



1 When Mordecai^{H4782} perceived^{H3045} all that was done^{H6213}, Mordecai^{H4782} rent^{H7167} his clothes^{H899}, and put on^{H3847} sackcloth^{H8242} with ashes^{H665}, and went out^{H3318} into the midst^{H8432} of the city^{H5892}, and cried^{H2199} with a loud^{H1419} and a bitter^{H4751} cry^{H2201}; 2 And came^{H935} even before^{H6440} the king's^{H4428} gate^{H8179}: for none might enter^{H935} into the king's^{H4428} gate^{H8179} clothed^{H3830} with sackcloth^{H8242}. 3 And in every province^{H4082}, whithersoever^{H4725} the king's^{H4428} commandment^{H1697} and his decree^{H1881} came^{H5060}, there was great^{H1419} mourning^{H60} among the Jews^{H3064}, and fasting^{H6685}, and weeping^{H1065}, and wailing^{H4553}; and many^{H7227} lay^{H3331} in sackcloth^{H8242} and ashes^{H665}. 4 So Esther's^{H635} maids^{H5291} and her chamberlains^{H5631} came^{H935} and told^{H5046} it her. Then was the queen^{H4436} exceedingly^{H3966} grieved^{H2342}, and she sent^{H7971} raiment^{H899} to clothe^{H3847} Mordecai^{H4782}, and to take away^{H5493} his sackcloth^{H8242} from him: but he received^{H6901} it not.²

5 Then called^{H7121} Esther^{H635} for Hatach^{H2047}, one of the king's^{H4428} chamberlains^{H5631}, whom he had appointed^{H5975} to attend^{H6440} upon her, and gave him a commandment^{H6680} to Mordecai^{H4782}, to know^{H3045} what it was, and why it was.³ 6 So Hatach^{H2047} went forth^{H3318} to Mordecai^{H4782} unto the street^{H7339} of the city^{H5892}, which was before^{H6440} the king's^{H4428} gate^{H8179}. 7 And Mordecai^{H4782} told^{H5046} him of all that had happened^{H7136} unto him, and of the sum^{H6575} of the money^{H3701} that Haman^{H2001} had promised^{H559} to pay^{H8254} to the king's^{H4428} treasures^{H1595} for the Jews^{H3064}, to destroy^{H6} them. 8 Also he gave^{H5414} him the copy^{H6572} of the writing^{H3791} of the decree^{H1881} that was given^{H5414} at Shushan^{H7800} to destroy^{H8045} them, to shew^{H7200} it unto Esther^{H635}, and to declare^{H5046} it unto her, and to charge^{H6680} her that she should go in^{H935} unto the king^{H4428}, to make supplication^{H2603} unto him, and to make request^{H1245} before^{H6440} him for her people^{H5971}. 9 And Hatach^{H2047} came^{H935} and told^{H5046} Esther^{H635} the words^{H1697} of Mordecai^{H4782}. 10 Again Esther^{H635} spake^{H559} unto Hatach^{H2047}, and gave him commandment^{H6680} unto Mordecai^{H4782}. 11 All the king's^{H4428} servants^{H5650}, and the people^{H5971} of the king's^{H4428} provinces^{H4082}, do know^{H3045}, that whosoever, whether man^{H376} or woman^{H802}, shall come^{H935} unto the king^{H4428} into the inner^{H6442} court^{H2691}, who is not called^{H7121}, there is one^{H259} law^{H1881} of his to put him to death^{H4191}, except^{H905} such to whom the king^{H4428} shall hold out^{H3447} the golden^{H2091} sceptre^{H8275}, that he may live^{H2421}: but I have not been called^{H7121} to come in^{H935} unto the king^{H4428} these thirty^{H7970} days^{H3117}. 12 And they told^{H5046} to Mordecai^{H4782} Esther's^{H635} words^{H1697}. 13 Then Mordecai^{H4782} commanded^{H559} to answer^{H7725} Esther^{H635}, Think^{H1819} not with thyself^{H5315} that thou shalt escape^{H4422} in the king's^{H4428} house^{H1004}, more than all the Jews^{H3064}. 14 For if thou altogether^{H2790} holdest thy peace^{H2790} at this time^{H6256}, then shall there enlargement^{H7305} and deliverance^{H2020} arise^{H5975} to the Jews^{H3064} from another^{H312} place^{H4725}; but thou and thy father's^{H1} house^{H1004} shall be destroyed^{H6}: and who knoweth^{H3045} whether thou art come^{H5060} to the kingdom^{H4438} for such a time^{H6256} as this?⁴ 15 Then Esther^{H635} bade^{H559} them return^{H7725} Mordecai^{H4782} this answer, 16 Go^{H3212}, gather together^{H3664} all the Jews^{H3064} that are present^{H4672} in Shushan^{H7800}, and fast^{H6684} ye for me, and neither eat^{H398} nor drink^{H8354} three^{H7969} days^{H3117}, night^{H3915} or day^{H3117}: I also and my maidens^{H5291} will fast^{H6684} likewise; and so^{H3651} will I go^{H935} in unto the king^{H4428}, which is not according to the law^{H1881}: and if I perish^{H6}, I perish^{H6}.⁵ 17 So Mordecai^{H4782} went his way^{H5674}, and did^{H6213} according to all that Esther^{H635} had commanded^{H6680} him.⁶

Fußnoten

1. many...: Heb. sackcloth and ashes were laid under many
2. chamberlains: Heb. eunuchs
3. appointed...: Heb. set before her
4. enlargement: Heb. respiration
5. present: Heb. found

6. went....: Heb. passed