

# A Secret Subplot in the Book of Esther

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Torah in Motion, Purim, 5786

## Esther 2

(1) Some time afterward, when the anger of King Ahasuerus subsided, he thought of Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. (2) The king's servants who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for Your Majesty. (3) Let Your Majesty appoint officers in every province of your realm to assemble all the beautiful young virgins at the fortress Shushan, in the harem under the supervision of Hegai, the king's eunuch, guardian of the women. Let them be provided with their cosmetics. (4) And let the maiden who pleases Your Majesty be queen instead of Vashti." The proposal pleased the king, and he acted upon it.

## אסתר ב'

(א) אַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה כָּשָׁךְ  
חֶמֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֵׁרוּשׁ זָכַר  
אֶת־וַשְׁתִּי וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה וְאֶת  
אֲשֶׁר־נִגְזַר עָלֶיהָ: (ב) וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
נְעָרֵי־הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׂרָתָיו יִבְקְשׁוּ  
לַמֶּלֶךְ נְעָרוֹת בְּתוּלוֹת טוֹבוֹת  
מֵרָאָה: (ג) וַיִּפְקֹד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים  
בְּכָל־מְדִינוֹת מַלְכוּתוֹ וַיִּקְבְּצוּ  
אֶת־כָּל־נְעָרֵה־בְּתוּלָה טוֹבוֹת  
מֵרָאָה אֶל־שׁוֹשֵׁן הַבֵּירָה אֶל־בֵּית  
הַנְּשִׂים אֶל־יַד הַגָּא סָרִיס הַמֶּלֶךְ  
שִׁמְר הַנְּשִׂים וְנִתְּוֹן תַּמְרְקִיָּהוּ:  
(ד) וְהַנְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר תִּיטֵב בְּעֵינָי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ תַּמְלֹךְ תַּחַת וַשְׁתִּי וַיִּיטֵב  
הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינָי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן:

(5) In the fortress Shushan lived a Jew by the name of Mordecai, son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite. (6) He had been exiled from Jerusalem in the group that was carried into exile along with King Jeconiah of Judah, which had been driven into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. (7) He was foster father to Hadassah—that is, Esther—his uncle’s daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was shapely and beautiful; and when her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter.

(ה) אִישׁ יְהוּדִי הָיָה בְּשׁוּשַׁן  
הַבִּירָה וּשְׁמוֹ מֶרְדֳּכַי בֶּן יָאִיר  
בֶּן־שִׁמְעִי בֶּן־קִישׁ אִישׁ יְמִינִי: (ו)  
אֲשֶׁר הֶגְלָה מִירוּשָׁלַיִם עִם־הֶגְלָה  
אֲשֶׁר הֶגְלָתָה עִם יְכַנְיָה  
מֶלֶךְ־יְהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר הֶגְלָה  
נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל: (ז) וַיְהִי  
אִמֵּן אֶת־הַדָּסָה הִיא אֶסְתֵּר  
בִּת־דָּדוּ כִּי אֵין לָהּ אָב וְאִם  
וְהִנְעֲרָה יַפְת־תָּאֵר וְטוֹבַת מְרָאָה  
וּבְמֹת אֲבִיהָ וְאִמָּהּ לְקַחָהּ  
מֶרְדֳּכַי לֹו לְבַת:

(8) When the king’s order and edict was proclaimed, and when many girls were assembled in the fortress Shushan under the supervision of Hegai, Esther too was taken into the king’s palace under the supervision of Hegai, guardian of the women. (9) The girl pleased him and won his favor, and he hastened to furnish her with her cosmetics and her rations, as well as with the seven maids who were her due from the king’s palace; and he treated her and her maids with special kindness in the harem. (10) Esther did not reveal her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had told her not to reveal it.

(ח) וַיְהִי בְּהִשְׁמַע דְּבַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְדָתוֹ וּבְהַקְבִּץ נְעָרוֹת רַבּוֹת  
אֶל־שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה אֶל־יַד הַגִּי  
וּתְלַקַּח אֶסְתֵּר אֶל־בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶל־יַד הַגִּי שֹׁמֵר הַנְּשִׁים: (ט)  
וּתְיַטֵּב הִנְעֲרָה בְּעֵינָיו וְתִשָּׂא  
חֶסֶד לְפָנָיו וַיְבַהֵל אֶת־תְּמָרוּקֶיהָ  
וְאֶת־מְנוֹתָהּ לְתַתּ לָהּ וְאֶת־שִׁבְעַ  
הַנְּעָרוֹת הָרְאוּיוֹת לְתַת־לָהּ מִבֵּית  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁנֶה וְאֶת־נְעָרוֹתֶיהָ  
לְטוֹב בֵּית הַנְּשִׁים: (י)  
לֹא־הִגִּידָה אֶסְתֵּר אֶת־עַמָּהּ  
וְאֶת־מִוְלָדָתָהּ כִּי מֶרְדֳּכַי צִוָּהָ  
עָלֶיהָ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִגִּיד:

(11) Every single day Mordecai would walk about in front of the court of the harem, to learn how Esther was faring and what was happening to her.

(יא) וּבְכָל־יּוֹם וְיוֹם מְרַדְּכַי  
מִתְהַלֵּךְ לִפְנֵי חֲצַר בֵּית־הַנְּשִׂימ  
לִדְעוֹת אֶת־שְׁלוֹם אֶסְתֵּר  
וּמַה־יַּעֲשֶׂה בָּהּ:

(12) When each girl's turn came to go to King Ahasuerus at the end of the twelve months' treatment prescribed for women (for that was the period spent on beautifying them: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and women's cosmetics, (13) and it was after that that the girl would go to the king), whatever she asked for would be given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. (14) She would go in the evening and leave in the morning for a second harem in charge of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, guardian of the concubines. She would not go again to the king unless the king wanted her, when she would be summoned by name.

(יב) וּבַהֲגִיעַ תֵּרֶ נְעֻרָה וְנִעְרָה  
לְבוֹא | אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ  
מִקֵּץ הַיּוֹת לָהּ כְּדַת הַנְּשִׂימ שְׁנַיִם  
עָשָׂר חֹדֶשׁ כִּי כֵן יִמְלְאוּ יָמֶי  
מְרוּקִיהֶן שִׁשָּׁה חֳדָשִׁים בְּשֶׁמֶן  
הַמֹּר וְשִׁשָּׁה חֳדָשִׁים בְּבִשְׂמִים  
וּבִתְמֻרוּקֵי הַנְּשִׂימ: (יג) וּבָזָה  
הַנְּעֻרָה בָּאָה אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת  
כָּל־אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר יִנָּתֵן לָהּ לְבוֹא  
עִמָּה מִבֵּית הַנְּשִׂימ עַד־בֵּית  
הַמֶּלֶךְ: (יד) בְּעֶרְבוֹ הִיא בָּאָה  
וּבְבֹקֶר הִיא שָׁבָה אֶל־בֵּית  
הַנְּשִׂימ שְׁנֵי אֶלְיָד שְׁעֵשְׂגוֹ סְרִיס  
הַמֶּלֶךְ שֹׁמֵר הַפִּילֻגְשִׁים  
לֹא־תִבּוֹא עוֹד אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי  
אִם־חֲפִץ בָּהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְנִקְרְאָה  
בְּשֵׁם:

(15) When the turn came for Esther daughter of Abihail—the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter—to go to the king, she did not ask for anything but what Hegai, the king's eunuch, guardian of the women, advised. Yet Esther won the admiration of all who saw her.

(טו) וּבַהֲגִיעַ תֵּרֶ־אֶסְתֵּר  
בִּת־אֲבִיחַיִל דָּד מְרַדְּכַי אֲשֶׁר  
לְקַח־לוֹ לְבַת לְבוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ לֹא  
בִקְשָׁה דָבָר כִּי אִם אֶת־אֲשֶׁר  
יֹאמַר הִגִּי סְרִיס־הַמֶּלֶךְ שֹׁמֵר  
הַנְּשִׂימ וְתִהְיֶי אֶסְתֵּר נִשְׂאֵת חֹן  
בְּעֵינֵי כָל־רְאִיָּה:

(16) Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, in his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. (17) The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she won his grace and favor more than all the virgins. So he set a royal diadem on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. (18) The king gave a great banquet for all his officials and courtiers, “the banquet of Esther.” He proclaimed a remission of taxes for the provinces and distributed gifts as befits a king.

(19) When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai sat in the palace gate. (20) But Esther still did not reveal her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had instructed her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai’s bidding, as she had done when she had been adopted by him.

(21) At that time, when Mordecai was sitting in the palace gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs who guarded the threshold, became angry, and plotted to do away with King Ahasuerus. (22) Mordecai learned of it and told it to Queen Esther, and Esther reported it to the king in

(טז) וּתְלַקַּח אֶסְתֵּר אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶחָשׁוּרוּשׁ אֶל־בַּיִת מַלְכוּתוֹ  
בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשִׂירִי הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ טֵבֶת  
בְּשָׁנַת־שִׁבְעָ לְמַלְכוּתוֹ: (יז)  
וַיֶּאֱהָב הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־אֶסְתֵּר  
מִכָּל־הַנְּשִׂימִים וַתִּשְׂאֶחֶן וַחֲסֹד  
לְפָנָיו מִכָּל־הַבְּתוּלוֹת וַיִּשֶׂם  
כְּתֹר־מַלְכוּת בְּרֹאשָׁהּ וַיְמַלִּכָהּ  
תַּחַת וְשָׂתִי: (יח) וַיַּעַשׂ הַמֶּלֶךְ  
מִשְׁתֵּה גָדוֹל לְכָל־שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו  
אֶת מִשְׁתֵּה אֶסְתֵּר וַהֲנַחָה  
לְמַדִּינוֹת עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן מִשְׂאֵת כֶּיֶד  
הַמֶּלֶךְ:

(יט) וּבְהַקְבִּץ בְּתוּלוֹת שְׁנִית  
וּמְרַדְכֵי יָשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ: (כ)  
אִין אֶסְתֵּר מִגִּדַת מוֹלַדְתָּהּ  
וְאֶת־עַמָּהּ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה עָלֶיהָ  
מְרַדְכֵי וְאֶת־מֵאֲמַר מְרַדְכֵי אֶסְתֵּר  
עָשָׂה כַּאֲשֶׁר הִיָּתָה בְּאִמְנָה אֶתּוֹ:

(כא) בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם וּמְרַדְכֵי יוֹשֵׁב  
בְּשַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ קִצָּף בְּגַתָּן וְתָרֵשׁ  
שְׁנֵי־סָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׂמָרֵי הַסֹּף  
וַיִּבְקֶשׁוּ לְשַׁלַּח יָד בַּמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶחָשׁוּרוּשׁ: (כב) וַיִּוָּדַע הַדָּבָר  
לְמְרַדְכֵי וַיִּגִּד לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה  
וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְמֶלֶךְ בְּשֵׁם

Mordecai's name. (23) The matter was investigated and found to be so, and the two were impaled on stakes. This was recorded in the book of annals at the instance of the king.

מֶרְדֵּכַי: (כג) וַיִּבְקֶשׁ הַדָּבָר  
וַיִּמָּצֵא וַיִּתְּלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם עַל־עֵץ  
וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּסֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְפָנֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ:

### Esther 3

(1) Some time afterward, King Ahasuerus promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite; he advanced him and seated him higher than any of his fellow officials. (2) All the king's courtiers in the palace gate knelt and bowed low to Haman, for such was the king's order concerning him; but Mordecai would not kneel or bow low. (3) Then the king's courtiers who were in the palace gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's order?" (4) When they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's resolve would prevail; now he had explained to them that he was a Jew. (5) When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel or bow low to him, Haman was filled with rage. (6) But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone; having been told who Mordecai's people were, Haman plotted to do away with all the Jews, Mordecai's people,

