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Anonymous**

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Book 17 Esther 001:001 Now it happened in the days of Ahasuerus (this is Ahasuerus who reigned from India even to Ethiopia, over one hundred twenty-seven provinces), 001:002 that in those days, when the King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, 001:003 in the third year of his reign, he made a feast for all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him. 001:004 He displayed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, even one hundred eighty days. 001:005 When these days were fulfilled, the king made a seven day feast for all the people who were present in Shushan the palace, both great and

small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. 001:006 There were hangings of white, green, and blue material, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and marble pillars. The couches were of gold and silver, on a pavement of red, white, yellow, and black marble. 001:007 They gave them drinks in golden vessels of various kinds, including royal wine in abundance, according to the bounty of the king. 001:008 In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had instructed all the officials of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure. 001:009 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to King Ahasuerus. 001:010 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcass, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, 001:011 to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the royal crown, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was beautiful. 001:012 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by the eunuchs. Therefore the king was very angry, and his anger burned in him. 001:013 Then the king said to the wise men, who knew the times, (for it was the king's custom to consult those who knew law and judgment; 001:014 and the next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom),

001:015 "What shall we do to the queen Vashti according to law, because she has not done the bidding of the King Ahasuerus by the eunuchs?" 001:016 Memucan answered before the king and the princes, "Vashti the queen has not done wrong to just the king, but also to all the princes, and to all the people who are in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus. 001:017 For this deed of the queen will become known to all women, causing them to show contempt for their husbands, when it is reported, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she didn't come.' 001:018 Today, the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's deed will tell all the king's princes. This will cause much contempt and wrath. 001:019 If it please the king, let a royal commandment go from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it cannot be altered, that Vashti may never again come before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate to another who is better than she. 001:020 When the king's decree which he shall make is published throughout all his kingdom (for it is great), all the wives will give their husbands honor, both great and small." 001:021 This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan: 001:022 for he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, that every man should rule his own house, speaking in the language of his own people. 002:001 After

these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was pacified, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. 002:002 Then the king's servants who served him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king. 002:003 Let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the beautiful young virgins to the citadel of Susa, to the women's house, to the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, keeper of the women. Let cosmetics be given them; 002:004 and let the maiden who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." The thing pleased the king, and he did so. 002:005 There was a certain Jew in the citadel of Susa, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite, 002:006 who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 002:007 He brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter; for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was fair and beautiful; and when her father and mother were dead, Mordecai took her for his own daughter. 002:008 So it happened, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together to the citadel of Susa, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was taken into the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. 002:009 The maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness from him. He quickly gave

her cosmetics and her portions of food, and the seven choice maidens who were to be given her out of the king's house. He moved her and her maidens to the best place in the women's house. 002:010 Esther had not made known her people nor her relatives, because Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make it known. 002:011 Mordecai walked every day in front of the court of the women's house, to find out how Esther did, and what would become of her. 002:012 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after her purification for twelve months (for so were the days of their purification accomplished, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet fragrances and with preparations for beautifying women). 002:013 The young woman then came to the king like this: whatever she desired was given her to go with her out of the women's house to the king's house. 002:014 In the evening she went, and on the next day she returned into the second women's house, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who kept the concubines. She came in to the king no more, unless the king delighted in her, and she was called by name. 002:015 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, came to go in to the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the keeper of the women, advised. Esther obtained favor in the sight of all those who looked at her. 002:016 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus into his royal house in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the

seventh year of his reign. 002:017 The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she obtained favor and kindness in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown on her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. 002:018 Then the king made a great feast for all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces, and gave gifts according to the king's bounty. 002:019 When the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate. 002:020 Esther had not yet made known her relatives nor her people, as Mordecai had charged her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai, like she did when she was brought up by him. 002:021 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, who were doorkeepers, were angry, and sought to lay hands on the King Ahasuerus. 002:022 This thing became known to Mordecai, who informed Esther the queen; and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. 002:023 When this matter was investigated, and it was found to be so, they were both hanged on a tree; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the king's presence. 003:001 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. 003:002 All the king's servants who were in the king's gate bowed down, and paid homage to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai

didn't bow down or pay him homage. 003:003
Then the king's servants, who were in the
king's gate, said to Mordecai, "Why do you
disobey the king's commandment?" 003:004
Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to
him, and he didn't listen to them, that they
told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's reason
would stand; for he had told them that he was
a Jew. 003:005 When Haman saw that
Mordecai didn't bow down, nor pay him
homage, Haman was full of wrath. 003:006
But he scorned the thought of laying hands on
Mordecai alone, for they had made known to
him Mordecai's people. Therefore Haman
sought to destroy all the Jews who were
throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus,
even the Mordecai's people. 003:007 In the
first month, which is the month Nisan, in the
twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur,
that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day,
and from month to month, and chose the
twelfth month, which is the month Adar.
003:008 Haman said to King Ahasuerus,
"There is a certain people scattered abroad
and dispersed among the peoples in all the
provinces of your kingdom, and their laws are
different than other people's. They don't keep
the king's laws. Therefore it is not for the
king's profit to allow them to remain. 003:009
If it pleases the king, let it be written that they
be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand
talents of silver into the hands of those who
are in charge of the king's business, to bring it
into the king's treasuries." 003:010 The king
took his ring from his hand, and gave it to
Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite,

the Jews' enemy. 003:011 The king said to Haman, "The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you." 003:012 Then the king's scribes were called in on the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month; and all that Haman commanded was written to the king's satraps, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the princes of every people, to every province according its writing, and to every people in their language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus, and it was sealed with the king's ring. 003:013 Letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to plunder their possessions. 003:014 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that they should be ready against that day. 003:015 The couriers went forth in haste by the king's commandment, and the decree was given out in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Shushan was perplexed. 004:001 Now when Mordecai found out all that was done, Mordecai tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and wailed loudly and a bitterly. 004:002 He came even before the king's gate, for no one is allowed inside the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 004:003 In every province, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was

great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. 004:004 Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her this, and the queen was exceedingly grieved. She sent clothing to Mordecai, to replace his sackcloth; but he didn't receive it. 004:005 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, whom he had appointed to attend her, and commanded him to go to Mordecai, to find out what this was, and why it was. 004:006 So Hathach went out to Mordecai, to city square which was before the king's gate. 004:007 Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 004:008 He also gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given out in Shushan to destroy them, to show it to Esther, and to declare it to her, and to urge her to go in to the king, to make supplication to him, and to make request before him, for her people. 004:009 Hathach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. 004:010 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a message to Mordecai: 004:011 "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, know, that whoever, whether man or woman, comes to the king into the inner court without being called, there is one law for him, that he be put to death, except those to whom the king might hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days." 004:012 They told to Mordecai Esther's words. 004:013 Then

Mordecai asked them return answer to Esther, "Don't think to yourself that you will escape in the king's house any more than all the Jews. 004:014 For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" 004:015 Then Esther asked them to answer Mordecai, 004:016 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will also fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." 004:017 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him. 005:001 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal clothing, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, next to the king's house. The king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, next to the entrance of the house. 005:002 When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther came near, and touched the top of the scepter. 005:003 Then the king asked her, "What would you like, queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you even to the half of the kingdom." 005:004 Esther said, "If it seems good to the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him." 005:005 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that it may be

done as Esther has said." So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. 005:006 The king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed." 005:007 Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and my request is this. 005:008 If I have found favor 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 will prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king has said." 005:009 Then Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart, but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he didn't stand up nor move for him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai. 005:010 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself, and went home. There, he sent and called for his friends and Zeresh his wife. 005:011 Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, the multitude of his children, all the things in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. 005:012 Haman also said, "Yes, Esther the queen let no man come in with the king to the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow I am also invited by her together with the king. 005:013 Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." 005:014 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made fifty cubits high, and in the morning speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on it. Then

go in merrily with the king to the banquet." This pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made. 006:001 On that night, the king couldn't sleep. He commanded the book of records of the chronicles to be brought, and they were read to the king. 006:002 It was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who were doorkeepers, who had tried to lay hands on the King Ahasuerus. 006:003 The king said, "What honor and dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." 006:004 The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had come into the outer court of the king's house, to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. 006:005 The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman stands in the court." The king said, "Let him come in." 006:006 So Haman came in. The king said to him, "What shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman said in his heart, "Who would the king delight to honor more than myself?" 006:007 Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, 006:008 let royal clothing be brought which the king uses to wear, and the horse that the king rides on, and on the head of which a crown royal is set. 006:009 Let the clothing and the horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man whom the king delights to honor with them, and have him ride on horseback through the city square, and

proclaim before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

006:010 Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry and take the clothing and the horse, as you have said, and do this for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Let nothing fail of all that you have spoken." 006:011 Then

Haman took the clothing and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and had him ride through the city square, and proclaimed before him,

"Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!" 006:012 Mordecai

came back to the king's gate, but Haman hurried to his house, mourning and having his head covered. 006:013 Haman recounted to

Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him, but you will surely fall before him."

006:014 While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hurried to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had

prepared. 007:001 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

007:002 The king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."

007:003 Then Esther the queen answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

007:004 For we are sold, I and my people, to

be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondservants and bondmaids, I would have held my peace, although the adversary could not have compensated for the king's loss." 007:005 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen, "Who is he, and where is he who dared presume in his heart to do so?" 007:006 Esther said, "An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 007:007 The king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden. Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. 007:008 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman had fallen on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in front of me in the house?" As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 007:009 Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who were with the king said, "Behold, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman has made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, is standing at Haman's house." The king said, "Hang him on it!" 007:010 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified. 008:001 On that day, King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, to Esther the queen. Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was to her. 008:002 The king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman,

and gave it to Mordecai. Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. 008:003 Esther spoke yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and begged him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. 008:004 Then the king held out to Esther the golden scepter. So Esther arose, and stood before the king. 008:005 She said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right to the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces. 008:006 For how can I endure to see the evil that would come to my people? How can I endure to see the destruction of my relatives?" 008:007 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "See, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged on the gallows, because he laid his hand on the Jews. 008:008 Write also to the Jews, as it pleases you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may not be reversed by any man." 008:009 Then the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month Sivan, on the twenty-third day of the month; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, and to the satraps, and the governors and princes of the provinces which are from India to Ethiopia, one hundred twenty-seven provinces, to every

province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, and to the Jews in their writing, and in their language. 008:010 He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by courier on horseback, riding on royal horses that were bred from swift steeds. 008:011 In those letters, the king granted the Jews who were in every city to gather themselves together, and to defend their life, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, their little ones and women, and to plunder their possessions, 008:012 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. 008:013 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that the Jews should be ready for that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. 008:014 So the couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. The decree was given out in the citadel of Susa. 008:015 Mordecai went out of the presence of the king in royal clothing of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and was glad. 008:016 The Jews had light, gladness, joy, and honor. 008:017 In every province, and in every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had gladness, joy, a feast, and a good day. Many from among the peoples of the land

became Jews; for the fear of the Jews was fallen on them. 009:001 Now in the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the month, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, on the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to conquer them, (but it was turned out the opposite happened, that the Jews conquered those who hated them), 009:002 the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, to lay hands on those who wanted to harm them. No one could withstand them, because the fear of them had fallen on all the people. 009:003 All the princes of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and those who did the king's business helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. 009:004 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai grew greater and greater. 009:005 The Jews struck all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and with slaughter and destruction, and did what they wanted to those who hated them. 009:006 In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. 009:007 They killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 009:008 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 009:009 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha, 009:010 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jew's enemy, but they didn't lay their hand on the plunder. 009:011 On that day, the number of those who were slain in the citadel of Susa was brought before the king.

009:012 The king said to Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in the citadel of Susa, including the ten sons of Haman; what then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your further request? It shall be done." **009:013** Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do tomorrow also according to this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows." **009:014** The king commanded this to be done. A decree was given out in Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons. **009:015** The Jews who were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and killed three hundred men in Shushan; but they didn't lay their hand on the spoil. **009:016** The other Jews who were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, defended their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them; but they didn't lay their hand on the plunder. **009:017** This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of that month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness. **009:018** But the Jews who were in Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth and on the fourteenth days of the month; and on the fifteenth day of that month, they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. **009:019** Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the unwalled towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of

gladness and feasting, a good day, and a day of sending presents of food to one another.

009:020 Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both near and far, 009:021 to enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month Adar yearly, 009:022 as the days in which the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned to them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending presents of food to one another, and gifts to the needy.

009:023 The Jews accepted the custom that they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them; 009:024 because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast "Pur," that is the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; 009:025 but when this became known to the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he had devised against the Jews, should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

009:026 Therefore they called these days "Purim, {Purim is the Hebrew plural for pur, which means lot.}" from the word "Pur."

Therefore because of all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and that which had come to them, 009:027 the Jews established, and imposed on themselves, and on their descendants, and on all those who joined themselves to them, so that it should not fail,

that they would keep these two days according to what was written, and according to its appointed time, every year; 009:028 and that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memory of them perish from their seed. 009:029 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim. 009:030 He sent letters to all the Jews, to the hundred twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, 009:031 to confirm these days of Purim in their appointed times, as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had decreed, and as they had imposed upon themselves and their descendants, in the matter of the fastings and their cry. 009:032 The commandment of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book. 010:001 King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land, and on the islands of the sea. 010:002 All the acts of his power and of his might, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, aren't they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? 010:003 For Mordecai the Jew was next to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted by the multitude of his brothers, seeking the good of his people, and speaking peace to all his descendants.

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