

The (SHORT) Megillah

1:1 [Now it came to pass] in the days of Ahasuerus—this is the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia—[which included] a hundred twenty-seven provinces: 2 It happened, in those days, [when there sat] the king, Ahasuerus, on the royal throne which was in Shushan the capital, 3 in the third year of his reign he gave a feast [for his officials] and servants, [chiefs of the army] of Persia and Media, [all of the noblemen], princes of the provinces—[they stood before him];

2:2 Then said the king's servants , who attended him, “[Let us find]—[let us seek out for the king] some young maidens pleasing to look at.

4 And that maiden—the one who looks good in the eyes of the king—let her reign in Vashti's place. And these words [really pleased] the king, and he acted upon them.

3:1 [It was some time] after [all of these events], King Ahasuerus promoted Haman [son of Hammedatha] the Agagite and advanced him, and set his seat [over and above] [all of the the princes] who were with him. 2 All the king's servants at [the palace gate] [knelt down] and bowed low to Haman, for thus had commanded the king. [But Mordecai] would not kneel and would not bow down. 3 Then there spoke the courtiers— [servants of the king] who were at the palace gate to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the command of the king?” 4 [And it happened] [when they spoke] [to him] day after day and he would not listen to them. [that they told it] to Haman to see if the words of Mordecai would prevail, for he had told them that he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down and prostrate himself to him, then Haman was filled with rage.

8 And Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is [a certain people], scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your

kingdom. [The laws that they observe] are different [from those of other people], and the laws of the king they do not observe. To the king it is not befitting to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let there be a decree [to destroy them], and ten thousand [talents of silver] I will pay into the hands of those who do the deed, to bring it into the treasuries of the king. 10 [And so the king] [proceeded to remove] [his signet ring] from his hand, [and handed it over] [to Haman] [son of Hammedatha] the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 Then said the king to Haman, “The silver is given to you, [and also the people], to do with them what seems good in your eyes.”

4:1 And Mordecai [came to know] all that had happened. Then tore Mordecai his garments, and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went out into the midst of the city, [and there he cried], wailing loud and bitterly. 2 [And he came] [as far as] the front of the palace gate, for [no one was] [allowed to walk in through] the king’s gate dressed in sackcloth. 3 And in province after province, any place where [the king’s word] and his decree did reach, [there was great] mourning [among the Jews]; fasting and weeping and wailing. Sackcloth and ashes [were laid out] for the masses.

7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, “[If I have found] favor in your eyes, O king, [and it seems good] to the king, grant me my life—this is my request— [and the life of my people], [that is my desire]. 4 For we have been sold, myself and my people, to be destroyed, slain, and annihilated. [If it were only that] as slaves [and servant girls] we had been sold, [I would have kept quiet]. [As things are,] the persecutor [certainly is not] [worth the damage] done to the king.” 5 And answered King Ahashuerus, saying to Esther the queen, “Who is he, and where is he, who put it in his heart to do such a thing?” 6 Esther replied, “[The man]—our persecutor and enemy, is this wretch Haman here.” And Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

The (SHORT) Megillah

1:1 וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ הוּא אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהַדּוֹ וְעַד-כּוֹשׁ

וַיָּבֵעַ וַעֲשָׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה:

2 בַּיּוֹמִים הֵהֵם כְּשֶׁבַת וְהַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ

עַל כִּסֵּא מַלְכוּתוֹ אֲשֶׁר בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה:

3 בַּשָּׁנָה שְׁלוֹשׁ לְמָלְכוֹ עָשָׂה מִשְׁתֵּה לְכָל-שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו

חֵיל וּפָרַס וּמְזִי הַפְּרָתָיִם וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת לְפָנָיו:

2:2 וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְּעַרְי־הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׂרָתָיו

יִבְקָשׁוּ לְמֶלֶךְ נְעָרוֹת בְּתוּלוֹת טוֹבוֹת מֵרָאֵה:

4 וְהַנְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר תִּיטֵב בְּעֵינָי הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ תַּחַת וְשִׁתִּי

וַיִּטֵּב הַדְּבָר בְּעֵינָי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן: (ס)

3:1 אַחַר וְהַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה גִּדְּלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ

אֶת-הַמֶּזֶן בְּוַיִּנְשְׂאָהּ

וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת-כִּסְאוֹ מֵעַל כָּל-הַשָּׂרִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:

2 וְכָל-עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ

כָּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהַמֶּזֶן כִּי-כֵן צִוָּה-לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמְרַבְּכֵי

לֹא יִכְרַע וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה:

3 וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמַרְדֳּכָי

מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה עוֹבֵר אֶת מִצְוַת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

4 וַיְהִי בֵּאמָרם [כְּאִמְרָם] אֵלָיו יוֹם וַיּוֹם

וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּגִּידוּ לְהֶמֶן לְרֹאוֹת הַיַּעֲמֹדוֹ דְּבַרֵי מְרֹדֳכָי

כִּי-הִגִּיד לָהֶם אֲשֶׁר-הוּא יְהוּדִי:

5 וַיֵּרָא הֶמֶן כִּי-אִין מְרֹדֳכָי כָּרַע וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לוֹ וַיִּמְלֵא הֶמֶן חֲמָה:

8 וַיֹּאמֶר הֶמֶן לַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ יִשְׁנֹו עִם-אֶחָד מִכַּזְּרִים וּמִפָּרְדִּים בֵּין הָעַמִּים

בְּכָל מְדִינֹות מְלֻכּוֹתָהּ וְדַתֵּיהֶם שְׁנוֹת מִכָּל-עָם

וְאֶת-דַּתִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵינָם עוֹשִׂים וְלַמֶּלֶךְ אִין-שְׁנֵה לְהַנִּיחָם:

9 אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יִכָּתֵב לְאַבְדָּם וְעֲשֹׂרֶת אֲלָפִים כֶּסֶף

אֲשֶׁקּוּל עַל-יְדֵי עֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה לְהָבִיא אֶל-גִּגְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

10 וַיִּסַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל יָדוֹ וַיִּתְּנָהּ

לְהֶמֶן בֶּן-הַמַּצְדָּא הָאֲגָגִי צַרַר הַיְהוּדִים:

11 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהֶמֶן הַכֶּסֶף נָתוּן לָךְ וְהָעָם לַעֲשׂוֹת בּוֹ כַּטוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ:

4:1 וּמְרֹדֳכָי יָדַע אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה וַיִּקְרַע מְרֹדֳכָי אֶת-בְּגָדָיו

וַיִּלְבַּשׁ שָׂק וַאֲפֹר וַיֵּצֵא בְּתוֹךְ הַלְעִיר וַיִּזְעַק זַעֲקָה גְדֹלָה וּמָרָה:

2 וַיָּבֹאוּ עַד לִפְנֵי שַׁעַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אִין לָבוֹא

אֶל-שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלְבוּשׁ שָׂק:

3 וּבְכָל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ מֵגִיעַ

אֲבָל גְּדוּלֵי לַיהוּדִים וְצוּם וּבְכִי וּמְסֻפָּד שָׂק וְאַפָּר יֵצֵעַ לְרַבִּים:

7:3 וַתַּעַן אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֶר אִם-מְצָאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ

וְאִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב תִּנָּתֶן-לִי נִפְשִׁי בַשָּׂאֵלְתִי וְעַמִּי בְּבִקְשָׁתִי:

4 כִּי נִמְכַרְנוּ אֲנִי וְעַמִּי לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהַרְוֹג וּלְאַבֵּד

וְאֵלוֹ לַעֲבָדִים וְלִשְׁפָחוֹת נִמְכַרְנוּ הַחַרְשָׁתִי

כִּי אִין הֵצֵר שׁוּהַ בְּגַזְק הַמֶּלֶךְ: (ס)

5 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֶרְוֹשׁ וַיֹּאמֶר לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה

מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי-זֶה הוּא אֲשֶׁר-מְלָאוּ לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן:

6 וַתֹּאמֶר-אֶסְתֵּר אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב הָמָן הָרַע הַזֶּה וְהָמָן

נִבְלַעַת מִלִּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמַּלְכָּה: