

PURIM STORY 2024

Oseh Shalom's Megillat Esther English w/ Hebrew Verses

Note: (The Play Sections are to be read in English. The translations for the Hebrew verses are for information only and will not be read.)

Chapter 1

Hebrew verses 1 & 2 Read by Ray Wacks

וַיְהִי בַיָּמִי אֲחַשְׁוֵרְוֹשׁ הָיָא אֲחַשְׁוֵרְוֹשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהִדּוּ וְעַד-כּוּשׁ שֶׁבַע
וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה:

It happened in the days of Ahasuerus—that Ahasuerus who reigned over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia.

בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם כְּשֶׁבַת | הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרְוֹשׁ עַל כִּסֵּא מַלְכוּתוֹ אֲשֶׁר בְּשׁוּשַׁן
הַבִּירָה:

In those days, when King Ahasuerus occupied the royal throne in the fortress Shushan

Chapter 2

Hebrew verses 4 – 7 Read by Emily Blank

וְהַנְּעֻמָּה אֲשֶׁר תִּיטֵב בְּעֵינַי הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ תַּחַת וְשִׁתִּי וַיִּיטֵב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינַי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן: (ס)

And let the maiden who pleases Your Majesty be queen instead of Vashti.” The proposal pleased the king, and he acted upon it.

אִישׁ יְהוּדִי הָיָה בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה וְשֵׁמוֹ מֹרְדֳכַי בֶּן יָאִיר בֶּן-שִׁמְעִי בֶן-קִישׁ
אִישׁ יְמִינִי:

In the fortress Shushan lived a Jew by the name of Mordecai, son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite.

אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָה מִירוּשָׁלַיִם עִם-הַגְּלָה אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָתָה עִם יְכָנְיָה מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה
אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָה נְבוּכַדְנֶאֶצַּר מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל:

[Kish] had been exiled from Jerusalem in the group that was carried into exile along with King Jeconiah of Judah, which had been driven into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.—

וַיְהִי אִמֶּן אֶת־הַדָּפָה הִיא אֶסְתֵּר בַּת־דָּלוּ כִּי אֵין לָהּ אָב וְהַנְּעָרָה יָפֶת־תָּאֵר וְטוֹבַת מְרֵאָה וּבְמִזֹּת אָבִיהָ וְאִמָּהּ לְקַחָהּ מִרְדֵּכָי לֹו לְבַת:

He was foster father to Hadassah—that is, Esther—his uncle’s daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was shapely and beautiful; and when her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter.

(Song: Shake a Grog)

Play Insert #1

Esther-minator: I am the Esther-minator. I've been sent from God to help save the Jewish people. You must assist me.

Mordecai: All right! First we have to neutralize **Haman**.

Esther-minator: Okay. I will murder him.

Mordecai: No! Murder is wrong. We have to get political power.

Esther-minator: Oh, right. For a moment, I forgot that commandment. Do you have a plan?

Mordecai: As a matter of fact, I do. I'm a gatekeeper at the palace. I'll sneak you into that area where the Queens live.

Esther-minator: Not necessary. I can get in myself. I'm very resourceful.

Mordecai: Good. Then I want you to talk to the King's wife, Queen Vashti...

(They exit SR.POOPSIA, VASHTI, and other QUEENS enter SL and sit and primp. The ESTHER-MINATOR enters SR and heads over to VASHTI.)

Esther-minator: You are Vashti?

Vashti: Yeah, what's it to ya? And who are you? How did you get in here?

Esther-minator: One of the gatekeepers is my...my cousin. Yes ,my cousin. You are not happy being a Queen.

Vashti: I'm not? You're right, I'm not .I'm not happy being a Queen.

Esther-minator: You are tired of the way the King bosses you around.

Vashti: I am tired of the way the King bosses me around.

Esther-minator: The incredible doofus.

Vashti: The incredible doofus!

Servant: Hey, Vashti! The King's having a party. He wants you to come dance for all his drunken friends.

Esther-minator: No way.

Vashti: No way!

Servant: You sure about this?

Esther-minator: (Nodding her head “yes.” You're sure.

Vashti: I'm sure.

(The SERVANT runs off SL.VASHTI and the ESTHER-MINATOR exchange grins and high fives.The SERVANT runs back in SL.)

Servant: The King said —well, actually, his buddies said —he could never think of this himself —that you can't be a Queen anymore. Your refusal might start the feminist movement two thousand years early. So pack up and move out.

Vashti: Yay, I'll never have to see that incredible doofus again!

Esther-minator: You'll never have to see that incredible doofus again.

