

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

v92

Esther

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

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Table of Contents

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions **4**
Esther 4
Esther 1 4
Esther 2 10
Esther 3 15
Esther 4 18
Esther 5 21
Esther 6 24
Esther 7 27
Esther 8 29
Esther 9 33
Esther 10 37

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

Esther

Esther 1

Esther 1:1

ULT	UST
Now it happened in the days of Ahasuerus (he was Ahasuerus, the one who ruled from India even as far as Ethiopia, 127 provinces);	*This is the story of something that happened during the time that a king named Ahasuerus ruled the land of Persia. The empire of this King Ahasuerus had 127 provinces and included all of the territory between India in the east and Ethiopia in the west.*

Over how much territory did Ahasuerus reign?

Ahasuerus ruled from India even as far as Ethiopia, 127 provinces.

Esther 1:3

ULT	UST
in year three of his reign, he made a feast for all his officials and his administrators, the army of Persia and Media, the noblemen, and the officials of the provinces before his face,	*During the third year that Ahasuerus ruled his empire, he hosted a feast for all of his officials and for every important person who worked for him. He also invited the officers who served in the combined army of the kingdoms of Persia and Media, the wealthy landowners, and the officials of the provinces. The king was present in person to host the feast.*

Who was in the king's presence?

The officials of the provinces were "before his face," meaning that they were in the king's presence.

Esther 1:5

ULT	UST
And when those days were fulfilled, the king made a feast for all the people who were found in Susa the citadel, from the greatest even to the least, for seven days, in the courtyard of the garden of the palace of the king.	*At the end of those six months, after that feast was over, the king hosted a second feast. This feast was for all of the people in the royal stronghold in Susa, including both rich and poor. He held this feast in the courtyard of his palace garden. It lasted for a whole week.*

For whom did the king give the feast that lasted seven days?

The king made a feast for all the people who were found in Susa the citadel, from the greatest even to the least.

Esther 1:7

ULT	UST
And the serving was in vessels of gold, with vessels differing from other vessels, and the wine of royalty was abundant according to the hand of the king.	*The attendants served wine in golden cups. The king was so rich that he had a great many of these cups, and no two of them were alike. The king had the attendants serve great amounts of his own royal wine to the guests.*

Why was there much royal wine?

The wine of royalty was abundant according to the hand of the king. And the drinking was according to the law, “There is no compulsion.”

Esther 1:8

ULT	UST
And the drinking was according to the law “There is no compulsion,” for thus the king had established for every overseer of his house to do according to the desire of man by man.	*Ahasuerus gave his guests a special privilege. He made the attendants who served the wine follow this rule: “No one has to drink if they do not want to.” All the guests could drink as little or as much as they wanted.*

What were the king’s orders to all the overseers of his palace?

And the drinking was according to the law, “There is no compulsion,” for thus the king had established for every overseer of his house, to do according to the desire of man by man.

Esther 1:10

ULT	UST
On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was pleased by the wine, he said to Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas (the seven eunuchs who served before the face of the king Ahasuerus),	*On the seventh day, when King Ahasuerus was feeling good from drinking wine, he called the seven castrated guardians who served him personally. (Their names were Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Karkas.)*

What did the king tell the seven officials who served before him?

To bring Vashti the queen before the king in a crown of royalty in order to show the people and the officials her beauty.

Esther 1:11

ULT	UST
to bring Vashti the queen to the face of the king in a crown of royalty in order to show the people and the officials her beauty, for she was pleasing of appearance.	*Queen Vashti was a very beautiful woman. Ahasuerus wanted the people and officials who served in the royal court to see how beautiful she was. So the king told his seven personal servants to bring Queen Vashti to him. He told them to have her wear her royal crown.*

What did the king tell the seven officials who served before him?

The king said to bring Vashti the queen to the face of the king in a crown of royalty in order to show the people and the officials her beauty.

Esther 1:12

ULT	UST
But the queen Vashti refused to come at the word of the king that was by the hand of the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry, and his rage burned within him.	*But when the guardians came and told Queen Vashti what the king had commanded, she refused to come. The guardians reported this to the king, and the king became very enraged.*

Why did the king become very angry?

The king became very angry because the queen Vashti refused to come at the word of the king that was by the hand of the eunuchs.

Esther 1:13

ULT	UST
Then the king said to the wise men, who were knowers of the times (for thus was the manner of the king before the face of all those who were knowers of law and judgment,	*It was the habit of the king to consult with certain advisors who knew the law and could make good decisions. So he spoke to those advisors, who knew the right way to do things.*

With whom did the king confer?

The king consulted with the wise men, who were knowers of the times.

Esther 1:16

ULT	UST
And Memukan replied before the face of the king and the officials, "Not toward the king alone has Vashti the queen done wrong, but toward all the officials and toward all the peoples who are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.	*Then Memukan answered the king, speaking loud enough that both he and his officials could hear. He said, "Queen Vashti has done wrong, and not only against the king. She has also done wrong against all the officials and people groups in all the provinces that King Ahasuerus rules!*

According to Memucan, against whom did Vashti do wrong?

Vashti the queen did wrong not only toward the king alone, but toward all the officials and toward all the people who were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

Esther 1:17

ULT	UST
For the matter of the queen will go out to all the women in order to make their husbands despised in their eyes when they say, 'The king Ahasuerus said to bring Vashti the queen before his face, but she did not come.'	*This is what will happen. Women all over the empire will hear about what the queen did. They will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded his servants to bring Queen Vashti to him, but she did not come! So if even the queen can disobey the king, why should I have to obey my husband?' Then women will stop respecting their husbands.*

What did Memukan say the women of Persia and Media would do?

