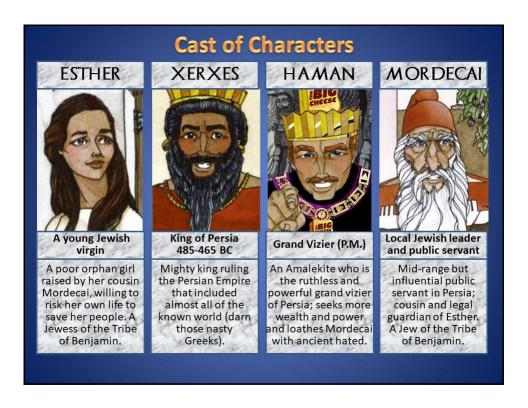
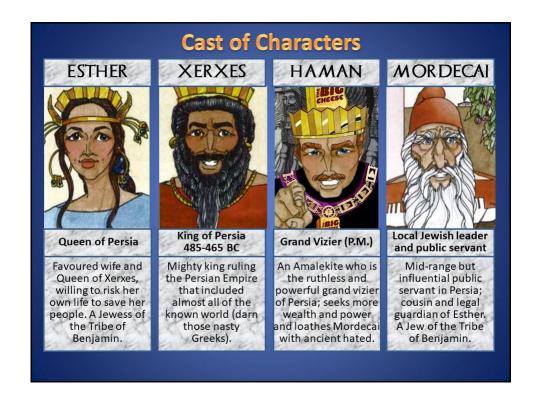


Introduction

- One of two Bible books named for women, many have questioned why this book is in the Bible, including Luther and Calvin. After all:
 - It doesn't mention God or the Messiah;
 - It doesn't mention faith or worship;
 - It doesn't mention anything "religious";
 - There's no uplifting "moral of the story";
 - It's just a love story wrapped inside a palace intrigue set in ancient times, something for Barbara Cartland fans.





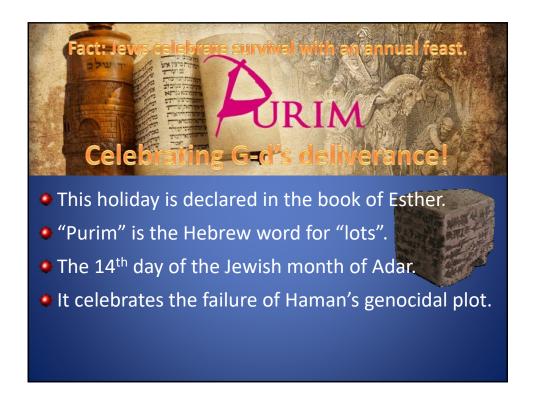
Plot Summary

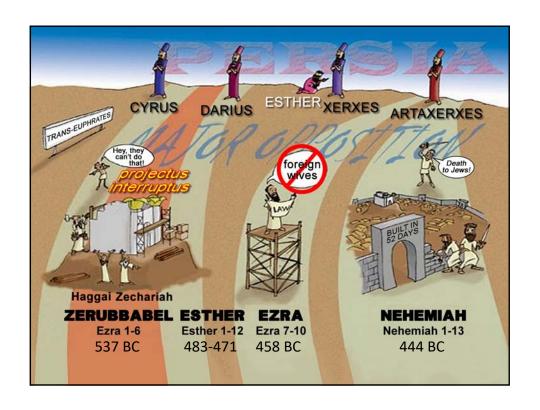
- Babylon falls to the Medes and Persians and the Exile is over, but few Jews want the hard yakka of a return to Jerusalem.
- Persian ruler (Ahasuerus) Xerxes plans to conquer Greece. To show his greatness, he asks Queen Vashti to dance for his drunk generals, but she tweets #metoo, so he sacks her.
- Years later, a beauty contest is held to replace Vashti, and a young woman hiding her Jewish background miraculously wins and becomes the No. 1 wife (queen).
- P.M. Haman (boo) orders all to bow to him; Esther's guardian Mordecai refuses. Evil Haman devises a plan to kill all Jews.
- Mordecai learns of the plot and informs Esther.
- Esther outwits Haman and informs the king.
- Outraged, the king executes Haman but rules are rules, he can't undo his order to kill all Jews. So sorry.
- But all is not lost; through her cleverness the Jews are saved.

