ESTHER.
THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Introversions and Alternations.)

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M | 9. 1-28. ESTHER. PLEA FOR HER PEOPLE.

C₄ | 9. 29-32. ESTHER. HER ROYAL AUTHORITY.

A₂ | 10. 1-3. AHASUERUS. REIGN. EXTENT OF KINGDOM.
Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:) 2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, 3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: 4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and four-score days. 5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; 6 Where were white, and green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble. 7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king. 8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure. 9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus. 10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, 11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. 12 But the queen Vashti refused to come in answer of the king's commandment by his chamberlains.  

TITLE, Book of Esther. One of the five Megillot. For its place in the Hebrew Canon see Ap. 1. Read at the Feast of Purim. Comes chronologically thus: (1) Daniel; (2) Esther; (3) Nehemiah; (4) Ezra. The Divine name does not occur, except five times in the form of an Acrostic (Ap. 6). See Ap. 60, and notes on Est. 1. 20; 6. 4, 13; 1. 5. 7. 1 Now it came to pass in the days of. See important note of Rabbinical commentators on Gen. 14. 1. Ahasuerus = the venerable king. An appellative, like Pharaoh, Czar, Shah, &c. See notes on p. 618 and Ap. 57 and 58. 2 This Ahasuerus = the king. This Ahasuerus emphasizes the one who was specially renowned. Fig. Parenthesis, Ap. 8, from India even unto Ethiopia: i.e. the two extreme boundaries of the known world. 3 an hundred and seven and twenty provinces. Dan. 6. 1 says 120 princes. The number continually altered to suit the requirements of government. Only in Dan. 6. 1 do we find 120. Plato says that "when Darius (i.e. "the Maintainer" =Ahasuerus) came to the throne, being one of the seven, he divided the country into seven portions"(De Legibus ii). These are the seven named in Ex. 12, 41. When Babylon afterward fell into his hands, he divided his newly acquired kingdom into 120 parts (Dan. 9. 1. Cp. 8. 1). Why should he not have added these to the seven he already possessed, and thus have made the 127 of Est. 1. 1; 9. 50? In the later days of Darius (Hystaspis) they had reduced to twenty-three, as stated and named on the Behistun inscription. 1. 2–2. 20 (D), p. 654. AHASUERUS. ON HIS THRONE. (Division.) 1. 2–12 (A, above). QUEEN VASHTI. OFFENCE. 2. 13–2. 1. QUEEN VASHTI. DEGRADATION. 2. 2–20. QUEEN ESTHER. SUBSTITUTED. 1. 2–12 (A, above). QUEEN VASHTI. OFFENCE. (Alternation.) A1 1 a 2, 3. Feast: king's to nobles. 2 b 4. Display of riches. 3 a 5–9. Feasts: king's to people; queen's to women. 4 b 10–12. Display of Vashti. 2 In those days: i.e. the days when these events took place. At other times he dwelt at Ecbatana, or elsewhere. Verse 1 mentions the ruler; v. 2, the place; v. 3, the time. Vashti took his seat, or came to Shushan. Now, the ruins of Susa, on the river Shapur, east of Persian Gulf. palace = castle, or fortress. Cp. Neh. 1. 1. 3 the third year: i.e. in 471; six years after the destruction of Jerusalem. Ahasuerus now seventeen or eighteen years. See Ap. 50. VII (6). In this year Xerxes (who is supposed to be the king), according to Herod. vii. 8, and Diod. Sic. xi. 2, was preparing his expedition against Greece; whereas this chapter presupposes a season of peace and quiet. For its own sake. No reason is given. Power. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Effect), Ap. 6, for those who exercised it: viz. the people of power. Persia and Media. In this book this was always the order, except 10. 2. In Daniel it is the reverse. 4 an hundred and four-score days. This was to allow all peoples to be feasted in turn. Not all at the same time; or one feast of that duration. 5 palace = house, or large house. 6 beds = couches. 7 the vessels. Note the frequent Parentheses (Ap. 6) in vv. 1, 7, 13, 14, 20. wine. Heb. yayin. Ap. 57. 1. 8 law. Heb. dath = royal decree, or special mandate, as in vv. 13, 15, 19; 3. 8; 4. 11, 16. man's. Heb. 'isr. Ap. 14. II. 9 Vashti. The daughter of Aytattes (king of Lydia), married by Cyaxares to his son Ahasuerus after the battle of Halys. See Ap. 57. 10 commanded. Heb. 'amar. So rendered in vv. 15, 17; 2. 20; 4. 13; 6. 1; 9. 14, 25. Note the different words rendered "command" and "decrees" in this book. seven chamberlains = seven eunuchs. This shows the minuteness of the writer's knowledge. 11 people = peoples. 12 refused. Probably because sent for by servants; not by the nobles (v. 3), and before the "peoples" (v. 4).
12. ESTHER.

A king’s commandment by his chamberlains; therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him. And when he had thought it but small to stop the commandment to his servants which ministered unto him, 13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, “(for so was the king’s manner toward all that knew the law and judgment: 14 And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the 15 seven princes of the 3 Persia and Media, which saw the king’s face, and which sat first in the kingdom;) 15 “What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to the law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king 1Ahasuerus 16 by the chamberlains?” 16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, 17“Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the 11 people that are in all the provinces of the king 1Ahasuerus. 18 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, ‘The king 1Ahasuerus 19 commanded 2Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.’ 19 Likewise shall the 3 ladies of 3Persia and Media die without the king’s day unto all the king’s princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen, Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.” 20 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the 4 laws of the 3Persians and the Medes, that it be “not altered, That 3Vashti come no more before king 1Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. 20 And when the king’s decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, 7(for it is great,) “ALL THE WIVES SHALL GIVE to their husbands honour, both to great and small.”

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 king’s provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every 3man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

After these things, when the wrath of king 1Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered 3Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. 2 Then said the king’s servants that ministered unto him, “Let there be fair young 3virgins sought for the king: 3And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young 3virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the 4custody of Hege the king’s 3chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them; 4And let the 4maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti.” And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

commandment. Heb. dôbâr = word, precept. Occurs v. 19; 2 8; 8 15; 8 14, 17. See note on v. 10. 13 for. See note on the parentheses, v. 7.


18 ladies = princesses. 19 not altered. Cp. Dan. 6, 8. 20 decree = rescript. Only here and Ecc. 8, 11. it is great: i.e. the decree is important. ALL THE WIVES SHALL GIVE. This is the first of the five Accrostics (Ap. 5), exhibiting in the initials the Divine name. See Ap. 60.


Vashti. See note on I. 8. 2 virgins. Heb. bāthâlāh. See note on Gen. 24, 45. 3 custody = hand. chamberlain = eunuch. 4 maiden = a young person. Heb. nā‘ar.

5 a certain Jew = a man (Heb. šāḥ. Ap. 14, II.) a Jew. The contrast between Judah and Israel was lost in a strange land; and, as Nebuchadnezzar’s campaign was against Judah, so “Jew” became the name used by Gentiles.

Mordecai. Daniel and Erekiel taken to Babylon (2 Kings 24, 14, 15); Nehemiah and Mordecai to Shushan; and Mordecai dwelt in the royal palace, as did Daniel and others (Dan. 1, 4; 2 Kings 20, 16-18). b Benjamite. Thus Mordecai, a Benjamite, ends Jehovah’s war against Amalek. Ex. 17, 16. Cp. 3, 1 with 7, 15; 8, 10. A work entrusted to Saul (a Benjamite). 1 Sam. 10, 2-5.

6 Jecohiah = Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24, 4), carried away. 2 Kings 24, 14, 15. Jer. 52, 24-54, 153 years before the generally received date (i.e. 598-465 = 153), which, therefore, cannot be correct. From the carrying away of Jecohiah to the marriage of Esther to Ahasuerus in his seventh year was only twenty-two years (489-467). See Ap. 50, VII(6).

7 Hadassah = myrtle. Not living with Mordecai (who was in the palace, v. 6), but brought up by him. Esther = star. But Rabbi Yehudah derives it from saba, to hide, because she was hidden in her guardian’s house; and her national also was concealed (v. 10). father. Abihail: now dead. See v. 12; 8, 19.

5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimie, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; 6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jecohiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle’s daughter; for she had neither father nor mother; and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her...
So it came to pass, when the king’s commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women; and the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were met to be begotten, out of the king’s house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

10 Esther had not showed her People nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women’s house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

12 Now when every maid’s turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) then came every maid unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king’s house.