Memukan said that what the queen did would become known to all the women in the kingdom of king Ahasuerus and that when the women of the kingdom found out what the queen had done they would despise their own husbands and say, "King Ahasuerus commanded his servants to bring Queen Vashti to him, but she did not come!"

Esther 1:18

ULT	UST
Now this day, the noblewomen of Persia and Media who have heard the matter of the queen will speak to all the officials of the king. And there will be contempt and wrath enough!	*Even today, the leading women of Persia and Media will hear what the queen did. They will start to disobey their husbands, even though they are officials of the king. They will treat them with disrespect, and this will make their husbands angry with them. That will be bad enough by itself, even if the news does not spread any farther.*

What did Memucan say the noble women of Persia and Media would do before the end of that very day?

For the matter of the queen will go out to all the women, in order to make their husbands despised in their eyes when they say, “The king Ahasuerus said to bring Vashti the queen before him, but she did not come.” Now this day, the noblewomen of Persia and Media who have heard the matter of the queen will speak to all the officials of the king; and there will be contempt and wrath enough!

Esther 1:19

ULT	UST
If it is good to the king, let a decree of royalty go out from before his face, and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media (which do not pass away) that Vashti shall never come before the face of the king Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royalty to her female neighbor, the woman who is better than she.	*If it pleases you to do so, O king, you should personally issue a royal decree and have scribes add it to the laws of Persia and Media, which no one can change. This decree should say that Vashti can never come into your presence again. Then you should choose a different woman to be your queen, one who will obey you.*

To whom would the king give Vashti’s position as queen?

The king would give his position to her female neighbor, the woman who is better than she.

Esther 1:22

ULT	UST
And he sent letters to all the provinces of the king, to province by province according to its own writing, and to people by people according to its own tongue: that every man should be ruling in his house and speaking according to the tongue of his people.	*The king sent letters to every province in his empire. He wrote to every province using its own alphabet and to each people group in its own language. The letters said that men should be the masters over their wives and children. They also said that a husband should be able to give orders to his wife in his own native language and that she should understand and obey.*

What did the king order?

The king sent letters that every man should be ruling in his house and speaking according to the tongue of his people.

Esther 2

Esther 2:2

ULT	UST
And the young men of the king who served him said, "Let them seek for the king young women who are virgins and pleasing of appearance.	*So some of the young men who attended the king said to him, "Your majesty, you should get a new wife for yourself. You could tell your servants to look for young virgins who are very beautiful.*

What did the king's young men recommend?

The king's young men recommended that they seek for the king young women who were virgins and pleasing of appearance.

Esther 2:3

ULT	UST
And let the king appoint administrators in all the provinces of his kingdom. Then let them gather every young woman who is a virgin and pleasing of appearance to Susa the citadel, to the house of women into the hand of Hegai (the eunuch of the king who is overseer of the women). Then give their ointments.	*Also, you could assign officers in each province of your empire to bring every virgin who is very beautiful here to your capital city of Susa. They could stay in the harem for virgins under the custody of Hegai, the castrated royal guardian who takes care of the young women who live there. He could arrange for them to receive beauty treatments.*

Under whose care would the virgins be put?

The virgins would be put into the hand of Hegai, the eunuch of the king who is overseer of the women. This means Hegai was the one who was responsible to take care of the virgins.

Esther 2:6

ULT	UST
who had been exiled from Jerusalem with the exiles who had been exiled along with Jeconiah, the king of Judah, who Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled).	*Many years earlier, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken Kish away from Jerusalem and brought him to Babylon along with many other captives. Nebuchadnezzar took them away from Jerusalem at the same time that he took King Jeconiah of Judah away from Jerusalem and brought him to Babylon.*

Who had taken Kish from Jerusalem?

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had taken Kish from Jerusalem.

Esther 2:7

ULT	UST
And he was fostering Hadassah (she is Esther), the daughter of his uncle, because there was not for her a father or a mother. Now the young woman was beautiful of form and pleasing of appearance. And at the death of her father and her mother, Mordecai had taken her for him as a daughter.	*Now Mordecai was taking care of his cousin, who was an orphan. Her Hebrew name was Hadassah, and her Persian name was Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter. Esther was now a young woman, and she was exceptionally attractive.*

What was Esther's other name?

Esther's other name was Hadassah.

How was Esther related to Mordecai?

Esther was the daughter of Mordecai's uncle.

Esther 2:9

ULT	UST
And the young woman was pleasing in his eyes, and she lifted kindness before his face. And he quickly gave her ointments, gave her portions of food, and gave her seven young women chosen from the house of the king. And he transferred her and her young women to the best of the house of women.	*Hegai was very impressed with Esther, and he treated her favorably. He quickly arranged for Esther to receive her beauty treatments and her allotment of food. He also chose seven female servants from the king's palace and assigned them to be her personal attendants. He also moved Esther and her attendants to the best rooms in the harem for virgins.*

With what did Hegai provide Esther?

Hegai quickly gave her ointments, portions of food, and seven young women chosen from the house of the king.

Esther 2:10

ULT	UST
Esther had not declared her people or her ancestry, for Mordecai had laid a charge upon her that she should not tell it.	*Mordecai had warned Esther that she should not tell anyone what people group she was from. So she did not tell anyone that she was a Jew or who her relatives were.*

Why had Esther not told anyone who her people or relatives were?

Esther had not declared her people or her ancestry, for Mordecai had laid a charge upon her that she should not tell it.

Esther 2:13

ULT	UST
Then at this, the young woman would go to the king. Anything that she said would be given to her, to go with her from the house of women to the house of the king.	*This is the way that they would prepare a young woman to go and have sexual relations with the king and become one of his concubines. She could take whatever clothing and jewelry she wanted from the harem for virgins and wear them when she went to the king's palace.*

When a young woman went to the king, what was given to her?

Anything that she said would be given to her.

