

# PURIM STORY 2026

## 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 (confirmed)

וַיְהִי בַיָּמִי אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הָיָא אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהַדָּו וְעַד-כּוֹשׁ שְׁבַע  
וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמָאָה מְדִינָה:

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

בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם כְּשֶׁבַת | הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ 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 (confirmed)

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

*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 מְרַדְכַּי 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 עַם-הַגְּלָה אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָתָה עִם יְכֻנְיָה מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה  
אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָה נְבוּכַדְנֶאֱצַר מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל:

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

וַיְהִי אִמֹן אֶת-הַדָּסָה הִיא אֶסְתֵר בַּת-דָּדָי כִּי אֵין לָהּ אָב וְאִם וְהַנְּעָרָה  
יִפְת־תֵּאֵר וְטוֹבַת מְרֵאָה וּבְמֹת אֲבִיהָ וְאִמָּהּ לְקַחָהּ מֵרֵדְכָי לוֹ 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.*

### Narrator

Once upon a time, in the time of Ahash'verösh. Now this was the Ahash'verösh whose empire extended all the way from India to Ethiopia. In the third year of his reign in the capital city of Shushan, he threw a huge party for all his ministers and his chief servants just to impress them with his fantastic wealth and greatness. This party lasted seven full days. Everyone had all they could eat and drink from beautiful golden dishes including some the invaders took from our holy Temple. The festivities went on and on and on and on and on.

### Team Vashti

And on the seventh day, when the king was pretty drunk, he called for Queen Vashti to dance before the whole crowd dressed in only her crown.

Now Vashti was no coward but when she refused the king's rage boiled over.

Vashti was fired as queen and banished from Shushan forever. Lest she be a model for other women to disobey their husbands.

### **She Said No to the King (Everyone sings!)**

*(MIRAJ, ©Margot Stein, Rayzel Raphael, Bayla Ruchama,  
Juliet Spitzer; edited version)*

Without her gown  
He summoned her down  
Said it was his right  
As a man with a crown

He was obsessed;  
Vashti was unimpressed;  
She refused to be  
a woman oppressed.

**CHORUS:**

She said “no” to the king,  
She said “no” to the king,  
She said  
“no-no-no-no-no-no-no”  
She said “no” to the king!

The king then cried,  
“Find me a bride;  
She must be beautiful  
And have no pride.”

When Esther came  
He said, “You I will tame  
And if you don’t like it  
Well, Vashti’s to blame!”

And now, back to our story...

Esther took heart,  
That girl was so smart  
Thinking of others  
and doing her part  
She was to find  
to get out of that bind  
She needed her body  
and also her mind.

(CHORUS)

Esther was brave  
But the court was depraved  
And Haman the Evil One  
Ranted and raved;  
She took a stand  
Yes, she made a demand  
That the Jews should be  
saved  
Throughout the land.

(CHORUS)

Not long afterward when the king sobered up he wondered what to do for a new queen. His ministers advised him to have a beauty contest so the most gorgeous woman in the whole empire would be his new queen. And so Mordechai the Jew sent his niece Esther to try out for the job. And Esther was the most beautiful of all so she became queen of the Persian empire.

### Team Esther

Esther was careful and didn't tell anyone that she was a Jew. Her uncle Mordechai would sit outside the palace to keep in touch with Esther. Now just in case you think that this is the end of the story hang on-- there's a lot to come.

### Team Mordechai

One day Mordechai heard two guards plotting to murder the king. Mordechai reported what he had heard, and the king's life was saved. For this nobody thanked him but his name was written in the king's records.

Sometime after all these happenings the king appointed a new Prime Minister named **Haman**.

## Chapter 3

Hebrew verses 1 – 5 Read by Curtis Menyuk (confirmed)

אַחַר | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה גָּדַל הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחְשִׁיאוּרֹשׁ אֶת־הָמָן בֶּן־הַמְּדֵתָא  
הָאֲגָגִי וַיִּנְשְׂאֵהוּ 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 לְהָמָן כִּי־כֵן  
צִוְּהֵ־לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמָרְדֳּכָי 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 עֲבָדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-בַּשַּׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמַרְדֳּכָי מִדֹּעַ אֶתְּהָ עֹזֵר 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 [כְּאֶמְרָם] אֵלָיו יוֹם וַיּוֹם וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּגִּידוּ לְהָמָן  
לְרֹאוֹת הַיַּעֲמָדוֹ דְּבַרְי מְרַדְּכָי 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.*

וַיֵּרָא הָמָן כִּי-אִין מְרַדְּכָי כִּרְעַ וּמִשְׁתַּתְּוָה לוֹ 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 14 &15 Read by Curtis Menyuk

פְּתֻשָׁגוֹן הַכְּתָב לְהַנְתִּיחַ דָּת בְּכָל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה גְלוּי לְכָל-הָעַמִּים לְהַיּוֹת  
עֲתִידִים לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:

*The text of the document was to the effect that a law should be  
proclaimed in every single province; it was to be publicly displayed to all  
the peoples, so that they might be ready for that day.*

הַרְצִיִּים יֵצְאוּ דְחוּפִים בְּדַבַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַדָּת נִתְּנָה בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּיָּרָה וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמָן  
יֵשְׁבוּ לִשְׁתֹּת וְהָעִיר שׁוּשַׁן נְבוֹכָה:

*The couriers went out posthaste on the royal mission, and the decree was  
proclaimed in the fortress Shushan. The king and Haman sat down to  
feast, but the city of Shushan was dumfounded.*

## Chapter 5

Hebrew verses 9 – 11 Read by Even Brettell (confirmed)

וַיֵּצֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא שְׂמֵחַ וְטוֹב לֵב וַכְּרָאוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־מָרְדֳּכָי בְּשַׁעַר הַמָּלְךְ וְלֹא־קָם וְלֹא־זָנַע מִמֶּנּוּ וַיִּמְלֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל־מָרְדֳּכָי 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 הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיָּבֹא אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיִּבֵּא אֶת־אֶהֱבִי וְאֶת־זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ:  
*Nevertheless, **HAMAN** controlled himself and went home. He sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh,*

וַיְסַפֵּר לָהֶם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־כְּבוֹד עֲשָׂרוֹ וְרַב בָּנָיו וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר גָּדְלוֹ הַמָּלְךְ וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר נִשְׂאוֹ עַל־הַשָּׂרִים וְעַבְדֵי הַמָּלְךְ:  
*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.*

### The People Team

The new minister, **Haman**, had a very big ego and loved to have people bow down to him. One day he and his officers passed by Mordechai who as usual was sitting by the palace gate, but Mordechai refused to bow down to Haman.

When the officers told him to bow down, Mordechai said: I am a Jew and I don't bow to anyone but my God. I serve the Holy One and this makes me free

**Haman** was absolutely furious and went to the king and said: O your Highness, Beloved and Mighty and Fantastic and Awesome King, I have bad news for you!

There is a people scattered throughout your Empire that doesn't follow your laws

Now this is terrible! But I can take care of them. If you give me the OK I'll waste them and they'll never bother you again. I'll even bring in some more money for your treasury.

And the king said: sounds fine to me, *gei gesunte-heit*, Do what you want with these people! Now leave me alone– I've got a date with the Queen.

And so all the days of the year were written on pieces of paper and put in a box and one piece was taken out by **Haman**. This would be the day that all the Jews would be killed.

And so the news went out by express riders to all parts of the empire to kill all the Jews– men, women and children, rich, poor, young and old on the fourteenth day of Adar –now that's tonight!

Also a special gallows was built to hang the Jew Mordecai who wouldn't bow down to **Haman**.

(Don't worry kids, it all worked out in the end!)

## Chapter 6

Hebrew verses 1-12 Read by Rabbi Josh Jacobs-Velde

בְּלֵילָה הַהוּא נִדְרָה שְׁנַת הַמָּלָךְ וַיֹּאמֶר לְהָבִיא אֶת־סֵפֶר הַזְּכָרֹנוֹת דְּבָרֵי  
הַיָּמִים וַיְהִי נִקְרָאִים לְפָנָי הַמָּלָךְ:

*That night, sleep deserted the king, and he ordered the book of records, the annals, to be brought; and it was read to the king.*

וַיִּמְצָא כְּתוּב אֲשֶׁר הִגִּיד מֶרְדֵּכַי עַל־בִּגְתָּנָא וְתֶרֶשׁ שְׁנֵי סְרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
מִשְׁמֵרֵי הַסֵּף אֲשֶׁר בְּקִשְׁוֹ לְשַׁלַּח יָד בַּמֶּלֶךְ אֲחִישֵׁרוּשׁ:

*There it was found written that Mordecai had denounced Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the threshold, who had plotted to do away with King Ahasuerus.*

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מִה־נַּעֲשֶׂה יָקָר וּגְדוּלָה לְמֶרְדֵּכַי עַל־זֶה וַיֹּאמְרוּ נְעָרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
מִזְשָׁרְתָיו לֹא־נַעֲשֶׂה עִמּוֹ דָּבָר:

