

Chapter 3

Aman aduanced by the king, is much offended that Mardocheus doth not adore him, 6. and therfore procureth the kings decree, to deftroy the whole nation of Iewes.

After thefe things king Affuerus aduanced Aman **D** the fonne of Amadathi, which was of the ftocke of Agag: & he put his throne aboute al the princes which he had. ² And al the kings feruantes, that were in the doores of his pallace, bowed their knees, and adored Aman: for fo the emperour had commanded them, ^aonlie Mardocheus did not bowe his knee, nor adore him. ³ To whom the kings feruantes, that were chiefe at the doores of the pallace, faid: Why doeft thou aboute the reft not obferue the kings commandment? ⁴ And when they faid this often, and he would not heare, they told Aman, defirous to know whether he would perfeuere in his fentence: for he had told them that he was a Iew. ⁵ Which when Aman had heard, and had proued by experience that Mardocheus bowed not his knee vnto him, nor adored him, he was angrie exceedingly. ⁶ And he counted it a matter of nothing to lay his handes vpon Mardocheus alone: for he had heard that he was of the nation of the Iewes, and he would rather deftroy al the nation of the Iewes, that were in the kingdom of Affuerus. ⁷ The firft moneth (which is called Nifan) in the twelfth yeare of the reigne of Affuerus, the lot was caft into a potte which in Hebrew is called Phur, before Aman, ^bin what day and what moneth the nation of the Iewes should be flayne: and there came forth the twelfth moneth, which is called Adar. ⁸ And Aman faid

^a Aman exacted fuch honour as heathen people gaue to their leffe goddess, which was alfo idolatrie, for Mardocheus was willing to giue him ciuil honour, *Euen to kifse the fteppes of his feete, but feared* (and refused) *to geue Godlie honour to him. ch. 13. v. 13. 14. S. Tho. 2. 2. q. 84. a. 1.*

^b Such is the prepofterous furie of rancour, to appoint the day of executing his malice, before he had got the kings decree.

to king Affuerus: There is a people disperfed through al the prouinces of thy kingdom, and feperated one from an other, vſing new lawes and ceremonies, moreouer alfo contemning the kings ordinances. And thou knoweft very wel that it is not expedient for thy kingdom that they waxe infolent by libertie. ⁹ If it pleaſe thee, decree that they may periſh, and I wil pay ten thouſand talentes to the cofferers of thy treafure. ¹⁰ The king therfore tooke the ring that he vſed, from his hand, and gaue it to Aman the ſonne of Amadathi of the progenie of Agag, the enemie of the Iewes, ¹¹ and he ſaid to him: The filuer which thou doeſt promiſe, be it thine: but concerning the people doe that which pleaſeth thee. ¹² And the kings ſcribes were called in the firſt moneth, Nifan, the thirtieth day of the ſame moneth: and there was written, as Aman had commanded, to al the kings lieutenantes, and iudges of the prouinces, and of diuers nations, as euerie nation could read, and heare according to the varietie of languages, in the name of king Affuerus: and the letters ſigned with his ring, ¹³ were ſent by the kings poſtes to al prouinces, that they ſhould kil and deſtroy al the Iewes, from boy vnto old man, children, and wemen, in one day, that is, in the thirtieth of the twelfth moneth, which is called Adar, and ſhould ſpoyle them of their goodes.

¹⁴ And ^athe content of the letters was this, that al prouinces might know, & prepare them ſelues againſt the day aforeſayd. ¹⁵ The poſtes that were ſent, made haſt to fulfil the kings cōmandment. And immediatly the edict hong in Sufan, the king and Aman feaſting, and al the Iewes that were in the citie, weeping.

The ſecond
part.
The Iewes
danger to be
maſſacred.

E ch. 13. v. 1.
F

^a The letter at large is in the *ſeuen firſt verſes of the 13. ch.* of which this is the ſumme.