13 In the evening she went, and in the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king’s chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she was called by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king’s chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all of them that looked upon her.

16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther’s feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king’s gate.

20 Esther had not yet showed her kindred nor her People; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of
3. 2. ESTHER.

2 And all the king’s servants, that were in the king’s gate, bowed, and reverenced Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him.

But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

3 Then the king’s servants, which were in the king’s gate, said unto Mordecai, “Why transgressest thou the king’s commandment?”

4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai’s matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.

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

6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the People of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy not only the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the People of Mordecai.

7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, he cast Pur, that is the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

8 And said unto king Ahasuerus, “There is a certain People scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king’s laws: therefore it is not for the king’s profit to suffer them.

9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king’s treasuries.”

10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews’ enemy.

11 And the king said unto Haman, “The sword is given unto thee and to the People also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.”

12 Then were the king’s scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king’s lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of King Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king’s ring.

13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king’s provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

14 The copy of the writing for a commandment was given even in every province published unto all the people, that they should be ready against that day.

15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king’s commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

4 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put
on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into
the midst of the city, and cried with a loud
and a "bitter cry;"
2 And came "even before the king's gate: for
none might enter into the king's gate clothed
with sackcloth.
3 And in every province, whithersoever the
king's commandment and his decree came,
there was great mourning among the Jews,
and fasting, and weeping, and wailing;
and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.
4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains
came and told it her. Then was the queen
exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment
to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sack-
cloth from him: but he received it not.
5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the
king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed
to attend upon her, and gave him a command-
ment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and
why it was.
6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the
street of the city, which was before the king's
gate.
7 And Mordecai told him of all that had hap-
pened unto him, and of the sum of the money
that Haman had promised to pay to the king's
treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.
8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of
the decree that was given at Shushan to
destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to
declare it unto her, and to charge her that
she shoul dgo in unto the king, to make sup-
plication unto him, and to make request before
him for her People.
9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words
of Mordecai.
10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and
gave him a commandment unto Mordecai;
11 "All the king's servants, and the people of
the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever,
whether man or woman, shall come unto
the king into the inner court, who is not called,
is one law of his to put him to death,
except such to whom the king shall hold out
the golden sceptre, that he may live: but 3
have not been called to come in unto the king
these thirty days."
12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.
13 And Mordecai commanded to answer
Esther, "Think not with 'thynself that thou
shalt escape in the king's house, more than
all the Jews.
14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace
at this time, then shall there be enlargement
and deliverance arise to the Jews from another
place; but the 221 and thy father's house shall
be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art
come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai
this answer,
16 "Go, gather together all the Jews that are
present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and
neither eat nor drink three days, night or day;
2 also and my maids will fast likewise; and
so will I go in unto the king, which is not ac-
cording to the law: and if I perish, I perish."