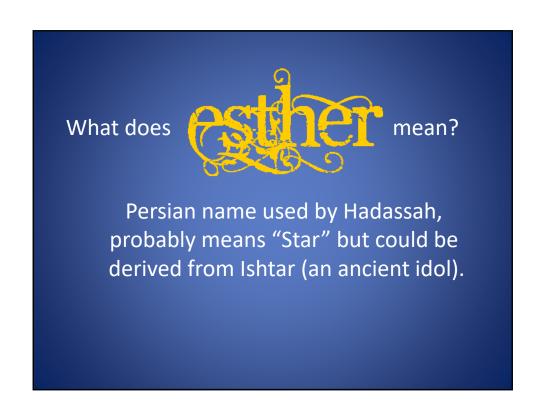
Is Esther
even a
true story?

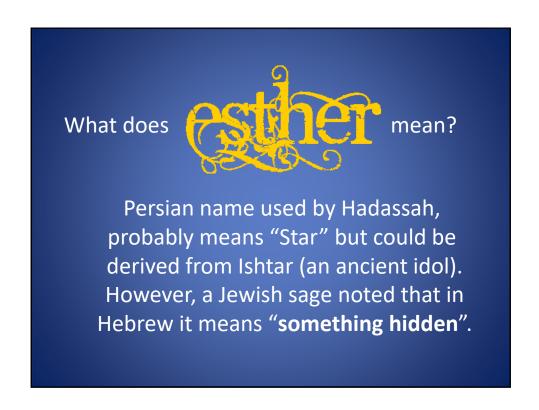
What we know

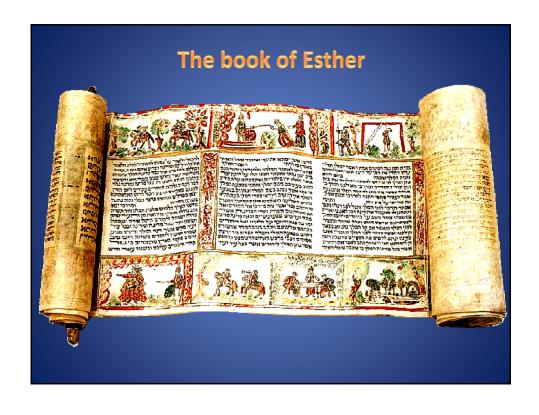
The book of Esther is the best attested book in the Bible with the most secular evidence.

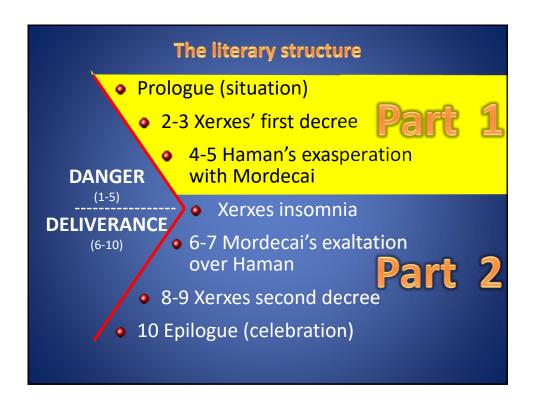












Esther 6 – Just Deserts

¹That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. ² And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ³Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?"

And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

⁴ So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

⁵The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

⁶ So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?"

Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" ⁷ And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, ⁸ let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. ⁹ Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

¹⁰ Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

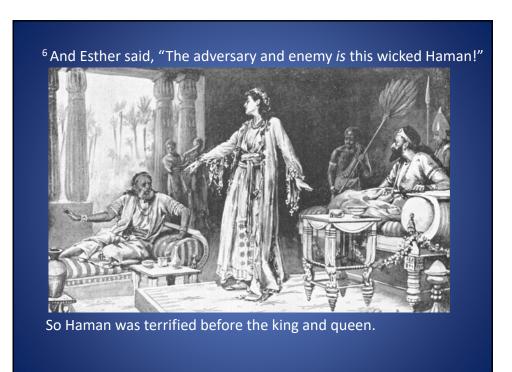
- ¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"
- ¹² Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.
- ¹³ When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."
- ¹⁴ While they *were* still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

Esther 7 - Haman's Comeuppance

¹ So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. ² And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What *is* your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what *is* your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

³ Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

⁵ So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"



⁷Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. ⁸ When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the gueen while I am in the house?"

As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

9 Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look!
The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman."

Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

Esther 8 – Esther Saves the Jews

¹ On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he *was related* to her. ² So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³ Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.

⁴ And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, ⁵ and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

⁶ For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?"

⁷Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he *tried to* lay his hand on the Jews.

⁸ You yourselves write *a decree* concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal *it* with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."



⁹ So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which *is* the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third *day;* and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces *in all,* to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language. ¹⁰ And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed *it* with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds.

¹¹ By these letters the king permitted the Jews who *were* in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, *both* little children and women, and to plunder their possessions, ¹² on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which *is* the month of Adar.

¹³ A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. ¹⁴ The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.

¹⁵ So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. ¹⁶ The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor. ¹⁷ And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Esther 9 – Revenge of the Jewss

¹ Now in the twelfth month, that *is*, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, *the time* came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them. ² The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm.

And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people. ³ And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. ⁴ For Mordecai *was* great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent. ⁵ Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.

⁶ And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.

- ⁷ Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,
- ⁸ Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,
- ⁹ Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha—



¹⁰ the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews—they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

- ¹¹On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king.
- ¹² And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what *is* your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what *is* your further request? It shall be done."
- ¹³ Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who *are* in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

- ¹⁴ So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.
- ¹⁵ And the Jews who *were* in Shushan gathered together again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.
- ¹⁶ The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. ¹⁷ This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- ¹⁸ But the Jews who *were* at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth *day*, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of *the month* they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

- ¹⁹ Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar *with* gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.
- ²⁰ And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who *were* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, ²¹ to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar, ²² as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.
- ²³ So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them, ²⁴ because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that *is*, the lot), to consume them and destroy them; . . .

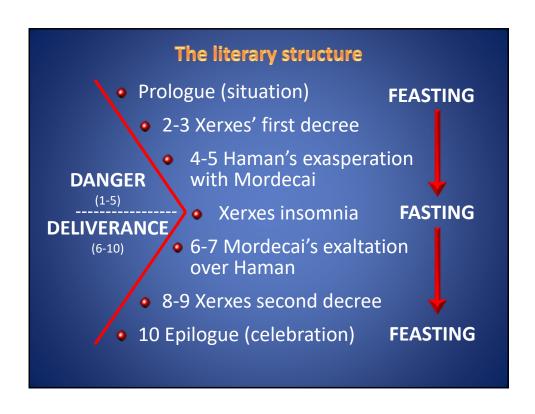
²⁵ but when *Esther* came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which *Haman* had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

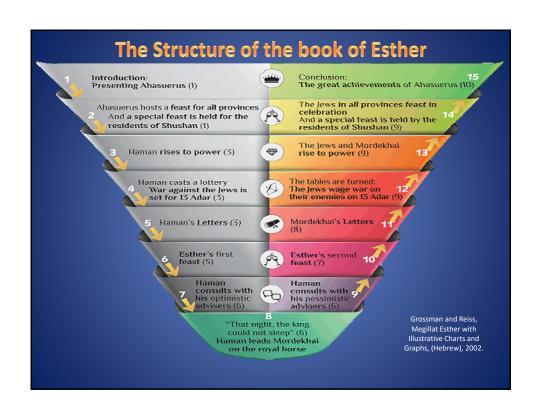
²⁶ So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them, ²⁷ the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written *instructions* and according to the *prescribed* time, ²⁸ that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.

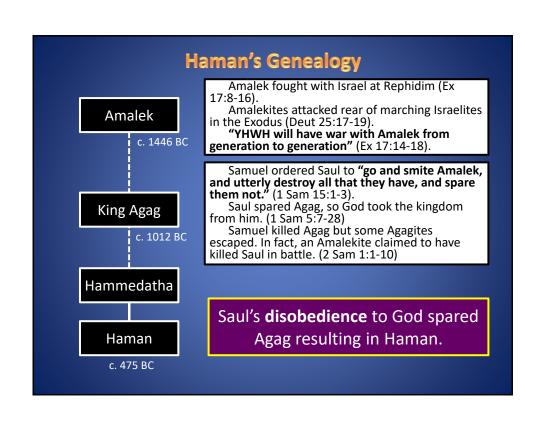
²⁹ Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. ³⁰ And *Mordecai* sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, ³¹ to confirm these days of Purim at their appointed time, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had prescribed for them, and as they had decreed for themselves and their descendants concerning matters of their fasting and lamenting. ³² So the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

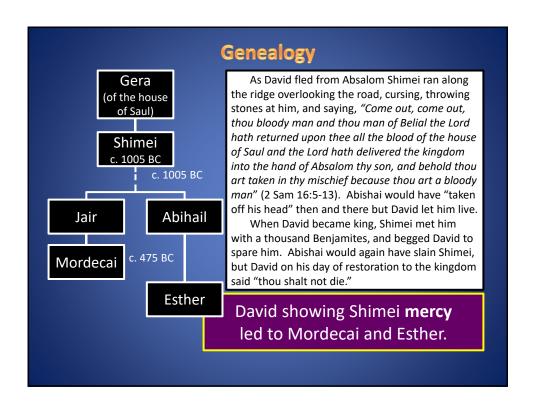
10 ¹And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and *on* the islands of the sea. ² Now all the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? ³ For Mordecai the Jew *was* second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

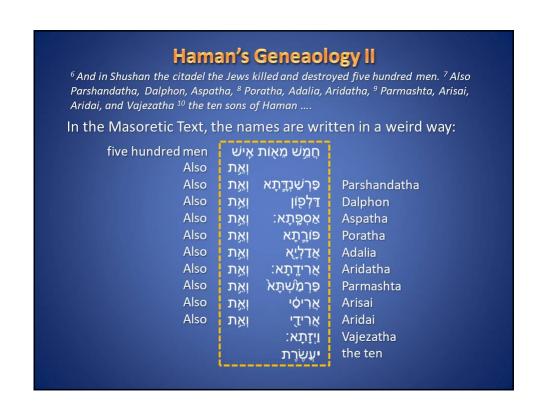


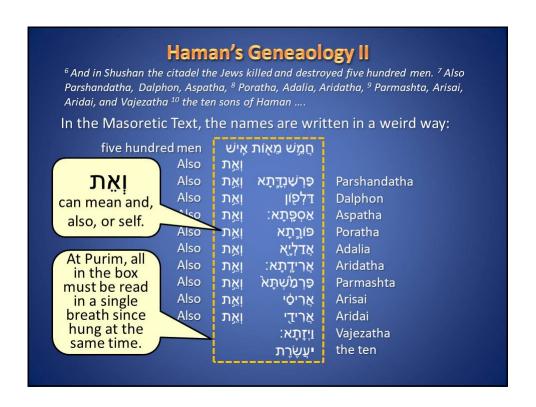




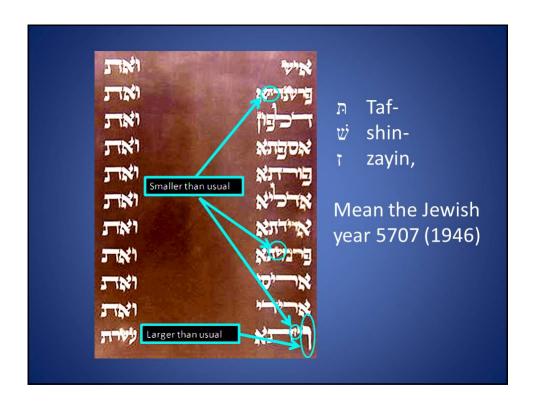








Haman		
_Parshandatha	Curious Self	Busy-body
_Dalphon	Dripping Self	Self-pity
_Aspatha	Gathered Self	Self-sufficient
_Poratha	Ornament Self	Spendthrift; self indulgent
_Adalia	Weak Self	Self-conscious; neurotic
_Aridatha	Strong (lion) Self	Assertive; going own way
_Parmashta	Superior Self	Pre-eminent; strong-fist
_Arisai	Bold Self	Imprudent; rude
_Aridai	Strong Self	Prideful; haughty; superio
_Vaizatha	Pure Self	Self-righteousness





A Strange Request – Esther 9:13

12And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done." 13 Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews in Shushan to do again tomorrow (תְּהָ, mā-khar) according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

Per the Rabbi's, "There is a tomorrow that is now, and a tomorrow which is later."

