

Party Time at the Feast of Purim



The Book of Esther

A story with a personal interest for you and me

Ahasuerus

Xerxes I (519 -466 BC) King of Persia

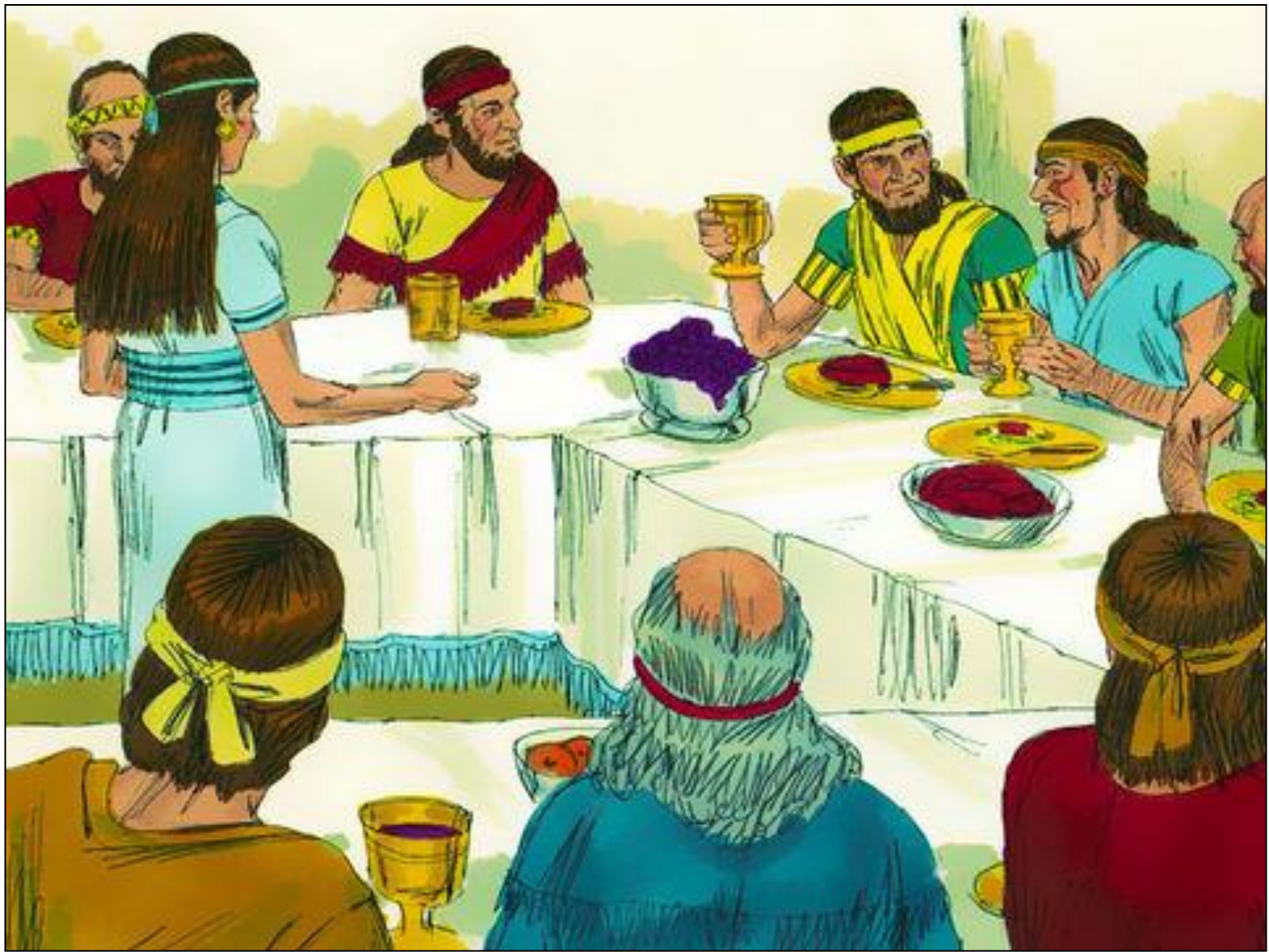
The events happened in about 475 BC



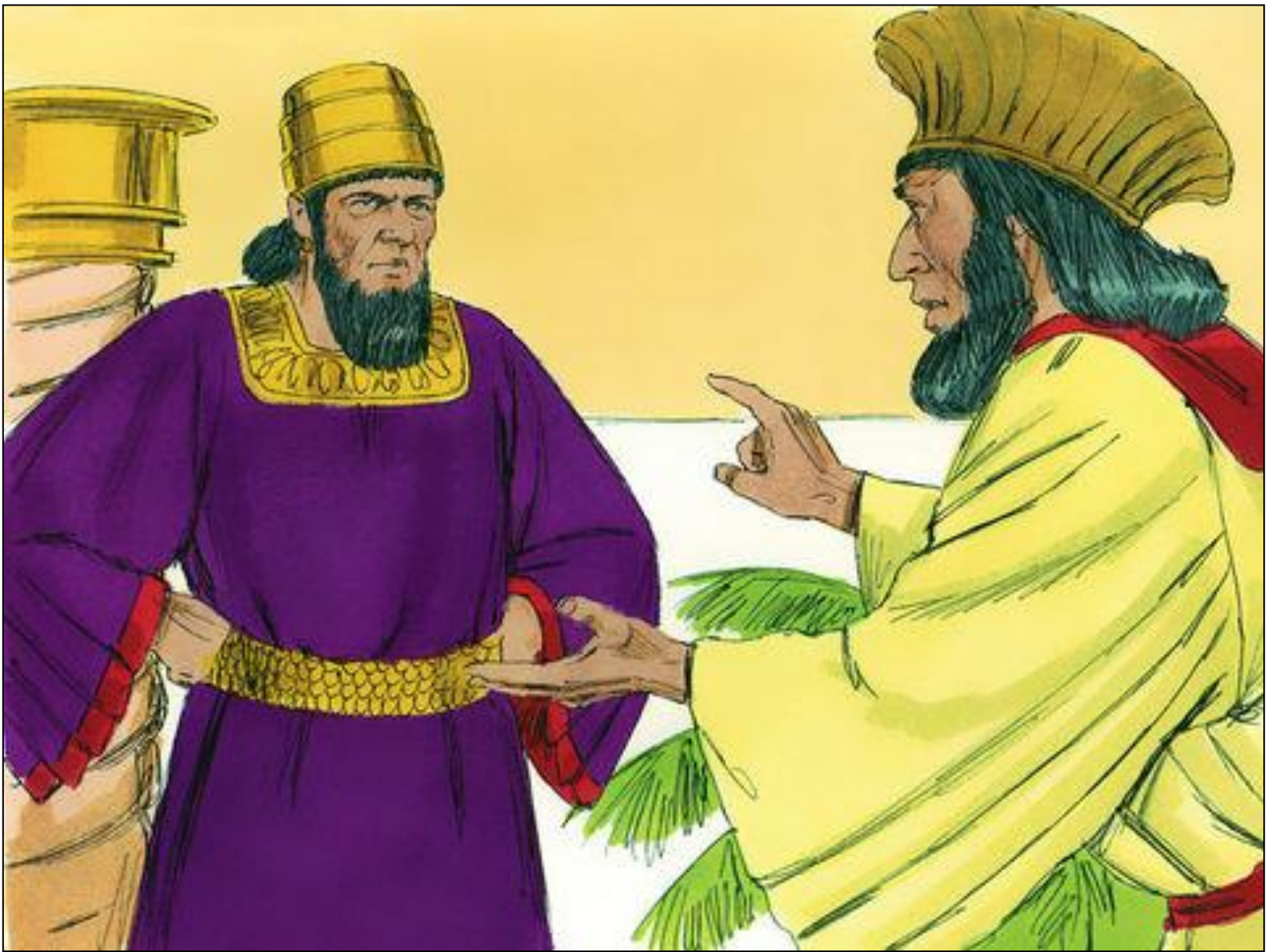
Esther

Chapter 1:1 - 5



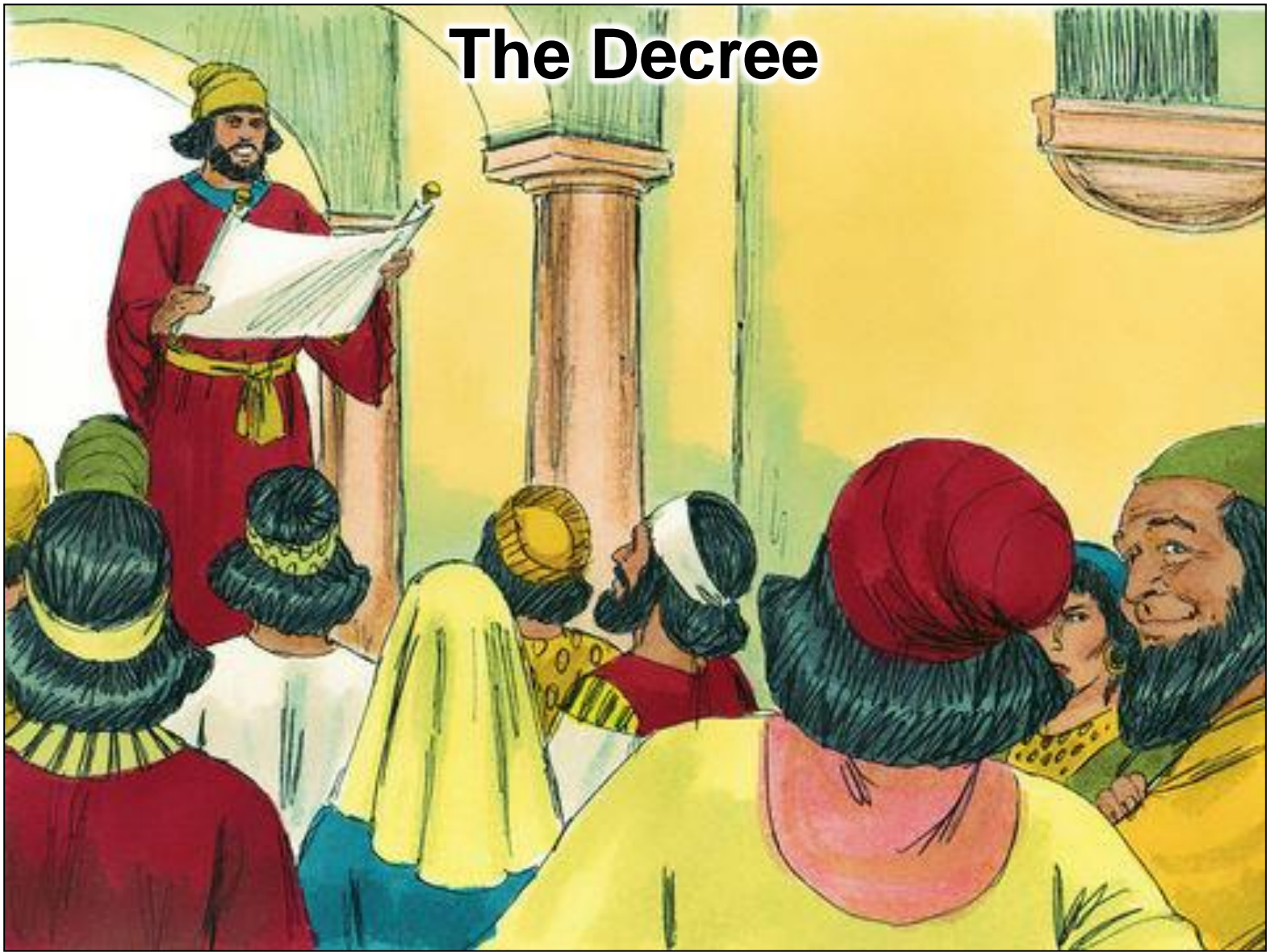


Show off Vashti, his wife - A great idea ?

