

## Chapter 4

*Al the Iewes lament their imminent danger. 5. Mar-  
docheus willeth Efther to intreate the king for their faf-  
tie. 11. She fearing to goe to the king contrarie to his  
law vncalled, 15. yet they al fasting and praying for her,  
she doth it.*

**V**hich things when Mardocheus had heard,  
he rent his garmentes, and was clothed with  
fackcloth, fprinkling ashes on his head: and  
in the ftreat of the middes of the citie he cried with  
a lowed voyce, shewing the anguish of his mind, <sup>2</sup> and  
with this wayling going euen to the doores of the pal-  
lace: for it was not lawful for one clothed with fackcloth  
to enter the kings court. <sup>3</sup> In al prouinces alfo, townes,  
and places, to which the kings cruel decree was come,  
there was <sup>a</sup>)great mourning with the Iewes, fasting, howl-  
ing, and weeping, manie vſing fackcloth and ashes for  
their couch. <sup>4</sup> And Efthers maides and the eunuches  
went in, and told her. Which she hearing was aftonyed:  
and she fent a garment, that the fackcloth being taken  
away, they should put it on him: which he would not  
take. <sup>5</sup> And calling for Athach the eunuch, whom the  
king had geuen her for a feruant to Mardocheus, com-  
manded him to goe and to learne of him, why he did  
this. <sup>6</sup> And Athach going forth went to Mardocheus  
ftanding in the ftreate of the citie, before the palace  
doore: <sup>7</sup> who told him al thinges that had chanced, how  
Aman had promifed, that he would bring filuer into the  
kings treafures for the flaughter of the Iewes. <sup>8</sup> He gaue  
him alfo a copie of the edict which hong in Sufan, that  
he should shew it to the queene, and should admonish  
her to enter in to the king, and to intreate him for her  
people. <sup>9</sup> Athach returning told Efther al things, that  
Mardocheus had fayd. <sup>10</sup> Who anfwered him, and bad

The third part.  
The deliuerie of  
the Iewes from  
danger.

<sup>a</sup> The firft and beſt remedie in diftreſſe is to do workes of penance  
for finnes cōmitted. *1. Cor. 11. v. 31.*

that he should fay to Mardocheus: <sup>11</sup> Al the kings feruantes, and al the prouinces that are vnder his dominion, know, that whether man, or woman, not called, shal enter in to the kings inner court, he muft immediatly be flayne without al delay: vnleffe perhaps the king stretch forth a golden rod vnto him, for a figne of clemencie, and fo he may liue. I therefore how can I enter in to the king, which now these thirtie daies haue not bene called vnto him? <sup>12</sup> Which when Mardocheus had heard, <sup>13</sup> he sent word to Efther agayne, faying: Thincke not that thou mayft deliuer thy owne life only, because thou art in the kings houfe, aboue al the Iewes: <sup>14</sup> for if thou wilt now hold thy peace, <sup>a</sup>)the Iewes shal be deliuered by an other occafion: and thou, and thy fathers houfe shal perish. And who knoweth whether thou cameft to the kingdom therefore, that in fuch a time thou mightft be readie? <sup>15</sup> And agayne Efther sent to Mardocheus in these wordes: <sup>16</sup> Goe, and gather together al the Iewes, whom thou shalt find in Sufan, and pray ye for me. Eate ye not, and drinke not in three dayes, and three nightes: and I with my handmaydes in like maner wil fast, and then wil I goe in to the king, doing agaynft the law, not called, and deliuering my felf to death and to peril. <sup>17</sup> Mardocheus therefore went, and did al things that Efther had commanded him.

**G** ch. 15 v. 1.

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<sup>a</sup> Great confidence in Gods helpe when mans helpe fayleth: and in dede this meanes by mouing the kings hart to grant Efthers petition was Gods fpecial worke.