



THE BOOKE OF Esther.

CHAP. I.

1 Ahasuerus maketh royall feasts. 10 Vasthi,
sent for, refuseth to come. 13 Ahasuerus,
by the counsell of Memucan, maketh the
decree of mens soueraignie.

NOW it came to
passe in the dayes
of Ahasuerus,
(this is Ahasue-
rus which reig-
ned from India,
euen vnto Ethio-
pia, ouer an hun-
dred, and seuen
and twentie prouinces.)

2 That in those dayes, when the
King Ahasuerus sate on the throne of
his kingdome, which was in Shushan
the palace:

3 In the third yeere of his reigne,
he made a feast vnto all his Princes, and
his seruants, the power of Persia and
Media, the Nobles and Princes of the
prouinces being before him.

4 When he shewed the riches of his
glorious kingdome, and the honour of
his excellent maiestie, many dayes, euen
an hundred and fourescore dayes.

5 And when these dayes were ex-
pired, the king made a feast vnto all the
people that were [†] present in Shushan
the palace, both vnto great and small,
seuen dayes, in the court of the garden
of the kings palace,

6 Where were white, greene and ^{||}blew
hangings, fastened with cords of fine lin-
nen, and purple, to silver rings, and pil-
lers of marble: the beds were of gold
and silver, vpon a pauement of ^{||}red,
and blew, and white, and blacke
marble.

7 And they gaue them drinke in ves-
sels of gold, (the vessels being diuers
one from another) and [†] royall wine in

abundance, according to the [†] state of
the king.

8 And the drinking was according to
the law, none did compell: for the king
had appointed to all the officers of his
house, that they should doe according to
euery mans pleasure.

9 Also Vasthi the Queene made a
feast for the women, in the royall house
which belonged to king Ahasuerus.

10 **C**ON the seuenth day, when the
heart of the King was merry with
wine, he commanded Behuman, Biz-
tha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha,
Zethar, and Carcas, the seuen ^{||} cham-
berlens that serued in the presence of A-
hasuerus the king,

11 To bring Vasthi the Queene be-
fore the king, with the Crowne royall,
to shew the people, and the Princes her
beautie: for she was [†] faire to looke on.

12 But the Queene Vasthi refused
to come at the Kings commandement
[†] by his chamberlens: therefore was
the King very wroth, and his anger
burned in him.

13 **T**HEN the king saide to the wise
men, which knew the times (for so was
the Kings maner towards all that
knew law, and iudgement:

14 And the next vnto him, was Car-
shena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarchis,
Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the
seuen * Princes of Persia, and Media,
which saw the Kings face, and which
sate the first in the kingdome.)

15 [†] What shall wee doe vnto the
Queene Vasthi, according to law, be-
cause she hath not performed the com-
mandement of the king Ahasuerus, by
the chamberlens?

16 And Memucan answered before
the king and the Princes: Vasthi the
Queene hath not done wrong to the
king onely, but also to all the Princes,
and to all the people that are in all the

[†] Hebr. accord-
ing to the
hand of the
king.

^{||} Or, Eu-
nuches.

[†] Hebr. good
of counse-
nance.

[†] Hebr.
which was
by the hand
of his Eu-
nuches.

* Ezra. 7. 14.

[†] Hebr. what
to doe?

[†] Hebr.
found.

^{||} Or, violet.

^{||} Or, of por-
phyre, and
marble, and
alabaster,
and stone of
blew colour.

[†] Hebr. wine
of the king-
dome.

provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

17 For this deed of the queene shall come abroad vnto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported; The king Ahasuerus commanded Vasthi the queene to be brought in before him, but she came not.

18 Likewise shall the Ladies of Persia and Media say this day vnto all the kings princes, which haue heard of the deed of the Queene. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

† Heb. if it be good with the king.
† Heb. from before him.
† Heb. that it passe not away.
† Hebr. vnto her companion.

19 † If it please the king, let there go a royall commandement † from him, and let it be written among the lawes of the Persians, and the Medes, † that it be not altered, that Vasthi come no more before king Ahasuerus, and let the king giue her royall estate † vnto another that is better then she.

