

Chapter 5

Efther ftanding in the kings fight he calleth her, 4. she requesteth that he and Aman wil dine with her. 7. Againe she inuiteth them. 9. Aman is more incened againft Mardocheus, prepareth high gallowes to hang him on.

And the third day Efther put on royal garments, and ftood in the court of the kings houfe, which was the inner agaynft the kings hal: but he fate vpon his throne in the confiftorie of the palace, againft the doore of the houfe. ² And when he had feene Efther the queene ftanding, she pleafed his eies, and he put forth toward her the golden rod, which he held in his hand: who going neere, kiffed the top of his rod. ³ And the king faid to her: What wilt thou queene Efther? what is thy request? yea if thou wilt aske the halfe part of the kingdom, it shal be geuen thee. ⁴ But she answered: If it please the king, I befeech thee that thou come to me this day, and Aman with thee to a banquet, which I haue prepared. ⁵ And the king forthwith, cal ye Aman, quoth he, quickly, that he may obey Efthers wil. The king therfore and Aman came to the banquet, which the queene had prepared for them. ⁶ And the king faid to her, after that he had drunke wine abundantly: What doeft thou defire to be geuen thee? and for what thing askeft thou? although thou aske the halfpert of my kingdom, thou shalt obteyne. ⁷ To whom Efther answered: ^aMy petition, and requestes are these: ⁸ If I haue found grace in the kings fight, and if it please the king to geue that which I aske, and to fulfil my petition: let the king and Aman come to the banquet, which I haue prepared them, and to morrow I wil open my wil to the king. ⁹ Aman therfore went forth that day ioyful and merie. And when he had feene Mardocheus fitting before the doores of the palace, and not onlie not to haue

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I ch. 15. v. 4.
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^a This prudence in delaying to propofe her petition, increafed the kings defire to know it, moued him to promife more affuredly, & fo bond him the more to accomplish it.

rifen vp to him, but not fo much as to haue moued from the place where he fate, he was wrath excedingly: ¹⁰ and diffembling his anger, and returning into his houfe, he called together vnto him his freindes, and Zares his wife: ¹¹ and he declared to them the greatneffe of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and with how great glorie the king had aduanced him aboue al his princes and feruantes. ¹² And after thefe things he faid: Queene Efther alfo hath called none other to the banquet with the king, but me: with whom to morow alfo I shal dine with the king. ¹³ And wheras I haue al thefe things, I thinke I haue nothing fo long as I shal fee Mardocheus the Iew fitting before the kings doores. ¹⁴ And Zares his wife, & the reft of his frendes answered him: Cōmand a great beame to be prepared, hauing fiftie cubites in height, and fpeake in the morning to the king, that Mardocheus may be hanged vpon it, and fo thou shalt goe ioyful with the king to the banquet. The counfel pleaed him, and he commanded an high gallowes to be prepared.