Vashti: I said that already. Thanks, girlfriend.
(Song: She Said No to the King)

Chapter 3

Hebrew verses 1 – 5 Read by Curtis Menyuk

אַחַר ׀ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה גִּדַּל הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־שׁוּרׁוּשׁ אֶת־הַמֶּמְדָּתָא
הָאֲגָגִי ׀ וַיִּשְׂאֵהוּ וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת־כִּסְאוֹ מֵעַל כָּל־הַשָּׂרִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:

Sometime afterward, King Ahasuerus promoted **Haman** son of Hammedatha the Agagite; he advanced him and seated him higher than any of his fellow officials.

וְכָל־עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ כָּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהַמָּן כִּי־כֵן צִוָּה־
לּוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמֶרְדֵּכַי לֹא יִכְרַע וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה:

All the king's courtiers in the palace gate knelt and bowed low to **Haman**, for such was the king's order concerning him; but Mordecai would not kneel or bow low.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמֶרְדֵּכַי מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה עוֹבֵר אֶת־
מִצְוַת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

Then the king's courtiers who were in the palace gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's order?"

וַיְהִי בֵּאמָרָם [אֵלָיו יוֹם וַיּוֹם וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּגִּידוּ לְהַמָּן
לְרֹאוֹת תִּנְעָמְדוֹ דְּבַרֵי מֶרְדֵּכַי כִּי־הִגִּיד לָהֶם אֲשֶׁר־הוּא יְהוּדִי:

When they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told **Haman**, in order to see whether Mordecai's resolve would prevail; for he had explained to them that he was a Jew.

בִּירָא הָמָן כִּי־אִין מְרַדְכַּי כִּרְעַ וּמִשְׁתַּתְּוָה לּוֹ וַיִּמְלֵא הָמָן חֲמָה:

When **Haman** saw that Mordecai would not kneel or bow low to him, Haman was filled with *rage*. But he was hesitant to lay hands on Mordechai alone, for he had been told of the strength of Mordechai's people. So, **HAMAN** decided to exterminate all the Jews throughout the whole kingdom.

Chapter 4

Hebrew verses 15 &16 Read by Lou Spevack on Zoom

וּתְאֹמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְהַשִּׁיב אֶל־מְרַדְכַּי:

Then Esther sent back this answer to Mordecai:

לֵךְ כְּנוּס אֶת־כָּל־הַיהוּדִים הַנִּמְצָאִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן וְצוּמוּ עָלַי וְאֶל־תֹּאכְלוּ וְאֶל־תִּשְׁתּוּ שְׁלֹשַׁת יָמִים לַיְלָה וַיּוֹם גַּם־אֲנִי וְנִעַרְתִּי אֲצוּם כֵּן וּבִכֵּן אָבּוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־כֹדֶת וְכֹאֲשֶׁר אֶבְדְּתִי אֶבְדְּתִי:

“Go, assemble all the Jews who live in Shushan, and fast in my behalf; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens will observe the same fast. Then I shall go to the king, though it is contrary to the law; and if I am to perish, I shall perish!”

Chapter 5

Hebrew verses 9 – 11 Read by Alan Rubenstein

וַיֵּצֵא הָמָן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא שְׂמֵחַ וְטוֹב לֵב וְכִרְאוֹת הָמָן אֶת־מְרַדְכַּי בְּשַׁעַר הַמָּלְךְ וְלֹא־קָם וְלֹא־זָנַע מִמֶּנּוּ וַיִּמְלֵא הָמָן עַל־מְרַדְכַּי חֲמָה:

That day **Haman** went out happy and lighthearted. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the palace gate, and Mordecai did not

rise or even stir on his account, **Haman** was filled with rage at him.

וַיִּתְאַפֵּק הָמָן וַיָּבֹא אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיִּבְא אֶת-אֶהָבָיו וְאֶת-זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ:
Nevertheless, **Haman** controlled himself and went home. He sent
for his friends and his wife Zeresh,

וַיְסַפֵּר לָהֶם הָמָן אֶת-כְּבוֹד עֲשָׂרוֹ וְרַב בָּנָיו וְאֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר גָּדְלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֵת
אֲשֶׁר נִשְׂאוֹ עַל-הַשָּׂרִים וְעַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

and **Haman** told them about his great wealth and his many sons,
and all about how the king had promoted him and advanced him
above the officials and the king's courtiers.

Chapter 6

Verses 6- 12 Read by John Riehl

בִּיקְרוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן בְּלִבּוֹ לֵמִי יִחַפֵּץ הַמֶּלֶךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת יָקָר יוֹתֵר מִמֶּנִּי:

Haman entered, and the king asked him, “What should be done
for a man whom the king desires to honor?” **Haman** said to
himself, “Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?”

וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חֹפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

So, **Haman** said to the king, “For the man whom the king desires
to honor,

יְבִיאוּ לְבוֹשׁ מַלְכוּת אֲשֶׁר לְבִשְׁבוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְסוּסִים אֲשֶׁר רָכַב עָלָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְאֲשֶׁר נָתַן כְּתֹר מַלְכוּת בְּרֵאשִׁיתוֹ:

let royal garb which the king has worn be brought, and a horse on which the king has ridden and on whose head a royal diadem has been set;

וַנְתּוֹן הַלְבוּשׁ וְהַסּוּס עַל-יַד-אִישׁ מִשְׁגְּרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפְּרָתְמִים וְהַלְבִּישׁוּ אֶת-
הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בְּיָקְרוֹ וְהַרְפִּיבֵהוּ עַל-הַסּוּס בְּרִחוּב הָעִיר וְקָרְאוּ
לְפָנָיו בְּכֹה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בְּיָקְרוֹ:

and let the attire and the horse be put in the charge of one of the king's noble courtiers. And let the man whom the king desires to honor be attired and paraded on the horse through the city square, while they proclaim before him: This is what is done for the man whom the king desires to honor!"

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהָמָן מְהֵרָה קַח אֶת-הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת-הַסּוּס כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ וַעֲשֵׂה-
כֹּל לְמַרְדֵּכָי הַיְהוּדִי הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-תִּפְּלֵ דָבָר מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:

"Quick, then!" said the king to **Haman**. "Get the garb and the horse, as you have said, and do this to Mordecai the Jew, who sits in the king's gate. Omit nothing of all you have proposed."

וַיִּקַּח הָמָן אֶת-הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת-הַסּוּס וַיִּלְבָּשׁ אֶת-מַרְדֵּכָי וַיַּרְפִּיבֵהוּ בְּרִחוּב
הָעִיר וַיִּקְרָא לְפָנָיו בְּכֹה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בְּיָקְרוֹ:

So **Haman** took the garb and the horse and arrayed Mordecai and paraded him through the city square; and he proclaimed before him: This is what is done for the man whom the king desires to honor!

וַיִּשָׁב מַרְדֵּכָי אֶל-שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמָן נִדְתָּף אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ אָבֵל וְחַפּוּי רֹאשׁ:

Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate, while **Haman** hurried home, his head covered in mourning.

Play Insert #2

Haman: As I was about to say, Your Majesty, before we were so rudely interrupted, I was thinking about these people in your kingdom. They are a real pain in your neck, Sir. They obey their own laws and they have their own God—only one God, if you can imagine such a thing! It can't possibly be good for you to tolerate them.

King: I'm a tolerant kind of guy.

Haman: And if I could have the privilege of destroying these people—these very different people—it would be an honor for me to deposit into the royal treasury a sum often thousand pieces of silver.

King : And it would be an honor for me to accept. I'm not that tolerant.(They shake on it.)And now, **Haman**, speaking of honor, I have something to ask you. What would you do if—heaven forbid—you were the King and you wanted to honor somebody?

Haman: Oh, Your Majesty—thanks! I'd dress the honoree in splendid clothes and place him on a magnificent cart led by my finest horse. Id have an important prince run in front shouting throughout the city," This is the man the King wishes to honor!"

King: Perfect. Go get that gatekeeper who saved my skin and do that for him.

Haman: Mordecai?

King: Yeah, him.

Haman: But he's a Jew!

King: You got a problem with that? Some of my best friends ..

Haman: No, no, Your Majesty. No problem at all.

(HAMAN walks forward with a pained expression on his face.Exit all others SR .Enter ZERESH SL.)

Zeresh: I don't think I like the way this is going.

Haman: You! How do you think I feel?

Zeresh: So what are you going to do about it, Mr. Second-most-powerful-man-in-Persia? Pay him ten thousand pieces of silver?

Haman: Look, I'm already killing all the Jews, so he'll be included.

Zeresh: He dissed you. Humiliate him back!

Haman: I guess I could...hang him in front of the palace?

Zeresh: Works for me.

(Song: Esther You Gotta Be Brave)

Chapter 7 Verses 1-7 read by Cantor Caitlin

וַיִּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמוֹן לְשִׁתּוֹת עִם-אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה:

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי בְּמִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן מִה-שְּׂאֵלְתְּךָ אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וְתַנְתֵּנוּ לָךְ וּמִה-בְּקִשְׁתְּךָ עַד-חֲצֵי הַמַּלְכוּת וְתַעֲשֵׂ:

On the second day, the king again asked Esther at the wine feast, “What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half the kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

וַתַּעַן אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֶר אִם-מְצָאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב תַּנְתֵּנוּ-לִי נִפְשִׁי בַשְּׂאֵלְתִי וְעַמִּי בַבְּקִשְׁתִּי:

Queen Esther replied: “If Your Majesty will do me the favor, and if it pleases Your Majesty, let my life be granted me as my wish, and my people as my request.

כִּי נִמְכַרְנוּ אֲנִי וְעַמִּי לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהַרְוֹג וּלְאַבֵּד וְאֵלֹי לְעַבְדִּים וְלִשְׁפָחוֹת
נִמְכַרְנוּ הַחֲרַשְׁתִּי כִּי אֵין הַצָּר שְׁנֵה בְּגִזְק הַמֶּלֶךְ: {ס}

For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, massacred, and exterminated. Had we only been sold as bondmen and bondwomen, I would have kept silent; for the adversary^a is not worthy of the king’s trouble.”

הוּא אֲשֶׁר-מְלֹאוֹ לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן:

Thereupon King Ahasuerus demanded of Queen Esther, “Who is he and where is he who dared to do this?”

וּתְאֵמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב **הָמוֹ** הֲרַע הַזֶּה וְ**הָמוֹ** נִבְעֵת מִלִּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהַמְּלִכָה:

“The adversary and enemy,” replied Esther, “is this evil **Haman!**” And Haman cringed in terror before the king and the queen.

וְהַמֶּלֶךְ קָם בְּחִמְתּוֹ מִמִּשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן אֶל-גִּנַּת הַבַּיִת וְ**הָמוֹ** עָמַד לְבַקֵּשׁ עֲלֵ-
נַפְשׁוֹ מֵאֶסְתֵּר הַמְּלִכָה כִּי רָאָה כִּי-כָלְתָה אֵלָיו הַרְעָה מֵאֵת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

The king, in his fury, left the wine feast for the palace garden, while **Haman** remained to plead with Queen Esther for his life; for he saw that the king had resolved to destroy him.

Chapter 8.

Hebrew verses 15 & 16 Read by John Riehl

גוֹמְרֵדָּכַי יֵצֵא | מִלְפָּנַי הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת תְּכֵלֶת וְחֹר וְעֵטָרַת זָהָב
גְּדוּלָה וְתִכְרִיף בַּיּוֹץ וְאַרְגָּמָן וְהָעִיר שׁוֹשָׁן צְהֵלָה וְשִׂמְחָה:

Mordecai left the king's presence in royal robes of blue and white, with a magnificent crown of gold and a mantle of fine linen and purple wool. And the city of Shushan rang with joyous cries.

לְיֵהוּדִים הָיְתָה אֹרֶה וְשִׂמְחָה וְשׁוֹשָׁן וְיִקָּר:

The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, happiness, and honor.

Chapter 9 Read by a Congregant

Mordechai and Esther wrote down this story, and decided that from that day on, the Jews should celebrate this day, Purim, on the 14th of Adar. That was the day **HAMAN** had planned to kill the Jews, but they were saved instead.

For many years, we told a story of revenge and violence at this point in the Purim tale....but, today, it's time to write a chapter in our story. Let's get our groggers ready to cheer for some good news! Let's put this tragedy and misery behind us, and tell a new tale of peace (Yay!), harmony (Yay!), cooperation (Yay!), and friendship among all peoples. (Yay!)

Chapter 10

Mordechai and Esther taught that the Jews should send gifts to each other (mishloach manot), give tzedakah to the poor (mattanot le-eyyonim), and tell the story of what happened on that first Purim. And the Jews have done these things every year, for thousands of years ever since.

Hebrew verses 2 – 3 Read by Cantor Caitlin

וְכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה תְקִפּוֹ וּגְבוּרָתוֹ וּפְרָשֵׁת גְּדֻלַּת מְרֹדֶכַי אֲשֶׁר גִּדְּלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ הַלְוֵא־
הֵם

כְּתוּבִים עַל־סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמֶלֶךְ מְדֵי וּפָרְס:

All his mighty and powerful acts, and a full account of the greatness to which the king advanced Mordecai, are recorded in the Annals of the Kings of Media and Persia.

כִּי | מְרֹדֶכַי הַיְהוּדִי מִשְׁנָה לַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֶרֶשׁ וְגָדוֹל לַיְהוּדִים וְרָצוּי לְרַב
אֲחֵיו דִּרְשׁ טוֹב לְעַמּוֹ וְדִבֶּר שְׁלוֹם לְכָל־זֶרְעוֹ:

For Mordecai the Jew ranked next to King Ahasuerus and was highly regarded by the Jews and popular with the multitude of his brethren; he sought the good of his people and interceded for the welfare of all his kindred.