20 And when the kings decree, which he shall make, shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great:) all the wiues shall giue to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

† Heb. was good in the eyes of the king.

21 And the saying † pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

22 For he sent letters into all the kings provinces, into euery province, according to the writing thereof, and to euery people after their language, that euery man should beare rule in his owne house, and † that it should be published according to the language of euery people.

† Hebr. that one should publish it according to the language of his people.

CHAP. II.

1 Out of the choise of virgines, a Queene is to be chosen. 5 Mordecai the nursing father of Esther. 8 Esther is preferred by Hegai before the rest. 12 The maner of purification, & going in to the king. 15 Esther best pleasing the king, is made Queene. 21 Mordecai discovering a treason, is recorded in the Chronicles.

After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, hee remembered Vasthi, and what shee had done, and what was decreed against her.

2 Then saide the kings seruants, that ministred vnto him, Let there be faire yong virgins sought for the king:

3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdome, that they may gather together all the

faire yong virgins vnto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women vnto the custodie of † Hegai the kings chamberlaine, keeper of the women, and let their things for purification be giuen them:

† Heb. vnto the hand.
† Or, Hegai, ver. 8.

4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king, be Queene in stead of Vasthi. And the thing pleased the king, and he did so.

5 Now in Shushan the palace, there was a certaine Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the sonne of Jair, the sonne of Shimei, the sonne of Kish, a Beniamite,

6 * who had bene caried away from Jerusalem, with the captiuitie which had bene caried away with Jeconiah king of Iudah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon had caried away.

* 2 King. 24. 15. ier. 24. 1 and 2. chro. 36. 10.

7 And hee † brought by Hadassah (that is Esther) his vnckles daughter, for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was † faire and beautiful, whom Mordecai (when her father and mother were dead) tooke for his owne daughter.

† Heb. vnto raised.

† Heb. faire of forme, and good of countenance.

8 So it came to passe, when the kings commandement and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together vnto Shushan the palace, to the custodie of Hegai, that Esther was brought also vnto the kings house, to the custodie of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindnesse of him, and hee speedily gaue her her things for purification, with † such things as belonged to her, and seuen maidens, which were meet to be giuen her, out of the Kings house, and † hee preferred her and her maids, vnto the best place of the house of the women.

† Heb. her portions.

† Hebr. hee changed her.

10 Esther had not shewed her people, nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her, that she should not shew it.

11 And Mordecai walked euery day before the court of the womens house, † to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

† Heb. to know the peace.

12 Now when euery maids turne was come, to goe in to King Ahasuerus, after that shee had bene twelue moneths, according to the maner of the women (for so were the dayes of their purifications accomplished, to wit, sixe moneths with oile of myrrhe, and sixe moneths

Or, kindnesse.

† Heb. before him.

† Heb. reft.

Or, Bigamania, chap. 6. 2.

† Heb. the storehouse.

moneths with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women.)

13 Then thus came every maiden vnto the king, whatsoeuer she desired, was given her, to goe with her out of the house of the women, vnto the kings house.

14 In the euening she went, and on the morrowe she returned into the second house of the women, to the custodie of Shaaahgah the kings chamberlen, which kept the concubines: shee came in vnto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that shee were called by name.

15 Now when the turne of Esther, the daughter of Abihail, the vncle of Mordecai (who had taken her for his daughter) was come, to goe in vnto the king: she required nothing, but what Hegai the kings chamberlen the keeper of the women, appointed: And Esther obtained fauour in the sight of all them that looked vpon her.

16 So Esther was taken vnto king Ahasuerus, into his house royall, in the tenth moneth (which is the moneth Tebeth) in the seuenth yeere of his reigne.

17 And the king loued Esther aboue all the women, and she obtained grace and fauour[†] in his sight, more then all the virgins; so that hee set the royall crowne vpon her head, and made her queene, in stead of Vasthi.