Esther 2:14

ULT	UST
In the evening she would go, and in the morning she would return to the second house of women, into the hand of Shaashgaz (the eunuch of the king who was overseer of the concubines). She would not go to the king again unless the king had delighted in her and she was called by name.	*The king's servants would bring her to the king's private rooms in the evening. The next morning, they would bring her to the other harem, the one for concubines. There a man named Shaashgaz would take charge of her, because he was the castrated royal guardian who took care of the concubines. The young woman would live there for the rest of her life. She would not go and see the king again unless he asked for her by name because he had enjoyed being with her.*

When would a girl return to the king?

She would not go to the king again unless the king had delighted in her and she was called by name.

Esther 2:15

ULT	UST
Now when the turn of Esther (the daughter of Abihail, the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for him as a daughter) came to go to the king, she did not seek anything except what Hegai (the eunuch of the king who was overseer of the women) said. And Esther was a lifter of favor in the eyes of everyone who saw her.	*Eventually, the evening came when it was the turn for Esther, whom Mordecai had adopted as his daughter, to go to the king. She was the daughter of Abihail, Mordecai's uncle. When Esther went to the king, she only asked for what Hegai, the royal guardian in charge of the harem for virgins, recommended that she should wear. Everyone who saw Esther was very impressed with her.*

For what did Esther ask?

She did not ask for anything except what Hegai, the eunuch of the king who was overseer of the women, said.

Esther 2:16

ULT	UST
And Esther was taken to the king Ahasuerus, to the palace of his royalty, in the tenth month (which is the month of Tebeth), in year seven of his reign.	*The king's servants brought Esther to King Ahasuerus in his royal palace during the tenth month of the year (the month of Tebeth), in the seventh year of his reign as king of Persia.*

When was Esther taken to King Ahasuerus?

So Esther was taken to the king Ahasuerus, to the house of his royalty, in the tenth month (which is the month of Tebeth), in the seventh year of his reign.

Esther 2:17

ULT	UST
And the king loved Esther more than all the women and she lifted favor and kindness before his face more than all the virgins. And he set a crown of royalty on her head, and he made her queen instead of Vashti.	*The king loved Esther more than any of the other women. He treated her more kindly and more favorably than any of the other young women who had become his concubines. So King Ahasuerus put a royal crown on her head, and he made her the queen instead of Vashti.*

Why did the king set the royal crown on Esther's head and make her queen?

And the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she lifted favor and kindness before his face more than all the virgins. So he set a crown of royalty on her head, and he made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:21

ULT	UST
In those days, when Mordecai was sitting at the gate of the king, Bigthan and Teresh (two eunuchs of the king who were guardians of the doorway) became angry; and they sought to stretch out a hand against the king Ahasuerus.	*During that time, when Mordecai was doing his work at the king's gate, two of the king's guards who protected the doorway to the king's private rooms became angry with the king. They planned to assassinate King Ahasuerus. Their names were Bigthan and Teresh.*

What did Bigthan and Teresh seek to do to King Ahasuerus?

Bigthan and Teresh, two eunuchs of the king who were guardians of the doorway, became angry. And they sought to stretch out a hand to the king Ahasuerus.

Esther 2:23

ULT	UST
And the matter was sought out and was found out, and the two of them were hanged on a pole. And it was written in the book of the events of days before the face of the king.	*So the king's officials investigated Mordecai's report and discovered that it was true. So the king ordered his servants to hang those two men from wooden poles until they died. In the king's presence, the king's scribes recorded an account of this in the royal chronicles.*

What happened to Bigthan and Teresh?

The two of them were hung on a tree.

Esther 3

Esther 3:2

ULT	UST
And all the servants of the king who were at the gate of the king were bowing down and prostrating themselves to Haman, for thus the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would neither bow down nor would he prostrate himself.	*The king wanted to show that he had given Haman an important position. So he commanded all of his other servants who were at the king's gate to bow down all the way to the ground to honor Haman whenever he walked by. But Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, because as a Jew he would not worship anyone except Yahweh.*

Who were kneeling and prostrating themselves to Haman?

All the servants of the king were at the gate of the king and were bowing down and prostrating themselves to Haman.

Esther 3:4

ULT	UST
And it happened that, when they spoke to him day after day, he did not listen to them. So they told Haman to see if the words of Mordecai would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew.	*Mordecai told them that he was a Jew, and that Jews only worship Yahweh. The other servants warned Mordecai every day that he would be punished severely if he kept disobeying the king and not honoring his most important official. But Mordecai still refused to bow down. So they told Haman about it to see if he would allow Mordecai to keep refusing to bow down because he was a Jew.*

What did Mordecai refuse to do?

Mordecai would neither bow down nor would he prostrate himself.

Esther 3:6

ULT	UST
And it was despised in his eyes to stretch out a hand against Mordecai alone, for they had told him the people of Mordecai. And Haman sought to annihilate all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who were in all the kingdom of Ahasuerus.	*The other servants told Haman that Mordecai was not bowing down to him because Mordecai was a Jew. So Haman decided it would not be enough just to kill Mordecai alone. Haman decided that he would try to kill all the Jews in the entire empire of Ahasuerus.*

Who did Haman want to kill?

Haman sought to annihilate all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who were in all the kingdom of Ahasuerus.

Esther 3:8

ULT	UST
And Haman said to the king Ahasuerus, "He has one people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. And their laws are different from every people, and the laws of the king they do not obey. And there is no profit to the king to leave them untouched.	*Then Haman went to King Ahasuerus and said, "Your Majesty, there is a certain group of people who live among the other peoples in your empire. They are in every province. They have their own set of laws, and so they do not obey your laws. It is not good for you to allow them to live in your empire.*

When they threw lots, what month did they chose?

In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of the king Ahasuerus, a Pur (which is "the lot") was cast before the face of Haman from day to day and from month to month: the twelfth, which is the month of Adar.

Esther 3:9

ULT	UST
If it is good to the king, let it be written to destroy them, and I will weigh out 10, 000 talents of silver into the hands of the doers of the work, to bring into the treasuries of the king."	*If you approve of this plan, O king, then write a decree saying that all of the Jews must die. When they are dead, we can take all of their goods, and from that I will give 300 tons of silver to your administrators for them to put into your royal treasuries."*

How much money was Haman willing to put into the king's treasury if the king would give a command to kill the Jews?

Haman said he would pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of the doers of the work, to bring into the treasuries of the king.

Esther 3:13

ULT	UST
And letters were sent by the hand of runners to all of the provinces of the king, to annihilate, to slaughter, and to destroy all the Jews from young even to old, children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth of month 12 (which is the month of Adar), and to plunder their spoils.	*Couriers delivered the letters to the officials in every province in the empire. The letters said to completely destroy all the Jews, including the children and women, on a single day. That was to be the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, in that same year. The letters also said that those who killed the Jews could take everything that belonged to them.*

How were documents delivered to all the king's provinces?

And letters were sent by the hand of runners to all of the provinces of the king.

Esther 3:15

ULT	UST
The runners went out, hurrying by decree of the king, and the law was given in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was in confusion.	*As the king had commanded, couriers rushed with the letters to every province in the empire. A herald also proclaimed what the letter said in the capital city of Susa. The king and Haman relaxed and drank together. But everyone who lived in Susa was very upset about what was going to happen.*

How did Susa respond to the decree?

The city of Susa was in confusion.

Esther 4

Esther 4:2

ULT	UST
And he came only as far as before the face of the gate of the king because no one was to come into the gate of the king while wearing sackcloth.	*But no one who was wearing sackcloth was allowed inside the king's gate. So when Mordecai reached the gate, he had to stay just outside of it.*

How far did Mordecai go? Why?

And he came only as far as before the face of the gate of the king, because no one was to come into the gate of the king while wearing sackcloth.

Esther 4:4

ULT	UST
When the young female attendants of Esther came with her eunuchs and they told her, even the queen was seized with extreme fear. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and to take off his sackcloth from upon him, but he did not accept.	*Esther's female attendants came with her guardians and told her that Mordecai was sitting outside the gate wearing sackcloth. When she heard about this, Queen Esther herself became very afraid. She sent Mordecai some good clothes to wear instead of the sackcloth, but he refused to put them on.*

When Esther sent garments to clothe Mordecai, how did he respond?

And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and to take off his sackcloth from upon him, but he did not accept.

Esther 4:7

ULT	UST
And Mordecai reported to him all that had happened to him, and the exact amount of silver that Haman had said to weigh out into the treasuries of the king against the Jews to destroy them.	*Mordecai told Hathak everything that Haman was planning to do to the Jews. He even told him how much money Haman said the king would get for his treasuries if the king commanded people to kill all of the Jews.*

What did Mordecai report to Hathak?

And Mordecai reported to him all that had happened to him, and the exact amount of silver that Haman had said to weigh out into the treasuries of the king, against the Jews, to destroy them.

Esther 4:8

ULT	UST
Also he gave to him a copy of the writing of the law that had been given in Susa to annihilate them, in order to show Esther and to inform her and to lay a charge upon her to go to the king to implore his favor and to seek from before his face concerning her people.	*Mordecai also gave Hathak a copy of the letter that the heralds had read out loud in Susa and that said that people must kill all of the Jews. He told Hathak to show the letter to Esther so that she would know exactly what it said. He also told him to urge her to go to the king personally and to beg him desperately to save her people from destruction.*

Why did Mordecai give Hathak a copy of the decree that was issued in Susa for the Jews' destruction?

Also he gave to him a copy of the writing of the law that had been given in Susa to annihilate them, in order to show Esther, and to inform her, and to lay a charge upon her to go to the king to implore his favor and to plead from before his face concerning her people.

Esther 4:11

ULT	UST
"All the servants of the king and the people of the provinces of the king are knowing that for any man or woman who goes to the king, to the inner court, who has not been called, his law is one: to cause to die, apart from when the king holds out to him the scepter of gold; then he will live. But as for me, I have not been called to come to the king these 30 days."	*"There is a law about going to the king that applies to everyone in the kingdom, both men and women. If anyone goes into the inner courtyard of the palace, where the king can see them, and the king has not summoned them, that person will die. Only if the king holds out his golden scepter to them, then they will live. Everyone in the whole empire knows this law. So I cannot go and speak to the king as you have requested. The king has not called for me in over a month, and if I go without being summoned, I could be put to death."*

What happened if any man or woman went to the king inside the inner courtyard without being summoned?

The law was that any man or woman would die who went to the king inside the inner court without first being called unless the king held out to him or her the scepter of gold, in which case the person was allowed to live.

Esther 4:14

ULT	UST
For if you indeed remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and the house of your father will perish. And who knows if you have arrived at royalty for such a time as this?”	*If you say nothing at all now, someone from some other place will rescue the Jews, but you and your relatives will not survive. Who knows, perhaps it was for just such a time as this that you became queen.”*

What did Mordecai say would happen if Esther remained silent at that time?

For if you, indeed, remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and the house of your father will perish.

Esther 4:16

ULT	UST
“Go, gather all the Jews who are found in Susa. And fast on account of me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, both night and day. Also, I myself and my young female attendants will fast likewise. Then, in such circumstances, I will go to the king, which is not according to the law. And if I perish, I perish.”	*“Gather together all the Jews who live here in Susa and tell them to fast for my sake. Tell them to not eat or drink anything for three days and three nights. My female attendants and I will also fast in the same way. At the end of the three days, I will go to talk to the king, even though doing that is against the law. I will do that even if it costs me my life.”*

What did Esther tell Mordecai to do?

