

----- Esther-Mordecai -----

3484c AM, 4194 JP, 520 BC

1015. Mordecai, the Jew, in the Greek edition of Esther {#/ Apc Est 11:1-12}, is said to have had a dream on the first day of the month of Nisan, in the second year of the reign of Artaxerxes the Great (or Ahasuerus or Darius, the son of Hystaspes) concerning a river signifying Esther and two dragons portending himself and Haman. {#/ Apc Est 10:4-13} [L159] [E111]

3486 AM, 4196 JP, 518 BC

1028. After this half-year long banquet was over, there followed another one lasting seven days. Everyone in Susa was invited. The men were sitting with the king in the court of the garden of the king's house, and the women were within the palace itself with Vashti, the queen, who was Atossa, the daughter of Cyrus. {#Es 1:5-9}

1029. On the last day of this feast, the king, being somewhat drunk, wanted to show off the beauty of his queen to the men, and sent for her to come to him. She refused, and Darius divorced her on the advice of Memucan, one of the seven wise men of the Medes and Persians, who knew the laws and statutes of those countries. For these were the king's

judges, who judged in all matters arising among the Persians and revealed all cases in point of law. {*Herodotus, l. 3. c. 14. 2:17-21} {*Herodotus, l. 3. c. 31. 2:41} {*Plutarch, Artaxerxes, l. 1. c. 29. s. 4. 11:199} After this, they made a law that every man should be master in his own house. {#Es 1:10-22}

1030. Consequently, a search was made for all the fair damsels that were to be found in the empire, to find a new queen for the king, to replace Vashti. Among the ones selected was Hadassah, a damsel of the Jews, who was also called Esther, a woman of Benjamin. {#Es 2:1-8}

3490a AM, 4199 JP, 515 BC

1035. When Esther's turn came to be brought before king Ahasuerus, she was brought from the house of the women to the king's chamber by Hegai, the eunuch. {#Es 2:12,15} {*Herodotus, l. 3. c. 69. 2:91}

"The women in Persia come round in their turns, to their husband's beds."

1036. In the seventh year of Ahasuerus' reign, in the tenth month called Tebeth, when Esther came to the king, she found grace and won his favour and approval more than all

the other maidens. He put the crown of the kingdom upon her head and made her queen in Vashti's stead. {#Es 2:16,17} From this I gather that as Vashti was Atossa, so Esther was the one Herodotus called the virgin, Artystone. He said that Darius loved her more than all his wives, and made a solid gold statue of her. {*Herodotus, l. 3. c. 88. 2:117} {*Herodotus, l. 7. c. 69. 3:383} Hadassah was another name given to Esther and sounds much like Atossa. Herodotus makes Artystone to have been Cyrus' daughter and Atossa's sister. We do not know whether Herodotus was not so well skilled in the Persian genealogies, or whether the Persians themselves, out of sheer envy, concealed the name of Esther.

3494b AM, 4204 JP, 510 BC

1039. Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, of the tribe of the Amalekites, hated the Jew Mordecai because he would not fall down and adore him as others did. He resolved on his account to take revenge on all the Jewish nation (which had always been at odds with his country {#De 25:19}) and to destroy it. To establish a good time to do this, he cast pur that is, lots, before him on the first month called Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus. The lot fell on the twelfth month of Adar. {#Es 3:1-7}

1040. For vacuous reasons, he offered Ahasuerus ten thousand talents of silver, (which the king would not accept), and obtained a grant from him to destroy the Jews. {#Es 3:7-11}

1041. On the thirteenth day of the first month, the king's edict was proclaimed in Susa, and copies of it were dispatched by couriers into all the provinces of the empire. On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month of Adar, all Jews without regard to sex or age were to be killed. {#Es 3:12-15} When it was announced, Mordecai, Esther and all the Jews humbled themselves before the Lord in fasting and prayer. {#Es 4:1-17} To this day, their posterity, in memory of this, observe a solemn fast on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, which they call Esther's fast.

1042. Esther went to the king in gorgeous apparel and was graciously received by him. She invited the king to a banquet. Meanwhile, Haman was busy having a gallows made for Mordecai. {#Es 5:1-14}

1043. One night, when Ahasuerus could not sleep, he had the records read to him. It was found that two of his servants, Bigthan and Teresh his doorkeepers, had plotted his death and that Mordecai had revealed this conspiracy to him. Thereupon, he ordered that Mordecai should be highly

honoured publicly by none other than Haman himself. {#Es 6:1-14} [E114]

1044. Shortly after this, Haman was hung on the gallows he had made for Mordecai. {#Es 7:1-10} Haman's house was given to the queen. Mordecai, her uncle, who had raised her, had great honours bestowed upon him. {#Es 8:1,2,15-17}

1045. On the twenty-third day of the month of Sivan there was an edict proclaimed at Susa, and copies of it were sent away speedily by couriers into the hundred and twenty-seven provinces. It stated that the Jews, on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, which was the day appointed for their massacre, could defend themselves and could kill any who had wanted to kill them. They could keep the spoil of any man killed. In Susa and in all the provinces there was great rejoicing among the Jews, and people in various countries became Jews. {#Es 8:9-17}

33495b AM, 4205 JP, 509 BC

1047. On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month of Adar, the Jews killed all those who intended to kill them according to Haman's decree. In Susa and the palace, they killed five hundred men together with Haman's ten sons. In the rest of

the provinces, they killed seventy-five thousand men, but did not touch one penny of their goods. {#Es 9:1-16} [L163]

1048. On the fourteenth day of the same month, the Jews in the provinces stopped killing their enemies and had a feast, but at Susa the Jews were granted one more day of vengeance by the king. They killed a further three hundred of their enemies and hung the bodies of Haman's ten sons on the gallows. {#Es 9:13-19}

1049. On the fifteenth day, the Jews who lived in Susa made merry and feasted. {#Es 9:18}

1050. Mordecai began the custom of keeping a holiday in remembrance of Purim on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar. This was established by Esther, {#Es 9:23-30} and is now the Jewish Shrovetide, when they read the history of Esther. As often as the name of Haman is read, they rap and make a noise with their hands or mallets on the desks in their synagogues.