18 Then the king made a great feast vnto all his princes and his seruants, euen Esthers feast, and hee made a[†] release to the prouinces, and gaue gifts, according to the state of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sate in the kings gate.

20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred, nor her people, as Mordecai had charged her: For Esther did the commandement of Mordecai, like as when she was brought vp with him.

21 In those dayes, (while Mordecai sate in the kings gate) two of the kings chamberlens, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept[†] the doore, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus:

22 And the thing was knowen to Mordecai, who told it vnto Esther the Queene, and Esther certified the king thereof, in Mordecais name.

23 And when inquisition was made

of the matter, it was found out; therfore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the booke of the chronicles before the king.

CHAP. III.

1 Haman aduanced by the king, and despised by Mordecai, seeketh reuenge vpon all the Iewes. 7 Hee casteth Lots. 8 Hee obtaineth by calumination, a Decree of the king, to put the Iewes to death.

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman, the sonne of Amadatha the Agagite, and aduanced him, and set his seate aboue all the princes that were with him.

2 And all the kings seruants, that were in the kings gate, bowed, and reuerenced Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him: but Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reuerence.

3 Then the kings seruants, which were in the kings gate, sayd vnto Mordecai, why transgressest thou the kings commandement?

4 Now it came to passe, when they spake daily vnto him, and he hearkened not vnto them; that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai his matters would stand, for he had told them that he was a Iewe.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reuerence, then was Haman full of wrath.

6 And hee thought scorne to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Iewes, that were throughout the whole kingdome of Ahasuerus, euen the people of Mordecai.

7 In the first moneth (that is, the moneth Nisan) in the twelfth yeere of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman, from day to day, and from moneth to moneth, to the twelfth moneth, that is the moneth Adar.

8 And Haman saide vnto king Ahasuerus: There is a certaine people scattered abroad, and dispersed among the people, in all the prouinces of thy kingdome, and their lawes are diuerse from all people, neither keepe they the kings lawes; therefore it is not[†] for the kings profit to suffer them.

[†] Heb. meete or, equall.

^{||} Or, kindness.
[†] Heb. before him.

[†] Heb. rest.

^{||} Or, Bigthan, chap. 6.2.
[†] Heb. the storehouse.

† Heb. to de-
stroy them.
† Heb. weigh.

9 If it please the king, let it be writ-
ten,† that they may be destroyed: and I
will† pay ten thousand talents of silver
to the handes of those that haue the
charge of the businesse, to bring it into
the kings treasures.

|| Or, oppres-
sion.

10 And the king tooke his ring from
his hand, and gaue it vnto Haman the
sonne of Ammedatha the Agagite, the
Jewes || enemie.

11 And the king saide vnto Haman,
The silver is giuen to thee, the people al-
so, to doe with them, as it seemeth good
to thee.

|| Or, secre-
taries.

12 Then were the kings || scribes cal-
led on the thirteenth day of the first
moneth, and there was written, accor-
ding to all that Haman had comman-
ded, vnto the kings Lieutenants, and
to the gouernours, that were ouer euery
prouince, and to the rulers of euery peo-
ple of euery prouince, according to the
writing thereof, and to euery people, af-
ter their language, in the name of king
Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed
with the kings ring.

13 And the letters were sent by posts
into all the kings prouinces, to destroy,
to kill, and to cause to perish all Jewes,
both yong and olde, litle children and
women, in one day, euen vpon the thir-
teenth day of the twelfth moneth
(which is the moneth Adar) and to take
the spoile of them for a pray.

14 The copie of the writing for a
commandement to bee giuen in euery
prouince, was published vnto all peo-
ple, that they should bee ready against
that day.

15 The postes went out, being haste-
ned by the kings commandement, and
the decree was giuen in Shushan the
palace: and the king and Haman sate
downe to drinke, but the citie Shushan
was perplexed.

CHAP. III.

1 The great mourning of Mordecai and the
Iewes. 4 Esther vnderstanding it, sendeth to
Mordecai, who sheweth the cause, and adui-
seth her to vndertake the suit. 10 Shee excu-
sing her selfe is threatned by Mordecai. 15 She
appointing a fast, vndertaketh the suit.

When Mordecai perceiued
all that was done, Morde-
cai rent his clothes, and
put on sackcloth with a-
shes, and went out into

the midst of the citie, and cried with a
loud and a bitter crie:

2 And came euen before the kings
gate: for none might enter into the kings
gate clothed with sackcloth.

3 And in euery prouince, whitherso-
euer the kings commaundement, and
his decree came, there was great mour-
ning among the Jewes, and fasting,
and weeping, and wailing, and † many
lay in sackcloth and ashes.

† Heb. sack-
cloth and
ashes were
laid vnder
many.
† Heb. En-
nuches.

4 **C** So Esthers maides and her
† chamberlaines came, and told it her:
then was the Queene exceedingly grie-
ued, and she sent raiment to clothe Mor-
decai, and to take away the sackcloth
from him: but he receiued it not.

5 Then called Esther for Hatach,
one of the kings chamberlaines, whom
he had appointed to attend vpon her,
and gaue him a commaundement to
Mordecai, to know what it was, and
why it was.

† Heb. whom
he had set
before her.

6 So Hatach went forth to Morde-
cai, vnto the street of the citie, which was
before the kings gate:

7 And Mordecai tolde him of all
that had happened vnto him, and of
the summe of the money that Haman
had promised to pay to the Kings
treasures for the Jewes, to destroy
them.

8 Also he gaue him the copie of the
writing of the decree, that was giuen
at Shushan to destroy them, to shewe it
vnto Esther, and to declare it vnto her,
and to charge her that she should goe in
vnto the king, to make supplication vn-
to him, and to make request before him,
for her people.

9 And Hatach came and told Esther
the words of Mordecai.

10 **C** Againe Esther spake vnto Ha-
tach, and gaue him commaundement
vnto Mordecai;

11 All the Kings seruants, and the
people of the kings prouinces do know,
that whosoever, whether man or wo-
man, shall come vnto the King into the
inner court, who is not called, there is
one lawe of his to put him to death, ex-
cept such to whom the King shall hold
out the golden scepter, that he may liue:
but I haue not bene called to come in
vnto the King, these thirtie dayes.

12 And they tolde to Mordecai Est-
hers words.

13 Then Mordecai commanded to
answere Esther; Thinke not with thy
selfe

† Heb. re-
paration.

† Heb. foun-

† Heb. pas-

selfe that thou shalt escape in the kings house, more then all the Jewes.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there <sup>† Heb. re-
spiration.</sup> enlargement and deliuerance arise to the Jewes from another place, but thou and thy fathers house shall be destroyed: And who knoweth, whether thou art come to the kingdome for such a time as this:

15 Then Esther bade them returne Mordecai this answer:

16 Goe, gather together all the Jewes that are ^{† Heb. found} present in Shushan, and fast yee for me, and neither eate nor drinke three dayes, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise, and so will I goe in vnto the king, which is not according to the Law, and if I perish, I perish.

17 So Mordecai ^{† Heb. passed} went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

CHAP. V.

1 Esther aduenturing on the kings fauour, obtaineth the grace of the golden scepter, and inuiteth the king and Haman to a banquet.

6 She being encouraged by the king in her suit, inuiteth them to another banquet the next day. 9 Haman proud of his aduancement, repineth at the contempt of Mordecai.

14 By the counsell of Zeresh, he buildeth for him a paire of gallous.

NOW it came to passe on the third day, that Esther put on her royall apparell, and stood in the inner court of the kings house, ouer against the kings house: and the King sate vpon his royall throne in the royall house, ouer against the gate of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the Queene standing in the court, that shee obtained fauour in his sight: and the king helde out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand: So Esther drew neere, and touched the top of the scepter.

3 Then sayd the King vnto her, what wilt thou, Queene Esther: and what is thy request: it shall bee euen given thee to the halfe of the kingdome.

4 And Esther answered, If it seeme good vnto the King, let the King and Haman come this day vnto the banquet that I haue prepared for him.