*“What honor or advancement has been conferred on Mordecai for this?” the king inquired. “Nothing at all has been done for him,” replied the king’s servants who were in attendance on him.*

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מִי בְּחֻצֵּי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּבֶן לְחֻצֵּי בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ הַחֲצוֹנָה לֵאמֹר לְמֶלֶךְ  
לְתוֹת אֶת־מֶרְדֵּכַי עַל־הַעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־הֵכִין לוֹ:

*“Who is in the court?” the king asked. For **HAMAN** had just entered the outer court of the royal palace, to speak to the king about having Mordecai impaled on the stake he had prepared for him.*

וַיֹּאמְרוּ נְעָרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵלָיו הִנֵּה הַמֶּלֶךְ עֹמֵד בְּחֻצֵּי וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ יָבוֹא:

*“It is **HAMAN** standing in the court,” the king’s servants answered him. “Let him enter,” said the king.*

וַיָּבוֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ מִה־לַּעֲשׂוֹת בְּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בְּיָקָרוֹ  
וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלִבּוֹ לְמִי יִחְפֹּץ 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 אֵי־שׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חֲפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

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

יָבִיאוּ לְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת אֲשֶׁר לְבַשׁ־בוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְסוּס אֲשֶׁר רָכַב עָלָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְאֲשֶׁר נָתַן כְּתֹר מִלְכוּת בְּרֹאשׁוֹ:

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;

וְנָתַן הַלְבוּשׁ וְהַסּוּס עַל־יַד־אִישׁ מִשְׁרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפְּרָתָמִים וְהַלְבִּישׁוּ  
אֶת־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חֲפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ וְהִרְכִּיבֵהוּ עַל־הַסּוּס בְּרִחוּב הָעִיר  
וְקִרְאוּ לְפָנָיו כִּכָּה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חֲפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

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 כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ  
וַעֲשֵׂה־כֵן לְמָרְדֳּכָי הַיְהוּדִי הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־תִּפְּל דָּבָר 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 וַיַּלְבֵּשׁ אֶת־מָרְדֳּכָי וַיַּרְכִּיבֵהוּ בָרֶתֶב  
הָעִיר וַיִּקְרָא לִפְנָיו בְּכָה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

*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!*

וַיָּשָׁב מָרְדֳּכָי אֶל־שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמָן נִדְחָף אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ אָבֵל וְחִפּוּי רֹאשׁ:

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

### Chapter 7 Verses 1-3 read by John Riehl

וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמָן לְשִׁתּוֹת עִם־אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה:  
וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי בְּמִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן מַה־נִּשְׂאֵלְתְּךָ אֶסְתֵּר  
הַמַּלְכָּה וְתַנְתְּנִי לָךְ וּמַה־בִּקְשָׁתְּךָ עַד־חֲצֵי הַמַּלְכוּת וְתַעֲשׂ:

*So the king and Haman came to feast with Queen Esther.*

*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 חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ  
טוֹב תִּנְתְּנֵנִי־לִי נַפְשִׁי בְּשִׂאֵלְתִּי וְעַמִּי בְּבִקְשָׁתִּי:

*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 נִמְכַּרְנוּ אֲנִי וְעַמִּי לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהַרְגוֹ וּלְאַבֵּד וְאֵלּוּ לְעַבְדִּים וְלִשְׁפָחוֹת  
נִמְכַּרְנוּ הִחַרְשֵׁתִי כִּי אֵין הַצָּר שְׁנֵה בְּנֻקַּ הַמֶּלֶךְ:

*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 is not worthy of the king's trouble."*

**Chapter 7 Verses 4-6** Read by Mitch Pavao-Zuckerman (confirmed)

וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחָשׁוּרוּשׁ וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי-זֶה הוּא  
אֲשֶׁר-מָלְאוּ לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן:

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

תָּאמַר אֶסְתֵּר אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב **הָמָן** הָרַע הַזֶּה וְ**הָמָן** נִבְעֵת מִלְפָּנַי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְהַמַּלְכָּה:

*"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**הָמָן** עָמַד לְבַקֵּשׁ  
עַל-נַפְשׁוֹ מֵאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה כִּי רָאָה כִּי-כָלְתָה אֵלָיו הָרָעָה 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 7 Hebrew verses 8 – 10** Read by John Riehl (confirmed)

וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁב מִגִּנַּת הַבַּיִת אֶל-בֵּית | מִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן וְ**הָמָן** נָפַל עַל-הַמָּטָה אֲשֶׁר  
אַסְתֵּר עָלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ הֲגַם לְכַבּוֹשׁ אֶת-הַמַּלְכָּה עִמִּי בַּבַּיִת הַדָּבָר יֵצֵא  
מִפִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ וּפְגַי **הָמָן** חָפוּ:

*When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet room, **HAMAN** was lying prostrate on the couch on which Esther reclined.*

*"Does he mean," cried the king, "to ravish the queen in my own palace?" No sooner did these words leave the king's lips than **HAMAN's** face was covered.*

וַיֹּאמֶר חַרְבוֹנָה אֶחָד מִן־הַסְּרִיסִים לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ גַּם הִנֵּה־הַעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה  
הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמָרְדֳּכָי אֲשֶׁר דָּבַר־טוֹב עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ עִמָּד בְּבֵית הַמֶּלֶךְ גְּבוּהָ חֲמֵשִׁים אַמָּה  
וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּלְהֶוּ עָלָיו:

*Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said,  
“What is more, a stake is standing at **HAMAN’s** house, fifty cubits high,  
which **HAMAN** made for Mordecai—the man whose words saved the  
king.” “Impale him on it!” the king ordered.*

וַיִּתְלוּ אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל־הַעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־הֵכִין לְמָרְדֳּכָי וַתִּמַּת הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׂכָכָה:  
*So, they impaled **HAMAN** on the stake which he had put up for Mordecai,  
and the king’s fury abated.*

*La kova sheli/ My Hat/ לְכוֹבַע שְׁלִי*

לְכוֹבַע שְׁלִי שְׁלֹשׁ פְּנוֹת  
שְׁלֹשׁ פְּנוֹת לְכוֹבַע שְׁלִי  
- לוֹלֵא הָיוּ לוֹ שְׁלֹשׁ פְּנוֹת  
!לֵא הָיָה זֶה הַכוֹבַע שְׁלִי

*La-kova sheli shalosh pinot,  
shalosh pinot la-kova sheli  
Lulei hayu lo shalosh pinot,  
lo hayah zeh ha-kova sheli*

(My hat has three corners. If it did not have three corners, it would not be my hat!)

[Team Esther](#)

Then the king said: "What? No more mister nice guy! Use the gallows to hang **HAMAN!**"

Now the story's not quite over. The king didn't like to change his orders once he'd given them so the order to kill all the Jews was still in force. But Esther spoke up, and the king gave the order that the Jews could defend themselves so that when their enemies came to them the Jews survived by fighting back.

### Team Mordechai

Then the king made Mordecai his prime minister and gave him a very snazzy palace of his own, which incidentally had belonged to **HAMAN**. And so almost everybody lived happily ever after!

Now what can we learn from all this?

As it is written in the books of the Wise Ones, coincidence is God's way of staying anonymous,  
and if you come to a fork in the road, you should definitely take it,  
At the end of the day when we take off the masks we wear for the world,

### **Who are we really?**

We can all be Mordecai.

We can all be Esther.

Stand up for justice.

Don't bow to evil.

We serve the Holy One and this makes us free!

### **Chapter 9 Read by Shelley Reese**

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

## Chapter 10 ( Read by All)

Mordechai and Esther taught that the Jews should send gifts to each other (mishloach manot), give tzedakah to the poor (mattanot le-evyonim), 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.

### Read by Rabbi Josh

This year at Oseh Shalom we will be fulfilling the mitzvah of Mattanot Leevyomim (gifts to the poor) by contributing to LARS, the agency in Laurel that assists people in need. We will be passing the” Kippah” at the end of the service so that you can make a direct cash contribution, or you can make an online contribution directly to LARS by using your phone to connect to the LARS donation web page using the QR code on the Card at the back of the sanctuary and in the social hall.

Hebrew verses 2 – 3 Read by Rabbi Josh

וְכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה תְקִפּוֹ וּגְבוּרָתוֹ וּפְרָשֵׁת גְּדֻלַּת מְרַדְּכַי אֲשֶׁר גִּדְּלוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ  
הַלְוֵאֵיהֶם כְּתוּבִים עַל־סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי מִדְּי 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 ׀ מְרַדְּכַי הִיְהוּדִי מִשְׁנֵה לְמַלְךְ אַחַשְׁוֶרוּשׁ וְגָדוֹל לִיְהוּדִים וְרָצוּי לְרַב  
אֲחֵיו דִּרְשׁ טוֹב לְעַמּוֹ וְדִבֵּר 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.*