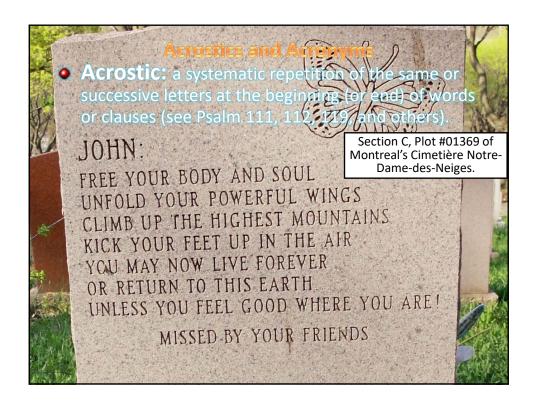
Xerxes could not make such a promise, so Esther was asking God to ensure that this was not isolated, but for justice in future, too.

When Xerxes is not named, "the King" refers to God!

BUT ACTUALLY THE NAME OF GOD IS MENTIONED THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF ESTHER...

BUT ACTUALLY THE NAME OF GOD IS MENTIONED THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF ESTHER...
IT'S JUST HIDDEN!

BUT ACTUALLY THE NAME OF GOD IS MENTIONED THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF ESTHER...
IT'S JUST HIDDEN!
IN PLAIN SIGHT!



Acrostics and Acronyms

 Acronym: an acrostic, usually employed for mnemonic (memory) purposes.

> TeleVision; Attention Deficit Disorder RAdio Detection And Ranging; Department of Veterans Affairs; Closed Circuit TeleVision; RBT; PBS; Australian Tax Office; NSW; NZ Australian Broadcasting Corporation; Australian Labor Party; NRL; AFL;



The First Acrostic

The first acrostic appears at the conclusion of Memucan's counsel regarding the disposition of Queen Vashti, in verse 1:20, as is shown below:



(Remember, Hebrew goes from right to left.)
It is formed by *initial* letters, for the event was *initial*;
but the name is spelled *backward* because God
was *turning back* the counsels of man.

The Second Acrostic

The second acrostic occurs when Esther invites the king and Haman to a banquet, in verse 5:4, and is shown next:



Initial letters: God was initiating the action; Forward: God was ruling and causing Esther to act.

The Third Acrostic

The third acrostic occurs with Haman's gloating, in verse 5:13, and is shown below:



Final letters: Haman's end was approaching; Backwards: God was overruling Haman's gladness and turning back Haman's counsel.

The Fourth Acrostic

This fourth one, in verse 7:7, like the third is formed by the *final* letters, for Haman's *end* had come.

פִּי־כַלְתָה אֵלְיו הָרֶעָה יהוה

But it is spelled *forward* like the first, for God was *ruling* and bringing about the end He had determined.

A Fifth Acrostic

There is still another acrostic, in verse 7:5, which does not spell YHWH ("Yahweh") but rather the remarkable THYH ("I AM"):



"I AM" = K777 (hayah)
Exodus 3:14

It is formed by final letters, and the name is spelled backward.

Each of these four acrostics (YHV	WH) involves a different speaker:		
1. Memucan (Gentile)	<u>Initial</u> <u>Final</u> 1:20		
2. Esther (Jew)	5:4		
3. Haman (Gentile)	5:13		
4. By the writer (Jew)	7:7		
• 1) Initial	• 1) Backward		
• 2) Initial	• 2) Forward		
• 3) Final	• 3) Backward		
• 4) Final	• 4) Forward		
Initial: facts are initial	Backward: Gentiles		
Final: facts are final.	Forward: Israelites		

1.20	5.4	5.13	7.7	7.5
DUE RESPECT OUR LADIES SHALL GIVE TO THEIR HUSBANDS, BOTH GREAT AND SMALL	LET OUR ROYAL DINNER THIS DAY BE GRACED BY KING AND HAMAN	YET AM SAD FOR NO AVAIL IS ALL THIS TO ME	FOR HE SAW THAT THERE WAS EVIL TO FEAR DETERMINED AGAINST HIM BY THE KING	WHERE DWELLETH THE ENEMY THAT DARETH PRESUME IN HIS HEART TO DO THIS THING
HVHY BACKWARD Gentile speaks about Queen	YHWH FORWARD Jew speaks about Queen	HVHY BACKWARD Gentile speaks by Haman	YHWH FORWARD Jew writes about Haman	EHYH (גְּהָבֶּה) BACKWARD Gentile speaks Against Haman



Equidistant Letter Sequence?

Rips explained that each code is a case of adding every fourth letter to form a word.

Read the code