5 Then the King sayd, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may doe as Esther hath said: So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

6 And the king said vnto Esther at the banquet of wine, what is thy petition, and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request: euen to the halfe of the kingdome it shall be performed.

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

8 If I haue found fauour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and ^{† Heb. so doe.} to performe my request, let the king, and Haman, come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow, as the king hath said.

9 Then went Haman forth that day, ioyfull, and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the kings gate, that hee stood not vp, nor mooued for him, hee was full of indignation against Mordecai.

10 Neuerthelesse Haman refrained himselfe, and when he came home, hee sent and ^{Heb. caused to come.} called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.

11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had aduanced him aboue the Princes, and seruants of the king.

12 Haman said moreouer, Beas Esther the Queene did let no man come in with the king vnto the banquet that she had prepared, but my selfe; and to morrow am I inuited vnto her also with the king.

13 Yet all this auailleth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the kings gate.

14 Then saide Zeresh his wife, and all his friends vnto him, Let a ^{† Heb. tree.} gallous be made of fifty cubits hie, and to morrow speake thou vnto the king, that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then goe thou in merrily with the king vnto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman, and hee caused the gallous to be made.

CHAP. VI.

1 Ahasuerus reading in the Chronicles of the good seruice done by Mordecai, taketh care for his reward. 4 Haman comming to sue that Mordecai might bee hanged, vnawares giueth

giueth counsell that hee might doe him honour, 12 complayning of his misfortune, his friends tell him of his finall destinie.

† Hebr. the kings sleepe fled away.

In that night † could not the King sleepe, and hee commaunded to bring the booke of Records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

|| Or, Bigthana, chap. 2. 21.
† Hebr. threefold.

2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of || Bigthana, and Teresh, two of the kings chamberleins, the keepers of the doore, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, what honour and dignitie hath bene done to Mordecai for this? Then said the kings seruants that ministred vnto him, There is nothing done for him.

4 And the king said, who is in the court? (now Haman was come into the outward court of the kings house, to speake vnto the king, to hang Mordecai on the gallous that hee had prepared for him.)

5 And the kings seruants said vnto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the King saide, Let him come in.

† Hebr. in whose honour the King delighteth.

6 So Haman came in, and the king said vnto him, what shall be done vnto the man † whom the king delighteth to honour? (now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to doe honour, more then to my selfe?)

† Hebr. in whose honour the king delighteth.

7 And Haman answered the king, For the man † whom the king delighteth to honour,

† Hebr. let them bring the royall apparell.

8 † Let the royall apparell bee brought, † which the King vseth to weare, and the horse that the King rideth vpon, and the crowne royal which is set vpon his head:

† Hebr. wherewith the king clotheth himselfe.

9 And let this apparell and horse bee deliuered to the hand of one of the kings most noble Princes, that they may aray the man withall, whom the king delighteth to honour, and † bring him on horsebacke through the streete of the city, and proclaime before him, Thus shal it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

† Hebr. cause him to ride.

10 Then the king saide to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparell, and the horse, as thou hast said, and doe euen so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the Kings gate: † let nothing faile of all that thou hast spoken.

† Hebr. suffer not a whit to fall.

11 Then tooke Haman the apparell, and the horse, & arayed Mordecai, and brought him on horsebacke through the streete of the city, and proclaimed before him: Thus shall it bee done vnto the man whom the King delighteth to honour.

12 And Mordecai came againe to the kings gate: but Haman hastened to his house, mourning, and hauing his head couered.

13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife, and all his friends, euery thing that had befallen him. Then saide his wife men, and Zeresh his wife vnto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jewes, before whom thou hast begun 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 chamberlens, and hastened to bring Haman vnto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

CHAP. VII.

1 Esther intertaining the King and Haman, maketh suit for her owne life, and her peoples.

5 She accuseth Haman. 7 The King in his anger vnderstanding of the gallous, which Haman had made for Mordecai, causeth him to be hanged thereon.

