

**I** declared vnto the, that God wolde not suffer such transgressours of his Law to be punished.

**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.

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

**Meaning of** the Tépice that none, that was vncleane, shulde eate.

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

**16** There dwelt men of Tyus also therein, which brought fish and all wares, and sold on the Sabbath vnto the children of Iudáh euen in Ierusalém.

**17** Then reprov'd I the rulers of Iudáh, & said vnto them, What euil thing is this that ye do, and breake the Sabbath day?

**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 Israël, in breaking the Sabbath?

**19** And when the gates of Ierusalém 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 twise all night without Ierusalém.

**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 wiuues of Ashdód, of Ammón, and of Moab.

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

**25** Then I reprov'd 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 Salomón the King of Israël 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 Israël: yet strange women caused him to sinne.

**27** \*Shal we then obey vnto you, to do all this great euil, and to transgresse against our God, euen to marry strange wiuues?

**28** And one of the sonnes of Ioiadá the sonne of Eliahib the hye Priest was the sonne in law of Samballát the Hoiionite: 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 cleansed 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.

**1** Which was a cite of the Philistins, & they had married wiuues thereof, and so had corrupted their spache, and religion.

**m** That is, I did excommunicate them, & drue the out of the Congregation.

**2** King. 3. 7.

**1** King 11. 1.

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

**o** That is, to shewe iudgement vnto me.

# ESTER.

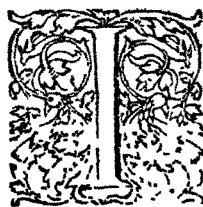
## THE ARGUMENT.

**B**ecause of the diuersitie of names, wherely they vsed to name their Kings, and the supputation of yeres, wherem the Ebrewes, and the Grecians do varie, diuers authors write diuersly as touching this Ahsuerush, but it smeth Daniél 6. 1. and 9. 1. that he was Darius King of the Medes, and sonne of Astyages, called also Ahsuerush, which was a name of his own, and signified great and chief, as he is here in used herein as mercies of God toward his Church, who neuer faileth them in their greatest dangers, but when all hope of worldly helpe faileth, he euer sturreth vp some, by whome he sendeth comfort, and deliuerance. Herein also is described the ambitious, pride and cruelie of the wicked, when they come to honour, and their folly fall when they are at highest, and how God preferreth, and preferreth them which are zealous of his glorie, and haue a care and loue towards their brethren.

CHAP. I.

8 King Ahasuerósh maketh a royal feast, 10 Whereunto 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 souering Monarch, & had y<sup>e</sup> gouernem<sup>nt</sup> of the Medes, Persians and Chaldeans some thinke he was Darius Hystaspis sonne, called also Artaxerxes b Daniel chap 6, 1 maketh mention but of 3 six score, leauing out the number that is vnderstand, as the Scripture in auers places w<sup>it</sup>h c That is, hid 4 rest, and quietnes Nabem. 1. 1.



**I**N the dayes of Ahasuerósh (this is Ahasuerósh that reigned, from India euen vnto Ethiopia, ouer an hūdreth, and seuen and twentie prouinces)

In thole dayes when the King Ahasuerósh eate on his throne, which was in the palace of Shushán,

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

That he might shewe the riches & glorie of his kingdome, and the honour of his great maiestie manie dayes, eue<sup>n</sup> an hūdreth 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 Shushán, 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 blewe clothes, fastened with cordes of fine lincn and purple, in siluer rings, and pillars of marble: the beddes were of golde, and of siluer vpon a pauement of porphyre, and marble and alabaister, and blewe 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<sup>n</sup> 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 Ahasuerósh.

g Which was the last day of the feast that the King made for y<sup>e</sup> people, as verse 5.

10 Vpon the 8 seuent day when the King was mery with wine, he commanded Memucán, Bizthá, Haboná, Bigthá, and Abagthá, Zethár, and Carcás, the seuen eunuches (that stroued in the presence of King Ahasuerósh)

11 To bring Quene Vashti before the King with y<sup>e</sup> 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.

\* Ebr which is in the had of his eunucher.

