



## An Outline of Esther

- 1) KING DOOFUS AND HIS DILEMMA (1:1-2:1)
  - a) Setting up the story (1:1-9)
    - i) Introduction: Geographical and chronological markers (1:1)
    - ii) A banquet given by King A. (1:2-4)
    - iii) A second banquet given by King A. (1:5-8)
    - iv) Queen Vashti ("Queen V.") Introduced: She gave a banquet for the women (1:9)
  - b) The story begins: King A. and his queen (1:10-2:1)
    - i) Calls for his seven eunuchs to bring her: How and why (1:10-11)
    - ii) Vashti becomes the antagonist (1:12)
    - iii) King A. makes his case against Queen V. (1:13-2:1)
- 2) QUEEN ? TO THE HEROINE, QUEEN ESTHER (2:2-23)
  - a) King A.'s servants: Find a new queen (2:2-4)
  - b) New characters (2:5-11)
    - i) Mordecai (2:5-6)
    - ii) Hadassah a.k.a. Esther (2:7)
    - iii) Why these characters matter to the story (2:8-11)
      - (1) Esther was taken to the palace with the other young women (2:8-10)
      - (2) Mordecai's hung around to keep an eye on Esther (2:11)
  - c) "Extreme Makeover Persian edition:" Contestants and rules (2:12-14)
  - d) Esther becomes the Queen (2:15-18)
  - e) Mordecai foils an assassination plot (2:19-23)

- 3) THE VILLAIN HAMAN: HIS RISE; HIS DEMISE (3:1-9:17)
  - a) Haman's rise; Haman's scheme (3:1-15)
  - b) Mordecai and Esther respond to Haman's plan (4:1-17)
    - i) Mordecai's anguish reflected all Jews' anguish (4:1-3)
    - ii) Esther's anguish and investigation (4:4-5)
    - iii) Mordecai and Esther communicate via Hathach (4:6-17)
  - c) Esther's response enacted in throne room and banquet requests (5:1-8)
  - d) Haman responds to Mordecai: he and Zeresh plot against Mordecai (5:9-14)

TURNING POINT: BEGINNING OF HAMAN'S DOWNFALL

  - e) King A. wants to honor Mordecai (6:1-13)
    - i) Discovers Mordecai's loyalty and wants to honor him (6:1-3)
    - ii) Enter Haman, with his would-be self-serving but backfiring plan (6:4-13)
  - f) Esther's Second Banquet; Haman's Bitter End (6:14-7:9)
  - g) Esther and Mordecai get Haman's place and power (8:1-9:17)
    - i) House and ring (8:1-2)
    - ii) At Esther's request, the plot is reversed (8:3-9:17)
- 4) THE POINT OF THE STORY: Purim (9:18-10:3)
  - a) Introduction: more feasting (9:18-19)
  - b) The new official Mordecai makes the feast official (9:20-23)
  - c) The origins of the festival (9:24-28)
  - d) The festival confirmed: Purim (9:29-32)
  - e) Summary, epilogue, and corroboration (10:1-3)

