

Chapter 13

A copie of the epistle which Aman sent to al prouinces to deftroy the Iewes. 8. And Mardocheus his prayer for the people.

And this was the copie of the letter. The most great king Artaxerxes from India vnto Æthiopia, to the princes of an hundred and feuen and twentie prouinces, and to the captaynes, that are subiect to his empire, greeting. ² Whereas I reigned ouer manie nations, and had subdewed al the world to my dominion, I would not abuse the greatnes of my might, but with clemencie and lenitie gouerne my subiectes, that passing their life quietly without any terrour, they might enioy peace wished of al men. ³ But when I demanded of my counsellers how this might be accomplished, ^aone that excelled the rest in wisdom and fidelitie, and was second after the king, Aman by name, ⁴ told me that there was a people disperfed through the whole world, which vsed new lawes, and doing against the customes of al Nations, contemned the cōmandmentes of kings, and brake the concord of al nations by their diffention. ⁵ Which when we had learned, feing one nation rebellious against al kind of men to vse peruerse lawes, and to goe against our commandmentes, and to disturb the peace and concord of the prouinces subiect to vs, ⁶ we haue commanded that whomsoever Aman shal shew, who is chiefe ouer al the prouinces, and second after the king, and whom we honour in steed of a father, they with their wiues and children be destroyed of their enemies, and that none haue pitie on them the fourteenth day of the twelfth moneth Adar of this present yeare: ⁷ that the wicked men going downe to hel in one day, may restore the peace to our empire, which they had disturbed.

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F ch. 3. v. 14.

Hitherto the copie of the letter.

^a Great hurt to a king, that is ruled by one counseler. Salomon teacheth, that *VWhere are manie counsellers, cogitations are confirmed. Prou. 15. v. 22.*

ch. 4. v. 17. That which foloweth I found written after that place, where it is read, *And Mardocheus going forth, did al thinges, that Efther had commanded him.* Yet it in neither in the Hebrew, nor extant with any of ^a)the interpreters.

⁸ But Mardocheus befought our Lord, mindeful of al his workes, ⁹ and faid: Lord Lord king omnipotent, for in thy dominion are al thinges fet, and there is none that can refift thy wil, if thou determine to faue Ifrael. ¹⁰ Thou madft heauen and earth, and whatfoeuer is conteyned in the compaffe of heauen. ¹¹ Thou art Lord of al, neither is there that can refift thy maieftie. ¹² Thou vnderftandeft al things, and knoweft that I haue not done this for pride and contumelie, and any defire of glorie, that I adored not the proud Aman, ¹³ (for gladly would I be readie for the faluation of Ifrael to kiffe euen the fteppes of his feete,) ¹⁴ but I feared left I fhould tranferre the honour of my God to a man, and left I fhould adore any except my God. ¹⁵ And now ô Lord king, the God of Abraham haue mercie vpon thy people, becaufe our enemies wil deftroy vs, and extinguiſh thyne inheritance. ¹⁶ Deſpife not thy portion, which thou haſt redemed to thyſelf out of Ægypt. ¹⁷ Heare my prayer, and be propitious to thy lot and corde, and turne our mourning into ioy, that liuing we may prayſe thy name ô Lord, and doe not ſhut the mouthes of them that ſing to thee. ¹⁸ Al Ifrael alfo with like mind and fupplication cried to our Lord, becaufe certayne death did hang ouer them.

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^a Except the 72.