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

h That had experience of things, as they had learned by diligent marking in continuance of time

14 And the next vnto him was Cai Shená, Shethár, Admátha, Tarshush, Méres, Marsená & Memucán the seuen princes of Persia and Media, which sawe the Kings face, and sate the first in the kingdome)

i Which were his chief counsellors, that might haue al waies access to him.

15 What shal we do vnto y<sup>e</sup> Quene Vashti according to the lawe, because she did not according to the worde of the King Ahasuerósh by the commission of the eunuches?

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

k By her disobedience she hath giuen an example to all women to do the like to their husbands

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

l That is, her disobedience.

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

m Meaning, y<sup>e</sup> they wolde take first occasion hereof to do y<sup>e</sup> like, & that y<sup>e</sup> rest of womē wolde by continuance do y<sup>e</sup> same.

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 nomore before King Ahasuerósh, and let the King giue her royal estate vnto her companion that is better then she.

n Let her be diuorced & a nother made Quene.

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

o For he had vnder him an hundreth twentie and seuen countreis.

21 And thus saying pleased the King & the princes, & the King did according to the worde of Memucán.

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.

p That is, that y<sup>e</sup> wife shulde be subiect to the husband and vt his commandement.

CHAP. II.

2 After the Quene is put away, certaine yong mades are brought to the King 14 Estér pleureth the Kings & is made Quene. 22 Mordocás discouereth vnto the King those that wolde betray him.

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

a That is, he called y<sup>e</sup> matter againe into communication.

b By the feuf wife 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 thé gather all the beautiful yong virgins vnto the palace of Shushán, into the houfe of the women, vnder the hand of Hegé the Kings eunuche, e keeper of the women, to giue them their things d for purification.

c The abufe of thefe coultres was fo great, that they inuented manie meanes to furre the luftes of princes, and therefore, as they ordeined wicked lawes that the King might haue whoie daughters he wolde, fo they had diuers houfes appointed, as one for them, whiles they were virgins, another, he they were concubines, & for the Quenes another. d Read what this purification was, vcrf 13. 2. Km. 24, 15.

4 And the maid that fhall please the King, let her reigne in the ftead of Vafhti. And this pleased the King, and he did fo. 5 ¶ In the cite of Shushán, there was a certeine Iewe, whose name was Mordecái the fonne of Iair, the fonne of Shimeí, the fonne of Kísh a man of Iemún, 6 Which had bene caryed away from Ierufalém with the captiuitie that was caryed away with Iekoniáh King of Iudáh (whome Nebuchadneczár King of Babél had caryed away) 7 And he nourished Hadaffáh, that is Estér, 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.

e Ebr portians.

8 And when the Kings commandement, & his decree was published, and manie maides were broght together to the palace of Shushán, vnder the hád of Hegé, Estér was broght also vnto the Kings houfe vnder y hand of Hegé the keeper of the women. 9 And the maid pleased him, and she founde fauour in his sight: therefore he caufed her things for purification to be giuen her fpedely, and her e state, and fcuen 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 Estér shewed not her people and her kinred: for Mordecái had charged her, that she shulde not tel it.

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

11 And Mordecái walked e euerie day before the courte of the womens houfe, to knowe if Estér did wel, and what shulde be done with her. 12 And when the course of euerie maid came, to go into 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 myrthe, & six moneths with swete odours and in the purifying of the women:

f What appa rel she asked of the eunuch, that was he bounde to giue her.

13 And thus went the maides vnto the King) whatfoeuer she required, was f giuen her, to go with her out of the womens houfe vnto the Kings houfe.

14 In the eueing she went, and on the morow she returned into the seconde house of the women vnder the hand of Shaashgáz the Kings eunuche, which kept the cõcubines: she came into the King nomore, except she pleased the King, & that she were called by name.