bitter cry. Not (we may be sure) without confession
and prayer, as with Nehemiah (ch. 1), and Daniel (ch. 9).
2 even = as far as.
3 commandment = word. See note on 1. 12,
Decree = Imperial decree. Heb. dath. See notes on
1. 8; 2. 5.
4. 4-5. 14 (C', p. 654). ESTHER. INTERCESSION.
(Division.)
C' 4. 4-17. Esther and Mordecai.
4. 4-17 (G'; above). ESTHER AND MORDECAI.
(Introduction and Alteration.)
J 4. 5-10. Esther. Inquiry of Mordecai.
P 12-14. Mordecai. Reply and expostu-
ation.
4 maids. See note on 2. 4.
chamberlains = eunuchs.
his. Edition of A.V., 1611, reads "hiss."
5 commandment = charge. Heb. swdwh. See 3. 2.
7 the sum of the money = the exact sum of
the money. Mordecai knew of this, but how we cannot
tell. He evidently did not know that the king had
made Haman a present of it (3. 11).
law = Imperial decree. Heb. dath. See note on 1. 4.
13 commanded. Heb. 'iman. See note on 1. 10.
14 enlargement = reward. who knoweth ... ? Note the Fig.
Erotchis (Ap. 6), for emphasis. Used here of hope and trust in God and
His overruling grace.
16 three days, night or day. The Jerusalem Talmud
says "a day and night together make up a malkhut-
meron, and that any part of such period is counted as a
I perish. See note on 3. 13.
17 went his way = passed over; i.e. over the river
Ulai, on which Shushan is built, to the Jewish quarter,
to accomplish his part of the compact.
5. 1-14 (G', above). ESTHER AND THE KING.
(Alternations.)
G' 2. 1, 2. King on royal throne.
r 4. Esther. Invitation given.
q 5-6. King. Compliance.
r 7-9. Esther. Invitation accepted.
K 9. 4-6. King at Esther's banquet.
5 7, 8. Esther. Second invitation.
s 9-10. Haman's joy.
1 the third day. The beginning of a new life for
Israel. See Ap. 10.
inner court. All houses had courts; a palace had
several. over against = right opposite.
on his royal throne. To transact business,
gate = porch, or entrance. Heb. pethah.
5. 1-14 (G', above). ESTHER AND THE KING.
(Alternations.)
G' 2. 1, 2. King on royal throne.
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Israel. See Ap. 10.
inner court. All houses had courts; a palace had
several. over against = right opposite.
on his royal throne. To transact business,
gate = porch, or entrance. Heb. pethah.
5 Now it came to pass on the third day,
3rd Nisan 462
that Esther put on her royal apparel, and
stood in the inner court of the king's house,
over against the king's house: and the king
sat upon his royal throne in the royal house,
over against the gate of the house.
5. 1-14 (G', above). ESTHER AND THE KING.
(Alternations.)
G' 2. 1, 2. King on royal throne.
r 4. Esther. Invitation given.
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several. over against = right opposite.
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5. 2. ESTHER. 6. 5.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

L q Then said the king unto her, "What wilt thou, queen Esther?" and what is thy request? It shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom."

r 4 And Esther answered, "If it seem good unto the king, LET THE KING AND HAMAN COME THIS DAY unto the banquet that I have prepared for him."

q 5 Then the king said, "Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said."

r So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

K 6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, "What is thy request? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy petition?"

L s even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

7 Then answered Esther, and said, "My petition and my request is; if I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform 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 joyful and with a glad heart:

u but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

v 10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself; and when he came home, he sent and 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 advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

v 12 Haman said moreover, "Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but herself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

u 13 Yet all THIS AVAILETH ME NOTHING, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, "Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and let a gallows speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

6 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

2 obtained = won. Cp. 4. 11.
3 kingdom. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for a year's revenue. Cp. Mark 6. 23.
4 LET THE KING AND HAMAN COME THIS DAY. This is the second of the five Acrostics (Ap. 6) of the Divine names (Ap. 4. II) in this book. See Ap. 60. The second pivot on which the history turns.
5 What is thy petition? He must have seen that there was something behind the mere banquet. petition = question. request = wish.

Zeretho to morrow. She still keeps back her petition, showing the king that he had rightly divined that there was something important behind it.

5. 9-14 (p. 659). ESTHER. SECOND INVITATION. (Introversion.)

u | v. Mordecai. Haman's indignation.
9 stood not up. Notwithstanding the crisis reached; and well knowing the cause of it. moved = stirred. Only here, and Ecc. 12. 3.
11 told = recounted.
children = sons. He had ten sons. See 9. 10.
13 THIS AVAILETH ME NOTHING. This is the third of the five Acrostics of this book, exhibiting the Divine names (Ap. 4. II) to the eye. See Ap. 60.
Mordecai. The enmity was not merely personal, but religious; which is the worst form enmity can take.
14 gallows = tree: i.e. a stake to which a criminal was fastened till he died. The same word for cross. Cp. 2. 24; 9. 9; and see Acts 5. 30; 10. 39; 15. 25. 1Pet. 2.24.
cubits. See Ap. 51. III (3).

to morrow. There was no delay; but, quick as the action was, it was none too soon for its real usefulness.

6. 1 On that night. The time for Divine action had come. See Ap. 23, p. 27.
could not the king sleep. God uses small things to accomplish His purposes. See note on Judg. 3. 21. We know not what He used here. But the time had come for Him to work.

 commanded. Heb. "amar. See note on 1. 10. they .... read. The very portion which God ruled for the working out of His plan.
2 Mordecai had told. See 2. 21, 22.
3 Now Haman was come. This was the next step. The Fig. Parenthesis (Ap. 6) is used to emphasize the importance of it. gallows = tree. See note on 5. 14.
5 Behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6.
standeth in the court. As explained in the Parenthesis, p. 4.
come in. Note the Fig. Annalipsis (Ap. 6); v. 5 ending with the same verb which begins the next sentence.

2 And it was found written, that "Mordecai had told of Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, "What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?"

4 And the king said, "Who is in the court?"

((Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.)
5 And the king's servants said unto him, "Behold, Haman "standeth in the court."

And the king said, "Let him come in."
6. 6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, “What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?” Now Haman thought in his heart, “To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?”

7 And Haman answered the king, “For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,
8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head.
9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king’s most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and proclaim before him, ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.’”

7. 2 petition... request. See note on v. 5, kingdom. See note on v. 3.
4 are... the king. Note the idiom—threatened and said. See note on Daut. 1. 41.
5 answered... persia. Note the Fig. Synonymia (Ap. 6), to emphasise the urgency of her petition. C. 13. perished. See note on v. 13.
7 that... evil determined against him. This is the fourth, and last, of the four acrostics exhibiting the name Jehovah in this book. See Ap. 60. evil. Heb. ra’a. Ap. 44, viii.
8 bed... couch. Will he forsook... ? Fig. Erotesia. Ap. 6.
10 they hanged Haman. See note on “Benjamite” (2. 6).

10 They hanged Haman. See note on “Benjamite” (2. 6).

6 And Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.” Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

7 And the king, arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden; and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil 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 upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, “Will he force the queen also before me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king: “Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, stood 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 king’s wrath pacified.
2 gave it unto Mordecai. Cp. 3.10. Note how God honoured godly Jews in foreign courts: Joseph next to Pharaoh; Moses the heir to the throne of Egypt; Daniel next to Darius in Babylon; Mordecai next to Astyages in Shushan.
3 over the house of Haman. Wonderful retribution.
Haman the Agagite. See notes on 2.3 and 3.1.
3 If it please the king. Note the Alternation in this verse—
4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,
5 And said, “If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and 3 be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king’s provinces:
6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto My People? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?”

N w
7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew,
8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s ring; for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may no man reverse.
9 Then were the king’s scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof:
10 And it was written according to the decrees that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every People after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.
11 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus’ name, and sealed it with the king’s ring, and sent letters by “posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries”:

11 their life = themselves. Heb. nephesh. Ap. 13. destroy ... slay = perish. Fig. Synonymia (Ap. 6), for emphasis. See note on 8.12.
13 a commandment = an imperial decree. Heb. dāth. See note on 2.8. the people = the peoples.
16 light. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for joy.
13 The copy of the writing for “a commandment to be given in every province was pub-
lished unto all *people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 So the three posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king’s commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.
15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.
16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.
17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king’s 14 commandment and his 15 decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land 6 became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king’s 5 commandment and his 6 decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have "power over them," though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)

2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt; and no 9 man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all 9 people.

3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai was upon them.

4 For 8 Mordecai was great in the king’s house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaying, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.

6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred 7 men.

7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,

8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,

9 And Parmashta, and Arisal, and Aridai, and Vajezatha.

10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they;

but on the spoil 8 laid they not their hand.

On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king.

12 And the king said unto Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king’s provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done."

13 Then said Esther, "If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day’s decree, and let Haman’s ten sons be hanged upon the gallows."

And the king 8 commanded it so to be done: and the 3 decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman’s ten sons.
For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred and men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand. But the other Jews that were in the king’s provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey, 17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of fasting and gladness. 18 But the Jews that were in Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of fasting and gladness.

Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and fasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both high and low, to "establish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly. 22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make the days of fasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; 24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews 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 devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

26 Wherefore they called these days Pur after the name of Pur. Therefore for all of this word of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,

27 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;

28 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Pur should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.

Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Pur. And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, to confirm these days of Pur in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.

And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Pur; and it was written in the book.

And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.

And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and the multitude of his brethren sought the wealth of his People, and speaking peace to all his seed.