### אסתר ג'

(א) אַחֲרַיִם הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה גִּדְּלִי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ אֶת־הַמֶּן  
בֶּן־הַמְּדַתָּא הָאֲגָגִי וַיִּנְשְׂאֵהוּ  
וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת־כִּסְאוֹ מֵעַל כָּל־הַשָּׂרִים  
אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ: (ב) וְכָל־עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ כְּרָעִים  
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהַמֶּן כִּי־כֵן צִוְּהֵלוּ  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמֶרְדֵּכַי לֹא יִכְרַע וְלֹא  
יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה: (ג) וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ  
לְמֶרְדֵּכַי מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה עוֹבֵר אֶת  
מִצְוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ: (ד) וַיְהִי (בִּאמְרָם)  
[כְּאֲמָרָם] אֵלָיו יוֹם וַיּוֹם וְלֹא  
שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּגִּידוּ לְהַמֶּן לְרֹאוֹת  
הֵעָמְדוּ דְבָרֵי מֶרְדֵּכַי כִּי־הִגִּיד  
לָהֶם אֲשֶׁר־הוּא יְהוּדִי: (ה) וַיֵּרָא  
הַמֶּן כִּי־אֵין מֶרְדֵּכַי כְּרָע  
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לוֹ וַיִּמְלֵא הַמֶּן חֶמָּה:  
(ו) וַיִּבֹז בְּעֵינָיו לְשַׁלַּח יָד  
בְּמֶרְדֵּכַי לְבַדּוֹ כִּי־הִגִּידוּ לוֹ  
אֶת־עַם מֶרְדֵּכַי וַיִּבְקֶשׁ הַמֶּן  
לְהַשְׁמִיד אֶת־כָּל־הַיְּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר

throughout the kingdom of Ahasuerus.

בְּכָל־מַלְכוּת אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ עִם  
מְרֹדְכָי:

(7) In the first month, that is, the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, pur—which means “the lot”—was cast before Haman concerning every day and every month, [until it fell on] the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar. (8) Haman then said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king’s laws; and it is not in Your Majesty’s interest to tolerate them. (9) If it please Your Majesty, let an edict be drawn for their destruction, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the stewards for deposit in the royal treasury.”

(10) Thereupon the king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the foe of the Jews. (11) And the king said, “The money and the people are yours to do with as you see fit.”

(ז) בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ  
נִיסָן בְּשָׁנַת שְׁתַּיִם עָשָׂרָה לַמֶּלֶךְ  
אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הַפִּיל פּוֹר הוּא הַגּוֹרֵל  
לִפְנֵי הַמֶּן מִיּוֹם | לְיוֹם וּמַחֲדָשׁ  
לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ  
אַדָּר: (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּן לַמֶּלֶךְ  
אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ יֵשְׁנוּ עִם־אֶחָד מִפְּזָר  
וּמִפְּרֹד בֵּין הָעַמִּים בְּכָל מְדִינֹת  
מַלְכוּתְךָ וְדַתֵּיהֶם שְׁנוֹת מִכָּל־עַם  
וְאֶת־דַּתִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵינָם עֹשִׂים  
וְלַמֶּלֶךְ אֵין־שׂוּהָ לְהַנִּיחָם: (ט)  
אִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יִכְתֹּב לְאַבְדָּם  
וְעֲשֶׂרֶת אֲלָפִים כֶּסֶף־כָּסֶף  
אֲשֶׁקוּל עַל־יְדֵי עֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה  
לְהַבִּיא אֶל־גִּנְזֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

(י) וַיִּסַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל  
יָדוֹ וַיִּתְּנָהּ לְהַמֶּן בֶּן־הַמְּדַתָּא  
הָאֲגָגִי צִרְרַר הַיְהוּדִים: (יא)  
וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַמֶּן הַכֶּסֶף נָתַון  
לְךָ וְהָעָם לַעֲשׂוֹת בּוֹ כַּטּוֹב  
בְּעֵינֶיךָ:

(12) On the thirteenth day of the first month, the king's scribes were summoned and a decree was issued, as Haman directed, to the king's satraps, to the governors of every province, and to the officials of every people, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language. The orders were issued in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet. (13) Accordingly, written instructions were dispatched by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, massacre, and exterminate all the Jews, young and old, children and women, on a single day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month—that is, the month of Adar—and to plunder their possessions. (14) The text of the document was to the effect that a law should be proclaimed in every single province; it was to be publicly displayed to all the peoples, so that they might be ready for that day.

(15) The couriers went out posthaste on the royal mission, and the decree was proclaimed in the fortress Shushan. The king and Haman sat down to feast, but the city of Shushan was dumfounded.