15 Now when the course of Estér 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 Hegé the Kings eunuche the keeper of the women said: and Estér founde fauour in the sight of all them that looked vpon her.

o r. Hegé.

g Wherein her modestie appeared because she sought not apparel to commend her beautie, but stode to y eunuchs appointment.

h Which contained part of December & part of Ianuarie.

16 ¶ So Estér was takē vnto King Ahashuerósh into his house royal in the tenth moneth, which is the h moneth Tebéth, in the feuent yere of his reigne.

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

18 Then the King made a great feaft vnto all his princes and his seruants which was the feaft of Estér and gaue rest k vnto the prouinces, and gaue giftes, according to the power of a King.

i That is, made for her sake.

k He released their tribute.

l That is, great & magnificent.

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

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

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

21 ¶ In those daies when Mordecái fate in the Kings gate, two of the Kings eunuches, Bigtán and Téiesh, which kept the dore, were wroth, & sought to lay a hand on the King Ahashuerósh.

n Meaning, seculum.

22 And the thing was knowē to Mordecái, and he tolde it vnto Quene Estér, and Estér certified the King thereof in Mordecái name: and when inquisition was made, it was founde so: therefore they were bothe hanged on a tre: and it was written in the boke of the o Chronicles before the King.

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

CHAP. III.

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

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

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

a The Perfás  
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3 fuche as he ap  
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"Ebr. defpised  
in his eyes.

c Which an  
swereth to  
parte of Mar  
che and parte  
of April.

d To knowe  
what moneth  
and day shul  
de be good to  
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ching, that it  
might haue  
good successe:  
but God dila  
pointed their  
lottes & expe  
ctation.

e Concerning  
part of Februa  
rio, & parte of  
Marche.

f There be the  
two argumets  
which com  
monly s worl  
d-lings & the  
wicked vse  
toe to decei  
ue thei  
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tempt of their  
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nifh g of their  
profit without  
refpect how  
God is other  
pleated or dif  
pleated

Ebr. wigh  
"Or secret vnto."

"Ebr. the hand  
of pester."

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

Then the Kings seruants which were at the Kings gate said vnto Mordecái, Why transgresselt thou the Kings commandement?

4 And albeit they spake daiely vnto hí,yet he wolde not heare them: the-refore they tolde Hamán ,that they might shew Mordecáis matters wolde stād:for he had tolde them,that he was a Iewe.

5 And when Haman sawe 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: & because they had shewed him the people of Mordecái, Hamán foght to dectroye all the Iewes, that were throughout the whole kingdome of Ahashuerósh, euen y people of Mordecái.

7 In the first moneth (that is the moneth Nisán) in the twelfth yere of King Ahashucrósh, they cast Pur (that is a lot) before Hamán,from day to day, and frō mon th to nroneth, vnto the twelfth mon th,that is the moneth Adár.

8 Then Hamán said vnto King Ahashue-rósh, There is a ppeople scatred, and dis-persed among the people in all the prouin-ces of thy kingdome, and their lawes are diuers from all people, and they do not obseruethe Kings lawes: therefore it is not the Kings profite to suff. e 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 háds of them that haue the charge of this busi-nes to bring it into the Kings treasure.

10 Then the King toke 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 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 month, 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 Ahashuerósh 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 destroye all the Iewes, bothe yong and olde, children and women, in one day vpon the thirtent day of the twelfth mo-neth,(which is the moneth Adar) and to

spoil them as a pray.

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

15 And the postes compelled by the Kings cōmandement went for the, and the com-mandement was giue in the palace at Shu-shan: and the King and Hamán fate drin-king, but the citie of Saushtán was in perplexitie.

g To wit, the Iewes, y were in Shushan

CHAP. IIIII.

Mordecáis gaueth the Quene knowledge of the cruel deuice of the King against the Iewes so 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 eue before the Kings gate, but he might not entre within the Kings gate, being clothed with sackcloth.

3 And in euerie prouince, & place, whether the Kings charge and his commiffion came, there was great sorowe among the Iewes, and fasting, & weeping and mournig, and many laye in sack-cloth & 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 Kíngs eunuches, whome he had appointed to scue her, and gaue him a commande-ment vnto Mordecái, to knowe what it was, and why it was.

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

7 And Mordecái tolde hí 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 Jewes, so to destroye them.

8 Also he gaue him the copie of the writig & commiffion that was giuen at Shu-shán, to destroye thē that he might shew it vn-to 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 whosoever, man or woman, that commeth to the King into the inner court, which is not called, there is a lawe of his,

h Because he wolde aduer-tise Estér of this cruel pro-clamation.

"Ebr. sackcloth & ash s were spread for mœ-ry.

"Ebr. had causid so stand be-fore her.

"Ebr. declara-tion.

"Or, contents.

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 this kingdome for such a time?

15 Then Ester commaded 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 entreteth in to the King, and biddeth him and Hamán to a feast. 11 Hamán prepareth a galous for Mordecáis.

1 And 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 hand: 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 euengiuē 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 banquet, 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 banquet 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 aboute the princes and seruants of the King.

12 Hamán said moreouer, 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 auaille 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 Mordecáis, so And comandeth Haman, to cause Mordecáis to be had in honour.

1 The 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 Bigtána, & Téresh two of the Kings eunuches, keepers of the dore, who sought to lay hands on the King Ahasuerósh.

3 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.

6 And

e I wil declare what thing I demaunde.

f Thus y wiked when thei are promoted, in stead of acknowledging their charge & humbling the selues, waxe ambitious disdainful and cruel.

g Meaning, y highest trust could be founded.

h Ester the Kings hope & parrade.

Chap. 2. 22

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

b Thus while the wicked imagine the destruction of others, thei the selues fall into the same pit.

hbr breathig b Thus Mordecái spake in confidence of that faith, w 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 these present dangers.

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

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

b Which was a signe y her comming was agreable vnto him, as Chap. 4. 11

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

d Because thei used to drinke excessiuely in their banquets, they called the banquet by the name of that, which was moſte in vſe or esteemed

6 And when Haman came in, the King said vnto him, What shalbe done vnto the mā, whome the King wil honour. The Haman 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 w<sup>sh</sup> to weare, and the horse that the King ydeth 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 ſtreete 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 raimēt & the horse as thou haſt ſaid, & do ſo vnto Mordecái y Iewe, that ſitteth at the Kings gate: let nothing faile of all that thou haſt ſpoken.

11 So Hamán toke the raimēt & the horse, and arayed Mordecái, and brought him on horse backe through the ſtreete 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 y Kings gate, but Hamán haſted home mourning and his head couered.

13 And Hamán tolde Zérefh his wife, & all his friends all that had befallen him. Thē ſaid his wiſe man, and Zérefh his wife vnto him, If Mordecái be of the ſide of the Iewes, before whome thou haſt begōne to fall, thou ſhalt not preuaile againſt him, d but ſhalt ſurely fall before him.

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

a Read Chap. 34.

CHAP. VII.

1 The queene biddeth the King & Hamán againe & prayeth 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 giuē 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 periſh: but if we were ſolde for ſeruants, & for handmaidēs, I wolde haue helde my tongue: althogh the aduerſarie colde not recompēſe the Kings loſſe.

5 Thē King Ahaſhueróſh answered, & ſaid vnto y 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 afrayed 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 wife to y 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 ſate: theſefore the King ſaid, Wil he force y Quene alſo before me in the houſe? As the worde wēt out of the Kings mouthe, they couered Hamans face.

9 And Harbonáh one of the eunuches, ſaid in the preſence of the King, Beholde, there ſtanderth yet the tre in Hamans houſe ſittie cubites high, 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 Haman 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 y King, and fell downe at his fete weping, and beſoght him that he wolde put away the wickednes of Hamán the Agagite, and his deuſe 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 deuſe of Hamán the ſonne of Ammedátha the Agagite may be called againe, which he wrote to deſtroye y Iewes,

b Hamán colde not ſo muche profite y King by this his malice, as he ſhulde hinder him by y loſſe of the Iewes, & the tribute which he hath of them.  
Ebr ſiſeth his heart.

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

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

c Meaning, y he ſhulde aboliſh y wicked decrees, which he had made for the deſtruction of the Iewes.  
d Read Chap. 52.

that are in all the Kings prouinces.  
 For how can I suffer and se the euil, that shal come vnto my people? Or how can I suffice and se the destruction of my kinred?  
 7 And the King Ahashuerósh said vnto y<sup>e</sup> Quene Ester, & to Mordecái the Iewe, Beholde, I haue giuen Ester the house of Hamán, whome they haue hanged vpon the tree, because he<sup>e</sup> 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<sup>e</sup> man reuoke)

9 The were the Kings scribes called at the same time, eué in the third moneth, that is the moneth<sup>e</sup> 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 hundredth & seuen and twentie prouinces, vnto euerie prouince, according to the<sup>e</sup> 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 letters 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 soeuer they were) to gather them selues together, & to stand for<sup>e</sup> their life, & to roote out, to slay & to destroye all the power of the people & of the prouince that vexed them, *both* the children and women, and to spoyle their goods:

12 Vpon one day in all the prouinces of King Ahashuerósh, *euen* in the thirtent day of the twelfth moneth, which is the moneth<sup>e</sup> 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<sup>e</sup> auenge them selues on their enemies.

14 So the postes rode vpon *beastes* of price, & dromedaries, & wét forthe with spede, to execute the Kings commandement, & the decree was giuen at Shushán y<sup>e</sup> palace.

15 And Mordecái went out from the King in royal apparel of blewe, 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<sup>e</sup> 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 among the Iewes, a feast and good day, and many of the people of the land 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 Adái, vpon the thirtent day of the same, when the Kings commâdement and his decree drewe nere to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Iewes hoped to haue power ouer them (but it<sup>e</sup> turned contrary: for the Iewes had rule ouer them that hated them)

2 The Iewes gathered the selues together into their cities throughout all the prouinces of the King Ahashuerósh, to laye hand on suche as sought 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<sup>e</sup> exalted the Iewes: for the feare of Mordecái fell vpon them.

4 For Mordecái was great in the Kings 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<sup>e</sup> 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<sup>e</sup> Iewes and destroyed<sup>e</sup> fise hundredth men,

7 And Parshandátha, and Dalphón, and Aspátha,

8 And Poiátha, and Adaliá, and Aridátha,

9 And Parmáshta, and Arisái, and Aridái, and Vazéátha,

10 The ten sonnes of Hamán, the sonne of Ammedátha, the aduersarie of the Iewes slewe they: but they layed not their háds<sup>e</sup> 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 fise hundredth men, and the ten sonnes of Hamán: what haue they done in the rest of the Kings prouinces? and what is thy petition, that it may be giuen thee? or what is thy request moreouer, that it may be p<sup>e</sup>formed?

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<sup>e</sup> vnto

m Cōformed them selues to the Iewes religion.

a This was by Gods great prouidence, who turneth y<sup>e</sup> ioye of the wicked into sorow, & the teares of the godlie into gladnes.

b Did the honour, & shewed the friendship.

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

d Besides those thre hundredth, y<sup>e</sup> they slewe the seconde day, as ver. 15.

e Whereby they declared, that this was Gods iust iudgement vpon y<sup>e</sup> enemies of his Church, forasmuch as they sought their owne gaine, but to execute his vengeance.

