

her [bodily] rubbings) which were prescribed for the nashim and which involved shneyim asar chodesh (twelve months), shisha chodashim (six months) of shemen (oil) of myrrh and shisha chodashim (six months) of perfumes and beauty treatments for nashim.

|13| Then thus came every na'arah unto HaMelech; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the Bais HaNashim unto the Beis HaMelech.

|14| Ba'erev (in the evening) she went, and ba'boker (in the morning) she returned to a Bais HaNashim Sheni (a second House of the Women, Harem) to the custody of Shaashgaz, Saris HaMelech, Shomer HaPilagshim (Eunuch of the King, Custodian of the Concubines). She came in unto HaMelech no more, except HaMelech delighted in her, and she were summoned b'shem (by name).

|15| Now when the turn of Ester bat Avichayil, dod Mordechai, who had adopted her as his bat, was come to go in unto HaMelech, she required nothing but what Hegai, Saris HaMelech, the Shomer HaNashim, suggested. And Ester took up chen (favor, grace) in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

|16| So Ester was taken unto HaMelech Achashverosh into his Bais Malkhut (royal residence) in the chodesh ha'asiri (tenth month), which is the month Tevet, in the shnat sheva (seventh year) of his reign.

|17| And HaMelech loved Ester mikol hanashim (more than all the women), and she took up chen vachessed (favor and grace) in his sight more than kol habetulot (all the virgins), so that he set the keter malkhut (royal crown)

upon her head, and made her Malkah instead of Vashti.

|18| Then HaMelech gave a mishteh gadol (great feast) unto all his sarim (nobles) and his avadim (servants, officials), even Mishteh Ester; and he decreed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts according to the [*bountiful*] yad HaMelech.

|19| And when the betulot (virgins) were gathered together again, then Mordechai yoshev b'Sha'ar HaMelech (sat in the King's Gate).

|20| Ester had not yet revealed her moledet (kindred) nor her Am (people, *i.e.*, *the Jewish people*) as Mordechai had charged her; for Ester did the commandment of Mordechai, like as when she was brought up with him.

|21| In those yamim, while Mordechai yoshev b'Sha'ar HaMelech, two of the Sarisim of HaMelech, Bigtan and Teresh, of the Mishomrei HaSaf (Keepers of the Door, Doorkeepers), were angry, and conspired to assassinate HaMelech Achashverosh.

|22| And Mordechai came to da'as of the plot, and told it unto Ester HaMalkah; and Ester informed HaMelech thereof b'shem Mordechai.

|23| And when inquiry was made of the matter, it was found true; therefore the two of them were made talui al etz (hanged on a tree), and it was written in the sefer of the divrei hayamim before HaMelech.

3 After these things did HaMelech Achashverosh promote Haman ben Hamdata the Agagi [*Num 24:7*], and advanced him, and set his rank above all the other sarim (nobles).

|2| And all the avadim of HaMelech, that were in the Sha'ar HaMelech,

bowed, and paid homage to Haman, for HaMelech had so commanded concerning him. But Mordechai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

|3| Then avadim of HaMelech, which were in the Sha'ar HaMelech, said unto Mordechai, Why transgressesst thou the mitzvot HaMelech?

|4| Now it came to pass, when they spoke yom vayom unto him, and his was a lo shema (not listen) unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordechai's behavior would be tolerated; for he had told them that hu Yehudi (he was a Jew).

|5| And when Haman saw that Mordechai ein korei'a (bowed not), nor to him mishtachaveh (would prostrate, worship [*Devarim 5:9*]), then was Haman full of chemah (wrath).

|6| And he scorned to lay hands on Mordechai alone; since they had told him the Am Mordechai; therefore Haman sought to make shmad of kol haYehudim that were throughout the kol Malkhut Achashverosh, even the Am Mordechai.

|7| In the chodesh harishon (first month), that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of HaMelech Achashverosh, they cast Pur, that is, the goral (lot), before Haman miyom l'yom (from day to day, every day), and me'chodesh l'chodesh (from month to month, every month) until the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

|8| And Haman said unto HaMelech Achashverosh, There is Am Echad scattered abroad and dispersed among the amim in all the provinces of thy malkhut (kingdom, realm); and their dat (law) is different from kol am; neither