

Hamantaschen or Haman's Hat -- some say his ears . . .

Esther 2:19-23: Esther's cousin, Mordecai, uncovers a plot to assassinate the king. He reports the details to Queen Esther who passes on this information to the king. The plotters are arrested and hanged



<p>כ אין אֶסְתֵּר, מִגֵּדַת מוֹלְדָתָהּ וְאֶת-עַמָּהּ, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה עָלֶיהָ, מֶרְדֵּכָי; וְאֶת-מֵאֲמַר מֶרְדֵּכָי אֶסְתֵּר עָשָׂה, כַּאֲשֶׁר הִיָּתְהָ בְּאִמְנָה אִתּוֹ. {ס}</p>	<p>2: 20 Esther had not yet made known her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her; for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him-- {S}</p>
<p>כא בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם, וּמֶרְדֵּכָי יוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ; קִצְף בִּגְתָן וְתֵרֶשׁ, שְׁנֵי-סְרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, מִשְׁמַרֵי הַסֹּף, וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ לְשַׁלַּח יָד, בַּמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ.</p>	<p>21 in those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those that kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus.</p>

Esther 3:1-15: Later, Xerxes promotes Haman to be his chief councillor. Haman is a descendent of the Amalekites, the traditional enemies of the people of Judah. Mordecai – as a Jew who worships only the one true God – refuses to bow down and honour Haman.

In 474 BC, Haman devises a plan to exterminate all the Jews throughout Babylonia and to confiscate their possessions. Xerxes (who doesn't know about his wife Esther's Jewish origins) agrees to Haman's plan.

Esther 4:1-17: Mordecai urges Queen Esther to beg the king to spare the lives of the Jews.

Esther 5:1-8 : Although it's a capital offence to seek an audience with the king without being summoned, Esther courageously approaches King Xerxes and asks that he and Haman attend a banquet with her the next day.

Esther 5:13-14: Meanwhile, **Haman builds a gallows** intending to get royal permission to hang his enemy, Mordecai.

<p>יג וְכָל-זֶה, אֵינְנוּ שׂוֹה לִי: בְּכָל-עֵת, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי רֹאֶה אֶת-מֶרְדֳּכָי הַיְהוּדִי--יּוֹשֵׁב, בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ.</p>	<p>5:13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.'</p>
<p>יד וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל-אֶהְבִּיו, יַעֲשׂוּ-עֵץ גְּבוּהַ חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה, וּבִבְקָר אָמַר לְמֶלֶךְ וַיִּתְּלוּ אֶת-מֶרְדֳּכָי עָלָיו, וּבֹא-עִם-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-הַמְּשֻׁתָּה שְׂמֵחַ; וַיִּיטֵב הַדָּבָר לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיַּעַשׂ הָעֵץ. {ס}</p>	<p>14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him: 'Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and in the morning 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. {S}</p>

Esther 6:1-14: That evening, when reading through the royal chronicles, Xerxes is reminded that he has not yet rewarded Mordecai **for exposing the assassination attempt**. Consequently, the next morning, Mordecai is rewarded for his loyalty. Haman is ordered to dress Mordecai in a royal robe and parade him through the streets of Susa on one of the kings' horses.

<p>א בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא, נִדְדָה שְׁנַת הַמֶּלֶךְ; וַיֹּאמֶר, לְהַבִּיא אֶת-סֵפֶר הַזְּכוֹרוֹת דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים, וַיְהִיו נִקְרָאִים, לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ.</p>	<p>6:1 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.</p>
<p>ב וַיִּמְצָא כְּתוּב, אֲשֶׁר הֶגִיד מֶרְדֳּכָי עַל-בְּגַתְנָא וְתִרְשׁ שְׁנֵי סְרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ--מִשְׁמָרֵי, הַסֹּף: אֲשֶׁר בִּקְשׂוּ לְשַׁלַּח יָד, בַּמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרוּשׁ.</p>	<p>2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, of those that kept the door, who had sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus.</p>
<p>ג וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ--מֵה-נַעֲשֶׂה יָקָר וְגִדּוּלָה לְמֶרְדֳּכָי, עַל-זֶה; וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, מִשְׁרָתָיו, לֹא-נַעֲשֶׂה עִמּוֹ, דָּבָר.</p>	<p>3 And the king said: 'What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?' Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him: 'There is nothing done for him.'</p>
<p>ד וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, מִי בְּחֻצֵר; וְהַמֶּן בָּא, לְחֻצֵר בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ הַחִיצוֹנָה, לֵאמֹר לְמֶלֶךְ, לְתִלּוֹת אֶת-מֶרְדֳּכָי עַל-הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר-הֵכִין לוֹ.</p>	<p>4 And the king said: 'Who is in the court?'-- Now Haman was come into the outer court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.--</p>

<p>ה וַיֹּאמְרוּ נְעָרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֵלָיו--הֲנֵה הַמֶּן, עֹמֵד בְּחֹצֵר; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, יָבוֹא.</p>	<p>5 And the king's servants said unto him: 'Behold, Haman standeth in the court.' And the king said: 'Let him come in.'</p>
<p>ו וַיָּבֹא, הַמֶּן, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ, מֵה-לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּן, בְּלִבּוֹ, לְמִי יִחְפֹּץ הַמֶּלֶךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת יָקָר, יוֹתֵר מִמֶּנִּי.</p>	<p>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 said in his heart: 'Whom would the king delight to honour besides myself?'--</p>

Esther 7:1-10: At the banquet, Esther pleads for the king's mercy for herself, a Jew, and all her people. Xerxes grants her request. *Haman's evil intentions are exposed, and he is executed on the gallows he had erected to destroy Mordecai. (*Measure for Measure).*

<p>ח וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁב מִגִּנַּת הַבַּיִתוֹ אֶל-בֵּית מִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן, וְהַמֶּן נָפַל עַל-הַמִּטָּה אֲשֶׁר אָסְתָּר עָלֶיהָ, וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, הֲגַם לְכַבּוֹשׁ אֶת-הַמְּלָכָה עִמִּי בַּבַּיִת; הֲדָבָר, יֵצֵא מִפִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וּפְנֵי הַמֶּן, חָפּוּ.</p>	<p>7: 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the couch whereon Esther was. Then said the king: 'Will he even force the queen before me in the house?' As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.</p>
<p>ט וַיֹּאמֶר חַרְבוּנָה אֶחָד מִן-הַסְּרִיסִים לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, גַּם הֲנֵה-הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה הַמֶּן לְמֹרְדֵכָי אֲשֶׁר דָּבַר-טוֹב עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ עֹמֵד בַּבַּיִת הַמֶּן--גְּבוּהָ, חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, תִּלְהֶוּ עָלָיו.</p>	<p>9 Then said Harbonah, one of the chamberlains that were before the king: 'Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman hath made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman.' And the king said: 'Hang him thereon.'</p>
<p>י וַיִּתְלוּ, אֶת-הַמֶּן, עַל-הָעֵץ, אֲשֶׁר-הֵכִין לְמֹרְדֵכָי; וַחֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ, שָׁכְחָה. {ס}</p>	<p>10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath assuaged. {S}</p>

Esther 8:1-17: Haman's estates are given to Queen Esther, and Mordecai is appointed as her chief administrator. Xerxes issues another royal edict giving Jews in the Persian Empire the right to bear arms and protect themselves.

Esther 9:1-17: When the day originally appointed for the extermination of the Jews arrives (the thirteenth of Adar – the twelfth month of the Jewish calendar – in 473 BC) the Jews are able to defend themselves and destroy their enemies. The next day they celebrate with a joyful feast.

Esther 9:18-32: The fourteenth and fifteenth of Adar become days of celebration on the Jewish calendar – the festival of Purim.

Esther 10:1-3: Mordecai is promoted to become King Xerxes' chief advisor.