Go, gather all the Jews who are found in Susa. And fast on account of me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, both night and day. Also, I myself and my young female attendants will fast likewise. Then, in such circumstances, I will go to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.

Esther 5

Esther 5:1

ULT	UST
And it happened on the third day that Esther put on royalty and stood in the inner court of the palace of the king, opposite to the house of the king. Now the king was sitting on the throne of his royalty in the palace of royalty opposite to the entrance of the palace.	*After fasting for three days, Esther put on her royal robes, and she went and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace, across from the king's house. He was in the royal palace, sitting on the royal throne and facing the entrance of the room.*

Where was the inner courtyard of the king's palace?

The inner courtyard of the king's palace was opposite to the house of the king.

Esther 5:2

ULT	UST
And it happened that, as soon as the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she lifted favor in his eyes. And the king held out to Esther the scepter of gold that was in his hand, so Esther approached and touched the head of the scepter.	*As soon as the king noticed Queen Esther standing there in the courtyard, he was very pleased to see her. So he held out his golden scepter to her, to show that she could safely approach him. So Esther came up to the throne and touched the top of the scepter.*

When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, why did he hold out to her the golden scepter?

As soon as the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she lifted favor in his eyes.

Esther 5:4

ULT	UST
And Esther said, "If it is good to the king, let the king come with Haman today to the banquet that I have made for him."	*Esther replied, "If it pleases you, O king, please come with Haman today to the banquet that I have prepared for you."*

What did Esther request from the king?

If it is good to the king, let the king come with Haman today to the banquet that I have made for him.

Esther 5:8

ULT	UST
if I have found favor in the eyes of the king, and if it is good to the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king come with Haman to the banquet that I will make for them, and tomorrow I will do according to the word of the king."	*if you are pleased with me, and if you are pleased, O king, to give me what I want, please come with Haman to another banquet that I will prepare for you tomorrow. I will answer your question then."*

What did Esther request from the king the second time?

If I have found favor in the eyes of the king, and if it is good to the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king come with Haman to the banquet which I will make for them, and tomorrow I will do according to the word of the king.

Esther 5:11

ULT	UST
And Haman recounted to them the glory of his wealth and the multitude of his sons and all about how the king had made him great and how he had lifted him over the officials and administrators of the king.	*and he boasted to them about how rich he was and about how many sons he had. He also boasted about how the king had promoted him many times and given him a position above all of his important officials and other administrators.*

What did Haman recount to his family?

Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his wealth and the multitude of his sons and all about how the king had made him great and how he had lifted him over the officials and administrators of the king.

Esther 5:13

ULT	UST
But all of this is not equal for me to every time that I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the gate of the king."	*Then Haman said, "But I still cannot be happy as long as I keep seeing that Jew, Mordecai, sitting there at the king's gate and refusing to honor me."*

What did Haman feel was more important to him than being invited to the banquets?

But all of this is not equal for me to every time that I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the gate of the king.

Esther 5:14

ULT	UST
And Zeresh his wife, with all of his friends, said to him, "Let them make a pole 50 cubits high. And in the morning speak to the king, and let them hang Mordecai on it. Then go with the king to the banquet joyful." And the word was good before the face of Haman, and he made the pole.	*So Haman's wife Zeresh and his friends who were there suggested, "Have your servants set up a pole 25 meters high. Then tomorrow morning speak to the king and tell him that you want to hang Mordecai on it. Then once you have executed Mordecai, you can go to the banquet with the king in a good mood." Haman thought that this was a good plan, so he told his servants to set up the pole.*

What did Zeresh tell Haman to make? Why?

Let them make a tree fifty cubits high. And in the morning speak to the king, and let them hang Mordecai on it.

Esther 6

Esther 6:1

ULT	UST
That night the sleep of the king fled away. And he said to bring the book of records of the events of days, and they were being called out before the face of the king.	*That night the king was unable to sleep. So he told the young men who attended him to bring in the royal chronicles. One of the young men got the chronicles and began to read them out loud to the king.*

Why did the king command servants to bring the records of the events of his reign?

That night the sleep of the king fled away. And he said to bring the book of records of the events of days.

Esther 6:2

ULT	UST
And it was found written that Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the eunuchs of the king who were from the guardians of the doorway, that they had sought to stretch out a hand against the king Ahasuerus.	*The chronicles said that Bigthan and Teresh, two of the royal guardians who protected the doorway to the king's private quarters, had planned to assassinate King Ahasuerus. The chronicles also said that Mordecai had discovered their plot and had let the king know about it. By doing that, Mordecai saved the king's life.*

What was found written in the book of records that was read to the king?

It was found written that Mordecai had reported that Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the door, had conspired to kill the King.

Esther 6:3

ULT	UST
And the king said, "What honor or greatness was done for Mordecai on account of this?" And the young men of the king who served him said, "Not a thing has been done with him."	*Then the king asked, "In what great way did I honor Mordecai for saving my life?" The young men who attended him replied, "No one did anything for him."*

What had been done to give honor or recognition to Mordecai for telling the king about Bigthana and Teresh?

Nothing had been done to give honor or recognition to Mordecai for telling the king about Bigthana and Teresh.

Esther 6:6

ULT	UST
And Haman came, and the king said to him, "What is one to do for the man in whose honor the king is delighted?" Then Haman said in his heart, "For whom would the king delight to do honor more than me?"	*When Haman came in, the king asked him, "What should I do for the man whom I would really like to honor?" Haman thought to himself, "Certainly I am the person whom the king would like to honor more than anyone else!"*

When the king asked Haman what should be done for the man whom the king takes pleasure in honoring, about whom did Haman think the king was talking?

Then Haman said in his heart, "For whom would the king delight to do honor more than me?"

Esther 6:9

ULT	UST
And give this garment and this horse into the hand of a man from the most noble officials of the king. And let them clothe the man whom the king delights to honor, and cause him to ride on the horse in the open square of the city, and proclaim before his face, 'Thus shall it be done for the man whom the king delights to honor!'"	*Then, on your behalf, have one of your most noble officials present the man with the robe and the horse. Have your servants clothe the man whom you really want to honor with the robe. Have them seat that man on the horse and then lead the horse through the public square of the city. Have them shout out to everyone in front of them, 'The king is doing this because he really wants to honor this man!'"*

Who would dress the man whom the king takes pleasure in honoring, and lead him on the horse through the city streets?

A man from the most noble officials of the king would do these things.

Esther 6:11

ULT	UST
And Haman took the garment and the horse, and he clothed Mordecai and caused him to ride in the open place of the city and called out before his face, "Thus shall it be done for the man whom the king delights to honor!"	*So Haman did what the king commanded. He got the robe and the horse. He put the robe on Mordecai, seated him on the horse, and then led the horse through the public square of the city. As he did, he shouted out to everyone in front of him, "The king is doing this because he really wants to honor this man!"*

Who dressed Mordecai and led him on the horse through the city streets?

So Haman took the garment and the horse, and he clothed Mordecai and paraded him in the open square of the city, and called out before his face, "Thus shall it be done for the man in whose honor the king is delighted!"

Esther 6:13

ULT	UST
And Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and to all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whose face you have begun to fall, is from the seed of the Jews, then you will not prevail against him, but you will surely fall before his face."	*Haman gathered all his friends together once again. He told them and his wife Zeresh everything that had happened to him that day. Some of his friends were also his advisors, and they and his wife Zeresh told him, "Mordecai has begun to defeat you. Since he is one of the Jewish people, you will not win against him. Instead, he will certainly defeat you."*

About what did Haman's wise men and his wife warn him?

If Mordecai, before whose face you have begun to fall, is from the seed of the Jews, then you will not prevail against him, but you will surely fall before his face.

Esther 7

Esther 7:3

ULT	UST
And Esther the queen answered and said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, O king, and if it is good to the king, let my life be given to me at my petition and my people at my request.	*Then Queen Esther replied, "If you are pleased with me, O king, I hope you will be willing to do what I ask. Please allow me to live, and please save my people. That is what I am asking for.*

What did Esther ask from King Ahasuerus?

Let my life be given to me at my petition, and my people at my request.

Esther 7:4

ULT	UST
For we have been sold, I and my people, for annihilation, for slaughter, and for destruction. Now if we had been sold as slaves and female servants, I would have kept silent, because the distress would not have been equal to a burden of the king."	*I am appealing to you because someone has turned my people and me over to our enemies, and they are going to destroy us completely. If someone had sold the men and even the women to be slaves, I would not have said anything about that to you, because that would not have been important enough to bother you, the king, with that."*

What did Esther say she would have done if her people had only been sold into slavery?

Now if we had been sold as slaves and female servants, I would have kept silent.

Esther 7:6

ULT	UST
Esther answered, "A man, an adversary, and an enemy—this evil Haman!" Then Haman was terrified from before the face of the king and the queen.	*Esther responded, "The man who is our bitter enemy is this evil man Haman!" This made Haman terrified to be in the presence of the king and the queen.*

Who did Esther describe as an "adversary" and "enemy"?

A man, an adversary, and an enemy is this evil Haman!

Esther 7:7

ULT	UST
And the king rose up in his rage from the banquet of wine to the garden of the palace. But Haman remained in order to seek for his life from Esther the queen, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king.	*The king became so angry that he got up and left the banquet of wine. He went outside into the palace garden to decide what to do. But Haman stayed inside to beg Queen Esther to save his life because he recognized that the king wanted to execute him.*

What did Haman do when the king got up in a rage from the banquet of wine?

Haman remained in order to beg for his life from Esther the queen.

Esther 7:8

ULT	UST
Now when the king returned from the garden of the palace to the house of the banquet of wine, Haman was fallen on the couch on which Esther was. And the king said, "Is it also to subdue the queen with me in the house?" The word was going out from the mouth of the king when they covered the face of Haman.	*As he was pleading for his life, Haman knelt down very close to Esther as she was reclining on a banqueting couch. When the king returned from the palace garden to the room where they had been drinking wine, he saw this. The king exclaimed, "He is even trying to rape the queen in my presence and in my own house!" As soon as the king said this, some of his servants covered Haman's face as a sign that he would be executed.*

After Haman fell on the couch where Esther was, what did the king think Haman was doing?

The king thought Haman was trying to subdue the queen with me. This means that he thought Haman was trying to rape her.

Esther 7:9

ULT	UST
And Harbona, one from the eunuchs before the face of the king, said, "Also, behold, the pole that Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, is standing at the house of Haman 50 cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on it."	*Then Harbona, who was one of the guardians who served the king personally, said, "O king! Haman has also set up a pole twenty-five meters high at his house because he wants to hang Mordecai on it. But Mordecai saved your life." The king said, "Hang Haman on it!"*

Where did the king say to hang Haman?

The king said to hang Haman on the tree that Haman made for Mordecai, which was standing at the house of Haman 50 cubits high.

Esther 8

Esther 8:1

ULT	UST
On that day, the king Ahasuerus gave to Esther the queen the house of Haman, the adversary of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the face of the king because Esther told what he was to her.	*That same day, King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther all the property that had belonged to Haman. He had been the enemy of the Jews. Esther told the king that Mordecai was her cousin and that he had been like a father to her. When he learned that, the king summoned Mordecai to come to him.*

Why did Mordecai begin to serve before the king?

And Mordecai came before the face of the king, because Esther told what he was to her.

Esther 8:2

ULT	UST
And the king removed his signet ring, which he had caused to pass from Haman, and he gave it to Mordecai. And Esther placed Mordecai over the house of Haman.	*When the king sentenced Haman to death, the king took back from Haman the ring that had the king's official seal on it and the king was wearing it again. The king now took the ring off and gave it to Mordecai, to show that Mordecai would have the power to act with the king's authority. Esther also put Mordecai in charge of all the property that had belonged to Haman.*

Why was Mordecai in charge of Haman's estate?

And Esther placed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

Esther 8:4

ULT	UST
And the king held out to Esther the scepter of gold, so Esther rose up and stood before the face of the king.	*The king held out his golden scepter toward Esther, so she got up off the floor and stood facing the king.*

What did the king do so that Esther could arise and stand before him?

And the king held out to Esther the scepter of gold, so Esther rose up and stood before the face of the king.

Esther 8:5

ULT	UST
And she said, "If it is good to the king, and if I have found favor before his face, and the word is proper before the face of the king, and I am good in his eyes, let it be written to bring back the letters, the plot of Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king.	*Then Esther said, "Your majesty, if you think that it is the right thing to do, and if you are pleased with me, please write a new letter revoking the letters that Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, sent out. His letters said to destroy all the Jews everywhere in your empire.*

What letters had Haman written?

Haman had written letters to destroy the Jews who were in all of the provinces of the king.

Esther 8:8

ULT	UST
So, in the name of the king, you write for the Jews as is good in your eyes, and seal it with the signet ring of the king. For there is none to take back a writing that has been written in the name of the king and has been sealed with the signet ring of the king."	*You also know that no one can revoke a letter that has my name and my official seal on it, such as the letter that Haman wrote. So this is what you should do. Write a new letter to help the Jews, as you think best. I give you permission to put my name on it and to seal the letter with the ring that has my official seal on it."*

Why did Esther need to write another decree for the Jews in the name of the king?

Esther needed to write another decree because there was none to take back a writing that had been written in the name of the king and had been sealed with the signet ring of the king.

Esther 8:9

ULT	UST
And the scribes of the king were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third of it. And according to all that Mordecai commanded, it was written to the Jews, and to the satraps, and the governors and officials of the provinces that were from India even as far as Ethiopia: 127 provinces, province by province according to its writing, and people by people according to its tongue, and to the Jews according to their writing and according to their tongue.	*So the king sent for his scribes. They came and they wrote a letter saying everything that Mordecai told them to write. They wrote this letter on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan, in the twelfth year that Ahasuerus reigned as king of Persia. The letter addressed the Jews in the empire, but they also sent copies of the letter to the royal officials, and to the governors and leaders in each province. The empire of Ahasuerus had 127 provinces, extending all the way from India in the east to Ethiopia in the west. The scribes wrote to people in every province using its own alphabet and to each people group in its own language. They wrote especially to the Jews, in their alphabet and in their own language.*

When were the king's scribes called?

So the scribes of the king were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third of it.

Esther 8:11

ULT	UST
that the king gave to the Jews who were in every city, city by city: to gather and to stand for their life, to annihilate, and to slaughter, and to destroy any strength of a people or province that would attack them, children and women, and plunder their spoil;	*Each copy of the letter said that the king permits the Jews throughout the empire to join together and to fight to protect themselves. The king's letter also permits them to completely destroy any group of armed men from any people or province who would attack them. The letter also permits them to kill the women and children of those who would attack them, and to take the possessions of the people whom they kill.*

What did the king give the Jews permission to do?

The king gave the Jews in every city the legal right to gather together and defend their lives, to annihilate and to slaughter and to destroy any group of a people or province that would attack them including their women and children and women, and to plunder their spoil.

Esther 8:17

ULT	UST
In every province by province and in every city by city, any place where the word of the king and his law came, there was joy and rejoicing for the Jews, a feast and a good day. And many from the peoples of the land became Jews because dread of the Jews had fallen upon them.	*In every single province and in every single city, wherever the couriers brought the letter announcing the king's decree, the Jews rejoiced greatly and had big celebrations. Many people from other groups in the empire became very afraid of the Jews, so they became Jews themselves.*

Why did many from among the variety of peoples of the land become Jews?

Many from the peoples of the land became Jews because dread of the Jews had fallen upon them.

Esther 9

Esther 9:2

ULT	UST
The Jews assembled themselves in their cities in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus to stretch out a hand against those seeking their evil. But a man did not stand to their face, for sudden fear of them had fallen on all the peoples.	*Throughout the empire, the Jews joined together in their cities to defend themselves against those who wanted to harm them. No one was able to fight back against them because everyone in the empire had become very afraid of them, so no one helped anyone who attacked the Jews.*

Why could no one stand against the Jews?

But a man did not stand to their face, for sudden fear of them had fallen on all the peoples.

Esther 9:5

ULT	UST
And the Jews struck to all their enemies a strike of sword and slaughter and destruction. And they did to those who hated them according to their pleasure.	*On the day when they were allowed to defend themselves, the Jews took their weapons and fought against all of their enemies. The Jews destroyed them completely. They were able to do everything that they wanted to do against their enemies.*

What did the Jews do to their enemies?

And the Jews struck to all their enemies a strike of sword and slaughter and destruction, and they did to those who hated them according to their pleasure.

Esther 9:12

ULT	UST
And the king said to Esther the queen, "In Susa the citadel the Jews have slaughtered and destroyed 500 men, with the ten sons of Haman. In the rest of the provinces of the king, what have they done? Now what is your petition? And it will be given to you. And what is your request? Again, and it will be done."	*So the king said to Queen Esther, "Here in the capital city of Susa the Jews have killed 500 men, including the ten sons of Haman. In the rest of my empire, they must have killed many more than that! So, what else do you want? Tell me, and I will do it for you. I will do whatever you ask, so please tell me what you want."*

Who did the Jews kill?

In Susa the citadel the Jews have slaughtered and destroyed five hundred men, with the ten sons of Haman.

Esther 9:13

ULT	UST
And Esther said, "If it is good to the king, let it be given also tomorrow to the Jews who are in Susa to do according to the law of today, and let the ten sons of Haman hang on the pole."	*Esther replied, "If it seems like a good plan to you, O king, then please allow the Jews who live here in Susa to do again tomorrow what you allowed them to do today. Also, command your servants to hang the bodies of Haman's ten sons on wooden poles."*

What happened to the bodies of Haman's ten sons?

"Let the ten sons of Haman hang on the tree." And the king said for this to be done. And a law was given in Susa, and they hanged the ten sons of Haman.

Esther 9:15

ULT	UST
And the Jews who were in Susa assembled themselves also on day 14 of the month of Adar, and they killed 300 men in Susa. But they did not stretch out their hand to the plunder.	*And so on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, the Jews who lived in Susa joined together again and killed 300 more men in Susa. But once again they did not take the things that belonged to those men.*

How many men did the Jews kill on the fourteenth day of the month Adar?

So the Jews who were in Susa assembled themselves also on day 14 of the month of Adar, and they killed 300 men in Susa.

Esther 9:17

ULT	UST
On day 13 of the month of Adar, then they rested. On the fourteenth of it, then they made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.	*After defeating their enemies on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, they rested on the fourteenth day. They devoted the fourteenth day as a day to celebrate joyfully.*

What did the rest of the Jews who were in the provinces of the king do on the fourteenth day of the month Adar?

On the fourteenth day of the month of Adar they made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

Esther 9:18

ULT	UST
But the Jews who were in Susa assembled themselves on the thirteenth of it and on the fourteenth of it. And they rested on the fifteenth of it, and they made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.	*But the Jews who lived in Susa joined together to fight against their enemies on both the thirteenth and fourteenth days of the month of Adar. They rested on the fifteenth day. They devoted that day to celebrating joyfully.*

Why do the Jews in Susa observe the fifteenth day of the month Adar as a day of gladness and feasting?

But the Jews who were in Susa assembled themselves on the thirteenth of it and on the fourteenth of it. And they rested on the fifteenth of it, and they made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

Esther 9:19

ULT	UST
Therefore, the Jews, the ones of the open country, the ones who dwell in the cities of the open areas, make day 14 of the month of Adar for rejoicing and for feasting and a good day and for the sending of gifts, a man to his friend.	*That is why the Jews who live in rural villages observe this holiday on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar rather than on the fifteenth day. They do this by celebrating joyfully and by giving gifts to one another.*

What do the Jews of the open country, the ones who dwell in the cities of the open areas, do on day 14 of the month of Adar?

They make day 14 of the month of Adar a day for rejoicing and for feasting and a good day, and for the sending of gifts, a man to his friend.

Esther 9:20-21

How often did Mordecai obligate the Jews to keep the fourteenth and the fifteenth day of Adar?

Mordecai obligated the Jews to keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar “every year by year,” meaning every single year.

Esther 9:24

ULT	UST
For Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had plotted concerning the Jews to annihilate them. And he had cast a Pur (which is "the lot") to vex them and to destroy them.	*They would celebrate those days to remember how Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had tried to destroy them. He had thrown a Pur (that is, a lot) to find out what would be the best day to attack the Jews and destroy them completely.*

What does Pur mean?

The name Pur means "the lot."

Esther 9:28

ULT	UST
And these days are remembered and are made in every generation by generation, family by family, province by province, and city by city. And these days of Purim will not pass away from the midst of the Jews, and their remembrance will not come to an end from their seed.	*So that is why every Jewish family in every generation since has celebrated these days as holidays, everywhere they have lived. The Jewish community and its descendants will always faithfully observe this festival of Purim.*

Why would the Jews and their descendants never cease to faithfully observe these days of Purim?

So these days are remembered and are made in every generation by generation, family by family, province by province, and city by city. And these days of Purim will not pass away from the midst of the Jews, and their remembrance will not come to an end from their seed.

Esther 10

Esther 10:1

ULT	UST
And the king Ahasuerus set a tribute on the land and the islands of the sea.	*Then King Ahasuerus imposed a tax on everyone throughout his empire, even on those living on the islands of the sea.*

Where did King Ahasuerus impose a tax?

Then the king Ahasuerus set a tribute on the land and the islands of the sea.

Esther 10:2

ULT	UST
And all the deeds of his power and his might, with the full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king had made him great, are they not written in the book of the events of days for the kings of Media and Persia?	*The king's scribes made a record in the royal chronicles of Media and Persia of all the great things that King Ahasuerus accomplished because he was so powerful. They also wrote there in a complete way the great things that Mordecai did because the king had promoted him to a very important position.*

Where were all the achievements of King Ahasuerus' power and might written?

All the deeds of his power and his might, with the full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king had made him great, are written in the book of the events of days for the kings of Media and Persia.

Esther 10:3

ULT	UST
For Mordecai the Jew was second to the king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and favored by the multitude of his brothers, seeking good for his people and speaking peace to all its seed.	*Mordecai the Jew was able to do so much because he was the most powerful person in the empire after King Ahasuerus. He was also a leader among his own people. All of his fellow Jews respected him. He worked hard to make sure that the Jews would always prosper.*

What was the rank of Mordecai the Jew?

Mordecai the Jew was second to the King Ahasuerus.

Why was Mordecai great among the Jews and popular with his many Jewish brothers?

For Mordecai the Jew was second to the King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and favored by the multitude of his brothers, seeking good for his people and speaking peace to all its seed.