Or, went about to slay the Quene.

o This was y<sup>e</sup> lawe of the Medes & Persians, as Dan 6. 15. notwithstanding the King reuoked the former decree graunted to Hamán, for Esters sake.

f Which containeth parte of May and parte of Iune.

g That is, in suche letters & language, as was vsed in euerie prouince.

Or, mules.

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

i Which hath parte of February & part of Marche.

k The King gaue them libertie to kill all y<sup>e</sup> did oppress them.

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

f This the requir. h not for desire of vengeance, but v scale to sc Gods iudgements (vecurd agarnê has c-unic)

13 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 Shushân, and they hanged Hamans ten sonnes.

g Read Chap. 8, 11

h Meaning of they last names on none, y were not the enemies of God  
i Meaning, in all places la-ving in Shu-shan.

15 ¶ So the Iewes that were in Shushân, assembled them selues vpon the fourtente day of the moneth Adâr, and slewe thre hundred men in Shushan, 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 their lues, and had rest from their enemies, & slewe of them that hated them, h seuentie and fyue thousand: but they layed not their had on the spoile.

17 This they did on the thirtente day of the moneth Adar, and rested the fourtete day thereof, and kept it a daye of fasting and ioye.

18 But the Iewes that were in Shushân, assembled them selues on the thirtete day, & on the fourtente thereof, & they rested on the fiftente of the same, & kept it a day of fasting and ioye.

19 Therefore the Iewes of the villages that dwelt in the vnwalled townes, kept the fourtente day of the moneth Adar with ioye and feasting, *even* a ioyful day, and euerie one sent presents vnto his neighbour.

k As y Iewes do, cuf to this day, calling it in the Persians languag. Purim, that is the day of lots  
l The Iewes gather hereof that Mordecâi wrote this storie, but it seemeth that he wrote but onely their letters, and decrees that folowe.

20 ¶ And Mordecâi wrote these wordes, and sent letters vnto all the Iewes that were through all the prouinces of the King Ahashuerósh, *both* nere and farre,

21 Inioining them that they shulde kepe the fourtente day of the monerh Adâr, and the fiftente day of the same, euerie yeie.

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

m He setteth before our eyes the vic of this feast, which was or the remembrance of Gods deliuerance, the maintenance of mutual friendship, and relief of the poore.

23 And the Iewes promised to do as they had begunne, and as Mordecâi had written vnto them,

24 Because Haman the sonne 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.

n Read Chap. 17.

o That is, 20. 20. 15.

25 And whé she came before the King, he

comanded by letters, Let his wicked purpose (which he imagined against y Iewes) turne vpon his owne head, and let them hang him and his sonnes on the tre.

p These are y wordes of the Kings comma-ndemênt to dis-annul Hamans wicked entre-prise.

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 two dayes euerie yeie, according to their writing, and according to their season,

Or, strange offer- q Meaning the fourtente, and the fiftete day of the monerh Adâr

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 Quene Estér the daughter of Abihail & Mordecâi the Iewe wrote with all autoritie (to cõfirme this letter of Purím the seconde time)

r Or strength, as eff. 1. 1. 1. 1.

30 And he sent letters vnto all the Iewes to the hundreth and seuen and twentie prouinces of the kingdome of Ahashuerósh, with wordes of peace and trueth,

31 To confirme these dayes of Purím according to their seasons, as Mordecâi the Iewe and Estér the Quene had appointed them, and as they had promised for them "flues and for their seds with fasting and prayer.

s Which were letters declar-ving vnto the quene, and assurance and putting them out of doute, and teare. "for sales.

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

t That they wolde obserue this fest with fasting, & earnest prayer, which in E-breve is signi- fied by this word (takak cry.)

CHAP. X.

The estimation and autoritie of Mordecâi.

1 A Nother 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 Mordecâi, wherewith the King magnified him, are they not written in the boke of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia

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

u These three points are here set forth as commendable, and necessary for him, that is in autoritie to haue the fauour of the people to procure their welth, & to be gentle, and loving toward them.