In the King and Haman came † to banquet with Esther the Queene.

† Hebr. to drinke.

2 And the king said againe vnto Esther, on the second day at the banquet of wine, what is thy petition, Queene Esther, and it shalbe granted thee: and what is thy request: and it shall bee performed, euen to the halfe of the kingdome.

3 Then Esther the Queene answered, and said, If I haue found fauour in thy sight, O King, and if it please the King, let my life be giuen me at my petition, and my people at my request.

4 For we are sold, I, and my people, † to be destroyed, to be slaine, and to perish: but if we had bene sold for bondmen, and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not counteruaile the kings dammage.

† Hebr. that they should destroy and kil, and cause to perish.

5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered, & said vnto Esther the Queene: who is he: and where is he, † that durst presume in his heart to do so:

† Hebr. whose heart hath filled him.

6 And Esther said, † The aduersary and enemy, is this wicked Haman.

† Hebr. the man aduersary.

Then

|| Or, at the
presence of.

Then Haman was afraid || before the King and the Queene.

7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath, went into the palace garden: and Haman stood by to make request for his life to Esther the Queene: for he saw that there was euill determined against him by the King.

8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden, into the place of the banquet of wine, and Haman was fallen vpon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the King, will hee force the Queene also † before me in the house: As the word went out of the Kings mouth, they couered Hamans face.

9 And Harbonah one of the chamberlaines, said before the king; Behold also the † gallows, fiftie cubites high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, hang him thereon.

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the Kings wrath pacified.

CHAP. VIII.

1 Mordecai is aduanced. 3 Esther maketh suite to reuerse Hamans letters. 7 Ahasuerus granteth to the Iewes to defend themselves. 15 Mordecais honour, and the Iewes ioy.

In that day did the King Ahasuerus giue the house of Haman, the Iewes enemy, vnto Esther the Queene; and Mordecai came before the King; for Esther hade told what he was vnto her.

2 And the king tooke off his Ring which he had taken from Haman, and gaue it vnto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai ouer the house of Haman.

3 And Esther spake yet againe before the king, and fell downe at his feet, † and besought him with teares, to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his deuice, that he had deuised against the Iewes.

4 Then the king helde out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,

5 And said, If it please the king, and if I haue found fauour in his sight, and the thing seeme right before the king, and I bee pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reuerse † the letters deuised

by Haman the sonne of Hammedatha the Agagite, || which hee wrote to destroy the Iewes, which are in all the kings prouinces.

6 For how can I † endure to see the euill that shall come vnto my people: or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred:

7 Then the king Ahasuerus said vnto Esther the Queene, and to Mordecai the Iewe, Behold, I haue giuen Esther the house of Haman, and him they haue hanged vpon the gallows, because hee layde his 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 writing which is written in the Kings name, and sealed with the Kings ring, * may no man reuerse.

9 Then were the kings scribes called at that time, in the third moneth, (that is, the month Siuan) on the three and twentieth day thereof, and it was written (according to all that Mordecai commanded) vnto the Iewes, and to the Lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the prouinces, which are from India vnto Ethiopia, an hundred, twentie and seuen prouinces, vnto euery prouince according to the writing thereof, and vnto euery people after their language, and to the Iewes, according to their writing, and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus name, and sealed it with the kings Ring, and sent letters by Postes, on horsebacke, and riders on mules, camels, and pong dromedaries:

11 wherein the King granted the Iewes, which were in euery citie, to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish all the power of the people and prouince that would assault them, both little ones, and women, and to take the spoile of them for a pray:

12 Upon one day, in all the prouinces of king Ahasuerus, namely vpon the thirteenth day of the twelfth moneth, which is the moneth Adar.

13 The copy of the writing, for a commandement to bee giuen in euery prouince, was † published vnto all people, and that the Iewes should be readie against that day, to auenge themselves on their enemies.

|| Or, who wrote.

† Heb. be able that I may see.

* See Chap. I. 19.

† Heb. with me.

† Heb. tree.

† Heb. and she wept and besought him.

† Heb. the deuice.

† Heb. revealed.

14 So the posts that rode vpon mules and camels went out, being hastened, and pressed on by the kings commandement, and the decree was giuen at Shushan the palace.

15 **¶** And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king, in royall apparel, of **¶** blew and white, and with a great crowne of gold, and with a garment of fine linnen, and purple, and the citie of Shushan reioyced, and was glad:

16 The Iewes had light and gladnesse, and ioy and honour.

17 And in euery prouince, and in euery city, whithersoever the kings commandement, and his decree came, the Iewes had ioy and gladnes, a feast and a good day: And many of the people of the land became Iewes; for the feare of the Iewes fell vpon them.

CHAP. IX.

1 The Iewes, (the rulers, for feare of Mordecai helping them) slay their enemies, with the ten sonnes of Haman. 12 Ahasuerus at the request of Esther, granteth another day of slaughter, and Hamans sonnes to be hanged. 20 The two daies of Purim are made festiuall.

NOW in the twelfth month (that is the moneth Adar) on the thirteenth day of the same, when the kings commandement and his decree drew neere to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Iewes hoped to haue power ouer them: (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Iewes had rule ouer them that hated them.)

2 The Iewes gathered themselves together in their cities, throughout all the prouinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt, and no man could withstand them: for the feare of them fell vpon all people.

3 And all the rulers of the prouinces, and the Lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Iewes: because the feare of Mordecai fell vpon them.

† Heb. those which did the busines that belonged to the King.

4 For Mordecai was great in the kings house, and his fame went out, throughout all the prouinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

5 Thus the Iewes smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword,

and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would vnto those that hated them.

† Heb. according to their will.

6 And in Shushan the palace the Iewes slew and destroyed five hundred men:

7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,

8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,

9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vaiezatha,

10 The ten sonnes of Haman the sonne of Hammedatha, the enemie of the Iewes, slew they, but on the spoile laid they not their hand.

11 On that day, the number of those that were slaine in Shushan the palace, † was brought before the king.

† Heb. came.

12 **¶** And the king said vnto Esther the Queene: The Iewes haue slaine and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, & the ten sonnes of Haman: what haue they done in the rest of the kings prouinces: now what is thy petition: and it shalbe granted thee: or what is thy request further: and it shall be done.

13 Then said Esther, If it please the king, Let it bee granted to the Iewes which are in Shushan, to doe to morrow also, according vnto this dayes decree, and † let Hamans ten sonnes be hanged vpon the gallous.

† Heb. let men hang.

14 And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was giuen at Shushan, and they hanged Hamans ten sonnes.

15 For the Iewes that were in Shushan, gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the moneth Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan: but on the pray they laid not their hand.

16 But the other Iewes that were in the kings prouinces, gathered themselves together, & stood for their liues, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seuentie and five thousand, but they laid not their handes on the pray.

17 On the thirteenth day of the moneth Adar, and on the fourteenth day † of the same, rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladnes.

† Heb. in it.

18 But the Iewes that were at Shushan, assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same,

† Heb. crucified.

† Heb. when he came.

† That is, Lot.

† Heb. passed.

same, they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladnesse.

19 Therefore the Jewes of the villages, that dwelt in the vnwalled towne, made the foureteenth day of the moneth Adar, a day of gladnesse and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters vnto all the Jewes, that were in all the prouinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh & farre,

21 To stablish this among them, that they should keepe the fourteenth day of the moneth Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yeerely:

22 As the dayes wherein the Jewes rested from their enemies, & the moneth which was turned vnto them, from sorrow to ioy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them daies of feasting and ioy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poore.

23 And the Jewes vndertooke to doe, as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written vnto them:

24 Because Haman the sonne of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jewes, had deuised against the Jewes to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot) to consume them, and to destroy them.

25 But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters, that his wicked device which he deuised against the Jewes, should returne vpon his owne head, and that he and his sonnes, should be hanged on the gallows.

26 Wherefore they called these dayes Purim, after the name of Pur: therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seene concerning this matter, and which had come vnto them,

27 The Jewes ordeined, and tooke vpon them, and vpon their seed, and vpon all such as ioyned themselves vnto them, so as it should not faile, that they would keepe these two dayes, ac-

ording to their writing, and according to their appointed time, euery yeere:

28 And that these dayes should be remembered, and kept throughout euery generation, euery family, euery prouince, and euery citie, and that these dayes of Purim should not faile from among the Jewes, nor the memoriall of them perish from their seed.

29 Then Esther the Queene, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authoritie, to confirme this second letter of Purim.

30 And hee sent the letters vnto all the Jewes, to the hundred, twentie and seuen prouinces of the kingdome of Ahasuerus, with wordes of peace and trueth:

31 To confirme these dayes of Purim, in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew, and Esther the Queene had enioyned them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.

32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the booke.

CHAP. X.

1 Ahasuerus his greatnesse. 3 Mordecais aduancement.

And the king Ahasuerus layde a tribute vpon the land, and vpon the Isles of the sea.

2 And all the actes of his power, and of his might, and the declaration of the greatnesse of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the booke of the Chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia:

3 For Mordecai the Jew was next vnto King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jewes, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.

† Heb. passe.

† Hebr. be ended.

† Hebr. all strength.

† Hebr. for their soules.

† Heb. crush.

† Heb. when she came.

|| That is, Lot.

† Hebr. passe.

THE



THE BOOKE OF Iob.

CHAP. I.

1 The holinesse, riches, and religious care of Iob for his children. 6 Satan appearing before God, by calumnyation obtaineth leaue to tempt Iob. 13 Vnderstanding of the losse of his goods and children, in his mourning hee blesteth God.



Here was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Iob, and that man was *perfect and vpright, and one that feared God, and eschewed euill.

2 And there were borne vnto him seven sonnes, and three daughters.

3 His || substance also was seven thousand sheepe, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred shee asses, and a very great || household: so that this man was the greatest of all the † men of the East.

4 And his sonnes went and feasted in their houses, every one his day, and sent and called for their three sisters, to eate and to drinke with them.

5 And it was so, when the dayes of their feasting were gone about, that Iob sent and sanctified them, and rose vp early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: For Iob said, It may be that my sonnes haue sinned, and *cursed God in their hearts: Thus did Iob † continually.

6 Now there was a day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and † Satan came also † among them.

7 And the LORD said vnto Satan, whence comest thou: Then Satan answered the LORD, and

sayde, From going to and fro in the * earth, and from walking vp and downe in it.

8 And the LORD sayd vnto Satan, † Hast thou considered my seruant Iob, that there is none like him in the earth: a perfect and an vpright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth euill:

9 Then Satan answered † the LORD, and sayd, Doeth Iob feare God for nought:

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side: thou hast blessed the worke of his hands, and his || substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, † and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the LORD said vnto Satan, Behold, all that hee hath is in thy † power, onely vpon himselfe put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

13 And there was a day, when his sonnes and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brothers house:

14 And there came a messenger vnto Iob, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them,

15 And the Sabeans fell vpon them, and tooke them away: yea they haue slaine the seruants with the edge of the sword, and I onely am escaped alone, to tell thee.

16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, || The fire of God is fallen from heauen, and hath burnt vp the sheepe, and the seruants, and consumed them, and I onely am escaped alone, to tell thee.

17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans

* Chap. 2. 3.

|| Or, cattell.

|| Or, husbandrie.

† Heb. sonnes of the East.

* 1. King. 21. 10, 13.
† Heb. all the dayes.

† Heb. the aduersarie.
† Heb. in the midst of them.

* 1. Pet. 5. 8.

† Heb. hast thou set thy heart on?

* Eccles. 5. 14. 1. Tim. 6. 7.

|| Or, cattell.

† Heb. if he curse thee not to thy face.

† Heb. hand.

|| Or, a great fire.

* Chap. 1. 7.

* Chap. 1. 1. & 8.

† Heb. so mallow him up.