



1 After^{H310} these things^{H1697}, when the wrath^{H2534} of king^{H4428} Ahasuerus^{H325} was appeased^{H7918}, he remembered^{H2142} Vashti^{H2060}, and what she had done^{H6213}, and what was decreed^{H1504} against her. 2 Then said^{H559} the king's^{H4428} servants^{H5288} that ministered^{H8334} unto him, Let there be fair^{H2896} young^{H4758} virgins^{H5291} sought^{H1245} for the king^{H4428}. 3 And let the king^{H4428} appoint^{H6485} officers^{H6496} in all the provinces^{H4082} of his kingdom^{H4438}, that they may gather together^{H6908} all the fair^{H2896} young^{H4758} virgins^{H5291} unto Shushan^{H7800} the palace^{H1002}, to the house^{H1004} of the women^{H802}, unto the custody^{H3027} of Hege^{H1896} the king's^{H4428} chamberlain^{H5631}, keeper^{H8104} of the women^{H802}; and let their things for purification^{H8562} be given^{H5414} them: 4 And let the maiden^{H5291} which pleaseth^{H3190} the king^{H4428} be queen^{H4427} instead of Vashti^{H2060}. And the thing^{H1697} pleased^{H3190} the king^{H4428}; and he did so^{H6213}. 5 Now in Shushan^{H7800} the palace^{H1002} there was a certain^{H376} Jew^{H3064}, whose name^{H8034} was Mordecai^{H4782}, the son^{H1121} of Jair^{H2971}, the son^{H1121} of Shimei^{H8096}, the son^{H1121} of Kish^{H7027}, a Benjamite^{H1145}; 6 Who had been carried away^{H1540} from Jerusalem^{H3389} with the captivity^{H1473} which had been carried away^{H1540} with Jeconiah^{H3204} king^{H4428} of Judah^{H3063}, whom Nebuchadnezzar^{H5019} the king^{H4428} of Babylon^{H894} had carried away^{H1540}. 7 And he brought up^{H539} Hadassah^{H1919}, that is, Esther^{H635}, his uncle's^{H1730} daughter^{H1323}: for she had neither father^{H1} nor mother^{H517}, and the maid^{H5291} was fair^{H3303} and beautiful^{H2896}; whom Mordecai^{H4782}, when her father^{H1} and mother^{H517} were dead^{H4194}, took^{H3947} for his own daughter^{H1323}. 8 So it came to pass, when the king's^{H4428} commandment^{H1697} and his decree^{H1881} was heard^{H8085}, and when many^{H7227} maidens^{H5291} were gathered together^{H6908} unto Shushan^{H7800} the palace^{H1002}, to the custody^{H3027} of Hegai^{H1896}, that Esther^{H635} was brought^{H3947} also unto the king's^{H4428} house^{H1004}, to the custody^{H3027} of Hegai^{H1896}, keeper^{H8104} of the women^{H802}. 9 And the maiden^{H5291} pleased^{H3190} him, and she obtained^{H5375} kindness^{H2617} of him^{H6440}; and he speedily^{H926} gave^{H5414} her her things for purification^{H8562}, with such things as belonged^{H4490} to her, and seven^{H7651} maidens^{H5291}, which were meet^{H7200} to be given^{H5414} her, out of the king's^{H4428} house^{H1004}: and he preferred^{H8138} her and her maids^{H5291} unto the best^{H2896} place of the house^{H1004} of the women^{H802}. 10 Esther^{H635} had not shewed^{H5046} her people^{H5971} nor her kindred^{H4138}: for Mordecai^{H4782} had charged^{H6680} her that she should not shew^{H5046} it. 11 And Mordecai^{H4782} walked^{H1980} every day^{H3117} before^{H6440} the court^{H2691} of the women's^{H802} house^{H1004}, to know^{H3045} how Esther^{H635} did^{H7965}, and what should become^{H6213} of her. 12 Now when every maid's^{H5291} turn^{H8447} was come^{H5060} to go in^{H935} to king^{H4428} Ahasuerus^{H325}, after^{H7093} that she had been twelve^{H8147} months^{H6240}, according to the manner^{H1881} of the women^{H802}, (for so were the days^{H3117} of their purifications^{H4795} accomplished^{H4390}, to wit, six^{H8337} months^{H2320} with oil^{H8081} of myrrh^{H4753}, and six^{H8337} months^{H2320} with sweet odours^{H1314}, and with other things for the purifying^{H8562} of the women^{H802}); 13 Then thus came^{H935} every maiden^{H5291} unto the king^{H4428}; whatsoever she desired^{H559} was given^{H5414} her to go^{H935} with her out of the house^{H1004} of the women^{H802} unto the king's^{H4428} house^{H1004}. 14 In the evening^{H6153} she went^{H935}, and on the morrow^{H1242} she returned^{H7725} into the second^{H8145} house^{H1004} of the women^{H802}, to the custody^{H3027} of Shaashgaz^{H8190}, the king's^{H4428} chamberlain^{H5631}, which kept^{H8104} the concubines^{H6370}: she came in^{H935} unto the king^{H4428} no more, except the king^{H4428} delighted^{H2654} in her, and that she were called^{H7121} by name^{H8034}. 15 Now when the turn^{H8447} of Esther^{H635}, the daughter^{H1323} of Abihail^{H32} the uncle^{H1730} of Mordecai^{H4782}, who had taken^{H3947} her for his daughter^{H1323}, was come^{H5060} to go in^{H935} unto the king^{H4428}, she required^{H1245} nothing^{H1697} but what Hegai^{H1896} the king's^{H4428} chamberlain^{H5631}, the keeper^{H8104} of the women^{H802}, appointed^{H559}. And Esther^{H635} obtained^{H5375} favour^{H2580} in the sight^{H5869} of all them that looked^{H7200} upon her. 16 So Esther^{H635} was taken^{H3947} unto king^{H4428} Ahasuerus^{H325} into his house^{H1004} royal^{H4438} in the tenth^{H6224} month^{H2320}, which is the month^{H2320} Tebeth^{H2887}, in the seventh^{H7651} year^{H8141} of his reign^{H4438}. 17 And the king^{H4428} loved^{H157} Esther^{H635} above all the women^{H802}, and she obtained^{H5375} grace^{H2580} and favour^{H2617} in his sight^{H6440} more than all the virgins^{H1330}; so that he set^{H7760} the royal^{H4438} crown^{H3804} upon her head^{H7218}, and made her queen^{H4427} instead of Vashti^{H2060}. 18 Then the king^{H4428} made^{H6213} a great^{H1419} feast^{H4960} unto all his princes^{H8269} and his servants^{H5650}, even Esther's^{H635} feast^{H4960}; and he made^{H6213} a release^{H2010} to the

provinces^{H4082}, and gave^{H5414} gifts^{H4864}, according to the state^{H3027} of the king^{H4428}.¹¹ **19** And when the virgins^{H1330} were gathered together^{H6908} the second time^{H8145}, then Mordecai^{H4782} sat^{H3427} in the king's^{H4428} gate^{H8179}. **20** Esther^{H635} had not yet shewed^{H5046} her kindred^{H4138} nor her people^{H5971}; as Mordecai^{H4782} had charged^{H6680} her: for Esther^{H635} did^{H6213} the commandment^{H3982} of Mordecai^{H4782}, like as when she was brought up^{H545} with him.

21 In those days^{H3117}, while Mordecai^{H4782} sat^{H3427} in the king's^{H4428} gate^{H8179}, two^{H8147} of the king's^{H4428} chamberlains^{H5631}, Bigthan^{H904} and Teresh^{H8657}, of those which kept^{H8104} the door^{H5592}, were wroth^{H7107}, and sought^{H1245} to lay^{H7971} hand^{H3027} on the king^{H4428} Ahasuerus^{H325}.¹² **22** And the thing^{H1697} was known^{H3045} to Mordecai^{H4782}, who told^{H5046} it unto Esther^{H635} the queen^{H4436}; and Esther^{H635} certified^{H559} the king^{H4428} thereof in Mordecai's^{H4782} name^{H8034}. **23** And when inquisition^{H1245} was made of the matter^{H1697}, it was found out^{H4672}; therefore they were both^{H8147} hanged^{H8518} on a tree^{H6086}: and it was written^{H3789} in the book^{H5612} of the chronicles^{H1697} before^{H6440} the king^{H4428}.

Fußnoten

1. unto the...: Heb. unto the hand
2. Hege: or, Hegai
3. Jeconiah: or, Jehoiachin
4. brought...: Heb. nourished
5. fair...: Heb. fair of form, and good of countenance
6. such...: Heb. her portions
7. preferred: Heb. changed
8. to know...: Heb. to know the peace
9. favour: or, kindness
10. in his...: Heb. before him
11. release: Heb. rest
12. Bigthan: or, Bighthana
13. the door: Heb. the threshold