(יב) ויקראו ספרי המלך בחדש הראשון בשלושה עשר יום בו ויכתב ככל אשר צוה המן אל אחשדרפני המלך ואל הפחות אשרו על מדינה ומדינה ואל שרי עם ועם מדינה ומדינה ככתבה ועם ועם כלשונו בשם המלך אחשורש נכתב ונחתם בטבעת המלך: (יג) ונשלוח ספרים בידי הרצים אל כל מדינות המלך להשמיד להרג ולאבד את כל היהודים מנער ועד זקן טף ונשים ביום אחד בשלושה עשר לחדש שנים עשר הוא חודש אדר ושללם לבוז: (יד) פתשגן הכתב להנתן דת בכל מדינה ומדינה גלוי לכל העמים להיות עתדים ליום הזה:

(טו) הרצים יצאו דחופים בדבר המלך והדת נתנה בשושן הבירה והמלך והמן ישבו לשותות והעיר שושן נבוכה:

## Esther 4

(1) When Mordecai learned all that had happened, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went through the city, crying out loudly and bitterly, (2) until he came in front of the palace gate; for one could not enter the palace gate wearing sackcloth.— (3) Also, in every province that the king's command and decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing, and everybody lay in sackcloth and ashes.— (4) When Esther's maidens and eunuchs came and informed her, the queen was greatly agitated. She sent clothing for Mordecai to wear, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he refused.

(5) Thereupon Esther summoned Hathach, one of the eunuchs whom the king had appointed to serve her, and sent him to Mordecai to learn the why and wherefore of it all. (6) Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the palace gate; (7) and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and all about the money that Haman had offered to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

## אסתר ד'

(א) וּמֹרְדֵכַי יָדַע אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשְׂהָ וַיִּקְרַע מֹרְדֵכַי אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבַּשׁ שָׂק וְאַפֶּר וַיֵּצֵא בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וַיִּזְעַק וַיַּעֲקֶה גְדוּלָה וּמְרָה: (ב) וַיָּבֹא עַד לִפְנֵי שַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אֵין לְבוֹא אֶל־שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלְבוּשׁ שָׂק: (ג) וּבְכָל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה מְקוּם אֲשֶׁר דִּבְרַ־הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ מִגִּיעַ אֲבָל גְּדוּל' לַיהוּדִים וְצוּם וּבְכִי וּמִסָּפַד שָׂק וְאַפֶּר יַצַּע לְרַבִּים: (ד) (וּתְבוֹאִינָה) [וְתָבוֹאֵנָה] נַעֲרוֹת אֶסְתֵּר וְסָרִיסֵיהָ וַיִּגִּידוּ לָהּ וְתַתְּחִלְחֵל הַמַּלְכָּה מְאֹד וְתִשְׁלַח בְּגָדִים לְהַלְבִּישׁ אֶת־מֹרְדֵכַי וְלְהַסִּיר שָׁקוֹ מֵעָלָיו וְלֹא קִבַּל:

(ה) וַתִּקְרָא אֶסְתֵּר לְהַתְּךָ מִסָּרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר הָעֵמִיד לִפְנֵיהָ וַתִּצְוֶהוּ עַל־מֹרְדֵכַי לְדַעַת מַה־זֶּה וְעַל־מַה־זֶּה: (ו) וַיֵּצֵא הַתְּךָ אֶל־מֹרְדֵכַי אֶל־רְחוֹב הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי שַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ: (ז) וַיִּגְדֵּלֻּם מֹרְדֵכַי אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר קָרָהוּ וְאֵת פְּרִשְׁת הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר אָמַר הָמֵן לְשָׂקוֹל עַל־גַּנְזֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ (בִּיהוּדִים) [בִּיהוּדִים] לְאַבְדָּם:

**Esther 8:1-2**

(1) That very day King Ahasuerus gave the property of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Mordecai presented himself to the king, for Esther had revealed how he was related to her. (2) The king slipped off his ring, which he had taken back from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther put Mordecai in charge of Haman's property.

**אסתר ח'א-ב'**

(א) בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶחָשׁוּרוּשׁ לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה  
אֶת־בַּיִת הַמֶּן צָרַר (הַיְהוּדִים)  
[הַיְהוּדִים] וּמֶרְדֵּכַי בָּא לִפְנֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי־הִגִּידָה אֶסְתֵּר מֶה  
הוּא־לָהּ: (ב) וַיִּסֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר הָעֵבִיר מִהֶמֶן  
וַיִּתְּנָהּ לְמֶרְדֵּכַי וַתִּשֶׂם אֶסְתֵּר  
אֶת־מֶרְדֵּכַי עַל־בַּיִת הַמֶּן: