

¹وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ لَبِسَتْ أَسْتِيرُ ثِيَابًا مَلَكِيَّةً وَوَقَعَتْ فِي دَارِ بَيْتِ الْمَلِكِ الدَّاخِلِيَّةِ مُقَابِلَ بَيْتِ الْمَلِكِ، وَالْمَلِكُ جَالِسٌ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّ مُلْكِهِ فِي بَيْتِ الْمَلِكِ مُقَابِلَ مَدْخَلِ الْبَيْتِ. ²فَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمَلِكُ أَسْتِيرَ الْمَلِكَةَ وَافِقَةً فِي الدَّارِ تَالَتْ نِعْمَةً فِي عَيْنَيْهِ، فَمَدَّ الْمَلِكُ لَأَسْتِيرَ قَضِيبَ الذَّهَبِ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ، فَدَنَتْ أَسْتِيرُ وَلَمَسَتْ رَأْسَ الْقَضِيبِ. ³فَقَالَ لَهَا الْمَلِكُ، مَا لَكَ يَا أَسْتِيرُ الْمَلِكَةُ وَمَا هِيَ طَلِبَتُكَ. إِلَى نِصْفِ الْمَهْلَكَةِ تُعْطَى لَكَ. ⁴فَقَالَتْ أَسْتِيرُ، إِنَّ حَسَنَ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ فَلَيَاتِ الْمَلِكُ وَهَامَانُ الْيَوْمَ إِلَى الْوَلِيمَةِ الَّتِي عَمِلْتُهَا لَهُ. ⁵فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، أَسْرِعُوا بِهِمَا إِلَى الْوَلِيمَةِ الَّتِي عَمِلْتُهَا أَسْتِيرُ. فَأَتَى الْمَلِكُ وَهَامَانُ إِلَى الْوَلِيمَةِ الَّتِي عَمِلْتُهَا أَسْتِيرُ. ⁶فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لَأَسْتِيرَ عِنْدَ شُرْبِ الْخَمْرِ، مَا هُوَ سُؤْلُكَ فَيُعْطَى لَكَ، وَمَا هِيَ طَلِبَتُكَ. إِلَى نِصْفِ الْمَهْلَكَةِ تُقْضَى. ⁷فَأَجَابَتْ أَسْتِيرُ، إِنَّ سُؤْلِي وَطَلِبَتِي، ⁸إِنْ وَجَدْتُ نِعْمَةً فِي عَيْنَيْ الْمَلِكِ وَإِذَا حُسِنَ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ أَنْ يُعْطَى سُؤْلِي وَيُقْضَى طَلِبَتِي، أَنْ يَأْتِيَ الْمَلِكُ وَهَامَانُ إِلَى الْوَلِيمَةِ الَّتِي أَعْمَلْتُهَا لَهُمَا، وَعَدًا أَفْعَلُ حَسَبَ أَمْرِ الْمَلِكِ. ⁹فَخَرَجَ هَامَانُ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ قَرِحًا وَطَلِبَ الْقَلْبِ. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا رَأَى هَامَانُ مُرَدَّخَايَ فِي بَابِ الْمَلِكِ وَلَمْ يَقُمْ وَلَا تَحَرَكَ لَهُ، امْتَلَأَ هَامَانُ غَيْظًا عَلَى مُرَدَّخَايَ. ¹⁰وَتَجَلَّدَ هَامَانُ وَدَخَلَ بَيْتَهُ وَأَرْسَلَ فَاسْتَحْضَرَ أَجْبَاءَهُ وَرَرَشَ رَوْحَتَهُ، ¹¹وَعَدَّدَ لَهُمْ هَامَانُ عَظْمَةً غِنَاهُ وَكَثْرَةَ بَيْتِهِ، وَكُلَّ مَا عَظَّمَهُ الْمَلِكُ بِهِ وَرَفَّاهُ عَلَى الرُّؤَسَاءِ وَعَبِيدِ الْمَلِكِ. ¹²وَقَالَ هَامَانُ، حَتَّى إِنْ أَسْتِيرَ الْمَلِكَةَ لَمْ تُدْخَلْ مَعَ الْمَلِكِ إِلَى الْوَلِيمَةِ الَّتِي عَمِلْتُهَا إِلَّا إِنِّي. وَأَنَا عَدَا أَيْضًا مَدْعُوٌّ إِلَيْهَا مَعَ الْمَلِكِ. ¹³وَكُلُّ هَذَا لَا يُسَاوِي عِنْدِي شَيْئًا كُلَّمَا أَرَى مُرَدَّخَايَ الْيَهُودِيَّ جَالِسًا فِي بَابِ الْمَلِكِ. ¹⁴فَقَالَتْ لَهُ رَرَشُ رَوْحَتِهِ وَكُلَّ أَجْبَائِهِ، فَلْيَعْمَلُوا حَسَبَةَ ارْتِفَاعِهَا خَمْسُونَ ذِرَاعًا، وَفِي الصَّبَاحِ قُلْ لِلْمَلِكِ أَنْ يَصِلُوا مُرَدَّخَايَ عَلَيْهَا، ثُمَّ ادْخُلْ مَعَ الْمَلِكِ إِلَى الْوَلِيمَةِ قَرِحًا. فَحَسَنَ الْكَلَامُ عِنْدَ هَامَانَ وَعَمِلَ الْحَسْبَةَ.

¹Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. ²And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. ³Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom. ⁴And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him. ⁵Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. ⁶And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. ⁷Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is; ⁸If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said. ⁹Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of

indignation against
Mordecai.¹⁰ Nevertheless Haman refrained
himself: and when he came home, he sent
and called for his friends, and Zeresh his
wife.¹¹ And Haman told them of the glory of
his riches, and the multitude of his
children, and all the things wherein the
king had promoted him, and how he had
advanced him above the princes and
servants of the king.¹² Haman said
moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no
man come in with the king unto the
banquet that she had prepared but myself;
and to morrow am I invited unto her also
with the king.¹³ Yet all this availeth me
nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew
sitting at the king's gate.¹⁴ Then said
Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto
him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits
high, and to morrow 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.