throughout euerie generation and euerie familie, and euerie prouince, and euerie citie: euen these dayes of Purím shulde not faile among the Iewes, and the memorial of them shulde not perish from their seds.

29 And y^e Quene Estér the daughter of Abiháil & Mordecái the Iewe wrote with all autoritie (to cōfirme this letter of Purím the seconde time)

30 And he sent letters vnto all the Iewes to the hundredth and seuē and twentie prouinces of the kingdome of Ahashuerósh, with w^o wordes of peace and trueth,

31 To confirme these dayes of Purím according to their seasons, as Mordecái the Iewe and Estér the Quene had appointed them, and as they had promised for them selues and for their seds with f^o fasting and prayer.

32 And the decree of Estér confirmed these wordes of Purím, & was writen in the boke.

CHAP. X.

The estimation and autoritie of Mordecái.

1 And the King Ahashuerósh layed a tribute vpon the land, and vpon the yles of the sea.

2 And all the actes of his power, and of his might, and the declaration of the dignitie of Mordecái, wherewith the King magnified him, are they not writen in the boke of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia?

3 For Mordecái the Iewe was the seconde vnto King Ahashuerósh, and great amōg the Iewes, and a accepted amōg the multitude of his brethren, who procured the welth of his people, & spake peaceably to all his seds.

Kk.ii.

p These are y^e wordes of the Kings commādemēt to destroye Hamans wicked enterprise.

q Or, transgress. Meaning the fourtente, and the fiftete day of the moneth Adár.

r Or strength, or efficacie.

s Which were letters declaring vnto the quietnes, and assurance, and putting them out of doubt, and feare.

t Ebr. fastes. f. That they wolde obserue this feast with fasting, & earnest prayer, which in Ebrewe is signified by this worde (their crye.)

a These three pointes are here set forth as commendable, and necessarie for him, that is in autoritie: to haue the fauour of the peoples so procure their welth, & so be gentle, and loyng toward them.

g Read Chap. 3.ii.

h Meaning, y^e they laide hādes on none, y^e were not the enemies of God. i Meaning, in all places fasting in Shushán.

k As y^e Iewes do, eue to this day, calling it in the Persians language Purím, that is the day of lōs.

l The Iewes gather hereof that Mordecái wrote this storie, but it seemeth that he wrote but onely these letters, and decrees that followe.

m He setteth before our eyes the vic of this feast, which was for the remembrance of Gods deliuerāce, the maintenance of mutual friēdship, and relief of the poore.

n Read Chap. 3.7.

o That is, Estér.