

ESTHER CHAPTER 5

¹ And it came to pass on the third day, when she had ceased praying, that she put off her mean dress, and put on her glorious apparel. And being splendidly arrayed, *and* having called upon God the Overseer and Preserver of all things, she took her two maids, and she leaned upon one, as a delicate female, and the other followed bearing her train. And she *was* blooming in the perfection of her beauty; and her face *was* cheerful and benevolent, but her heart *was* straitened for fear.

And having passed through all the doors, she stood before the king. And he was sitting upon his royal throne, and he had put on all his glorious apparel, *covered* all over with gold and precious stones, and was very terrible. And having raised his face resplendent with glory, he looked with intense anger. And the queen fell, and changed her color as she fainted; and she bowed herself upon the head of the maid that went before *her*. But God changed the spirit of the king's demeanor, and in intense feeling he sprang from off his throne, and took her into his arms, until she recovered. And he comforted her with peaceable words, and said to her, "What is *the matter*, Esther? I *am* your brother; be of good cheer, you shall not die, for our command is openly declared *to you*; Draw near." ² And having raised the golden scepter he laid it upon her neck, and embraced her, and said, "Speak to me." And she said to him, "I saw you, *my lord*, as an angel of God, and my heart was troubled for fear of your glory; for you, *my lord*, are to be wondered at, and your face *is* full of grace." And while she was speaking, she fainted and fell. Then the king was troubled, and all his servants comforted her. ³ And the king said, "What do you wish, Esther? And what is your request? *Ask* even to the half of my kingdom, and it shall be yours." ⁴ And Esther said, "Today is my great day: if then it seems good to the king, let both him and Haman come to the feast which I will prepare this day." ⁵ And the king said, "Bring Haman here quickly, that we may perform the word of Esther." So they both came to the feast of which Esther had spoken. ⁶ And at the banquet the king said to Esther, "What is *your request*, Queen Esther? *Speak*, and you shall have all that you require." ⁷ And she said, "My request and my petition *is this*: ⁸ if I have found favor in the sight of the king, let the king and Haman come again tomorrow to the feast which I shall prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do the same."

⁹ So Haman went out from the king very glad *and* merry; but when Haman saw Mordecai the Jew in the court, he was greatly enraged. ¹⁰ And having gone into his own house, he called his friends, and his wife Zeresh. ¹¹ And he showed them his wealth, and the glory with which the king had invested him, and how he had caused him to take precedence and bear chief rule in the kingdom. ¹² And Haman said, "The queen has called no one to the feast with the king but me, and I am invited tomorrow. ¹³ But these things do not please me while I *still* see Mordecai the Jew in the court." ¹⁴ And Zeresh his wife and his friends said to him, "Let there be a gallows made for you of fifty cubits, and in the morning speak to the king, and let Mordecai be hanged on the gallows. But go in to the feast with the king, and be merry." And the saying pleased Haman, and the gallows was prepared.