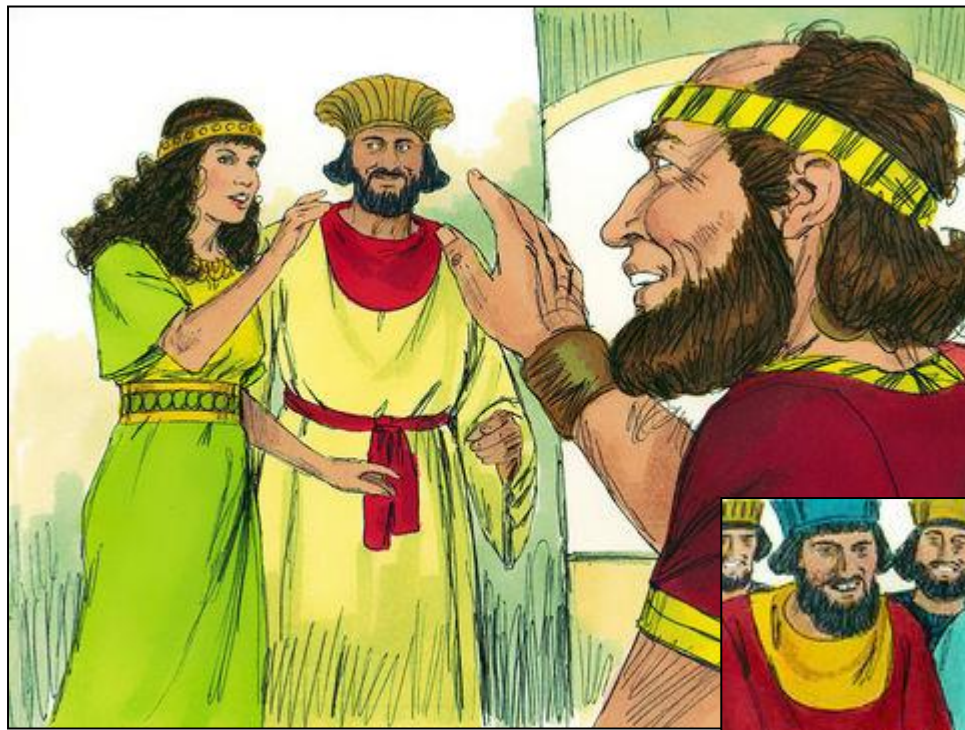


She refused to come

The Decree

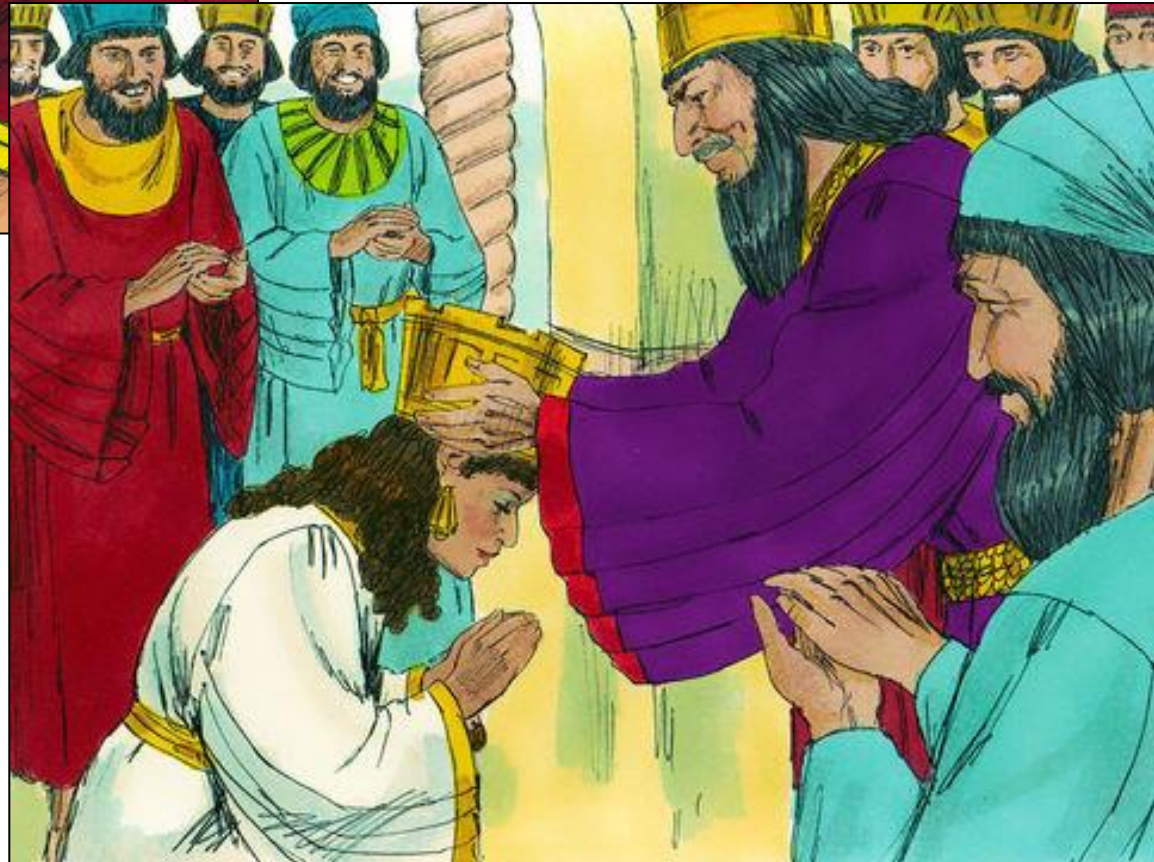


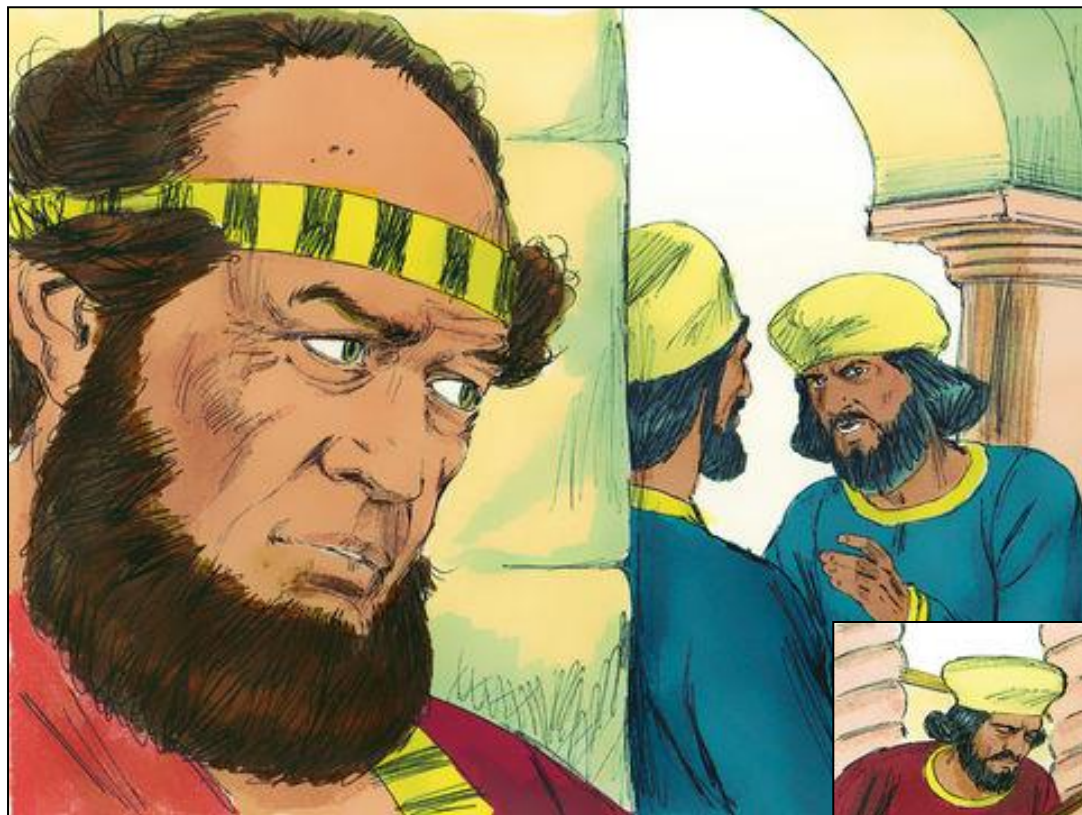
“She’s fired !
I’ll find a new, obedient one.”



The beautiful (Jewish) orphan girl, Esther (*adopted by her older cousin Mordecai*) is chosen for the competition to become queen

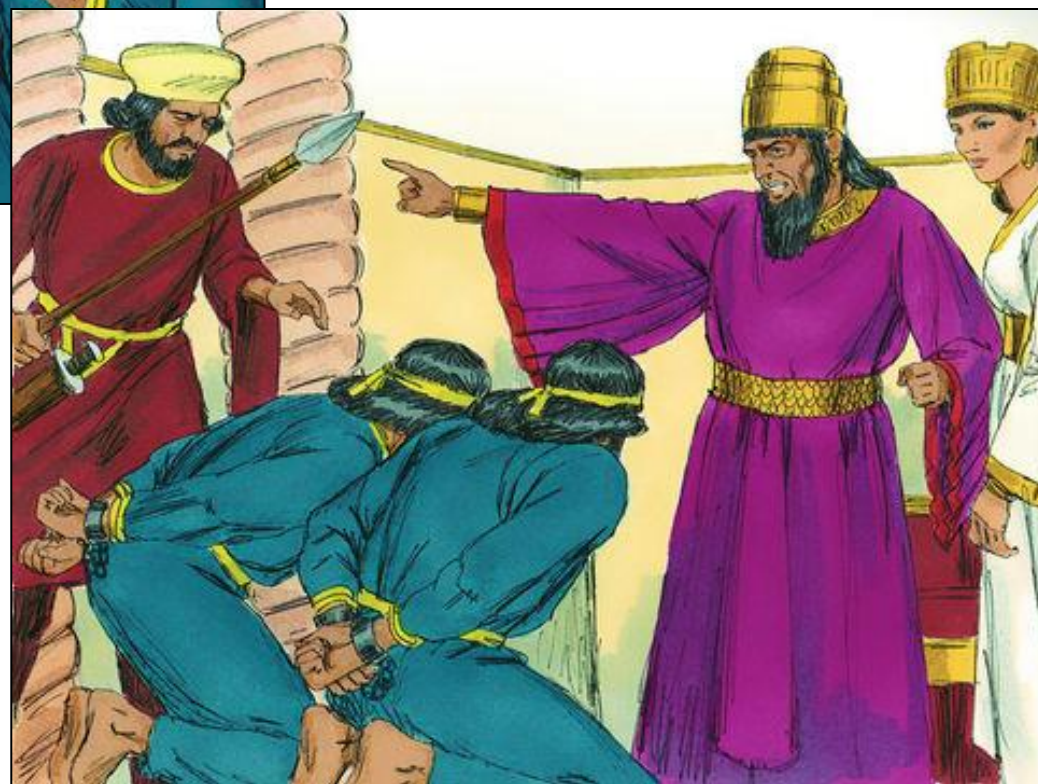
And is eventually crowned Queen





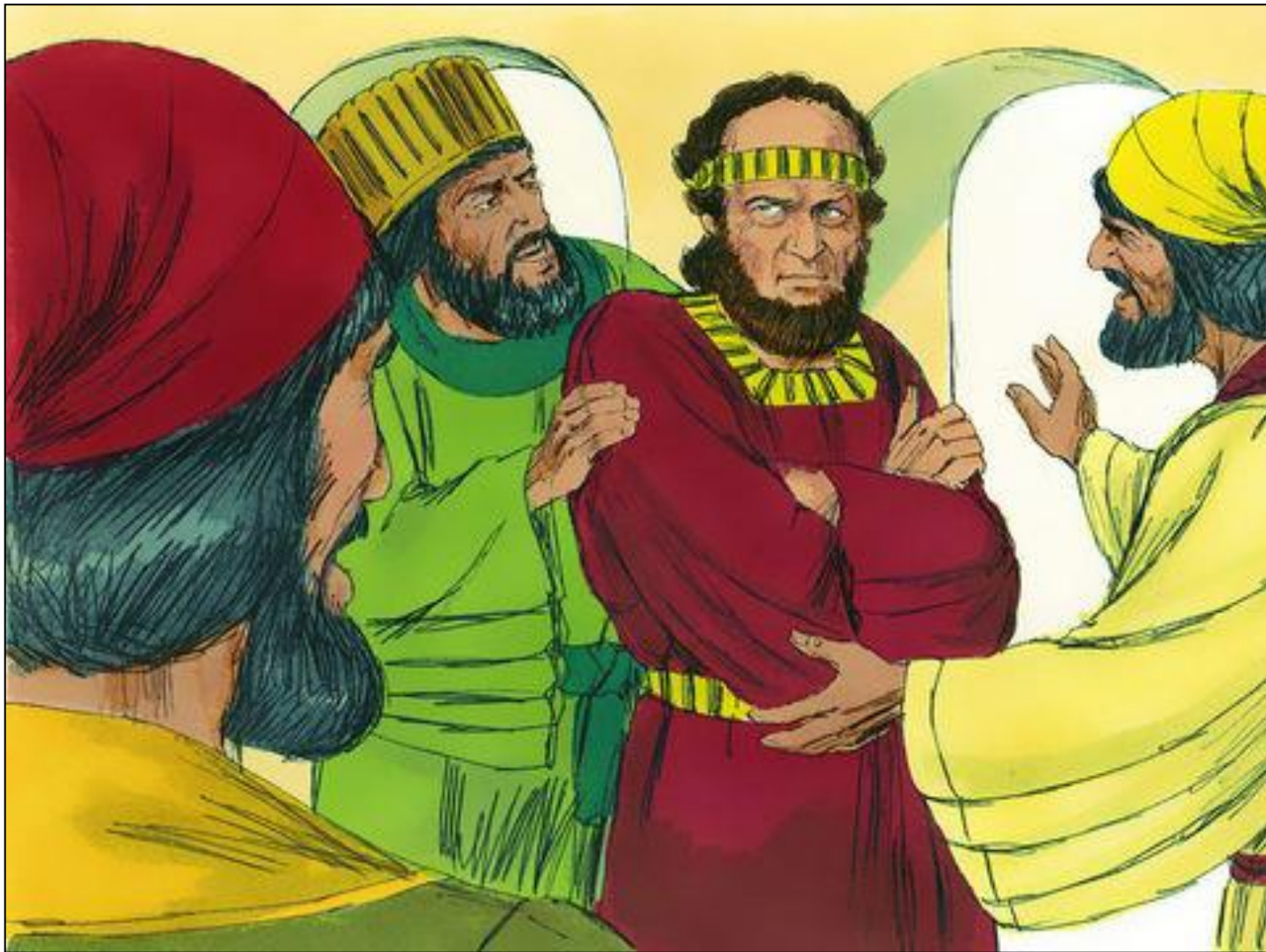
Mordecai,
Esther's 'uncle'
hears of a plot to
assassinate the king
and reports it

The men are arrested,
tried and executed and
the details are written in
the official records.





Haman is promoted to 'prime minister'
and every one bows to him except Mordecai



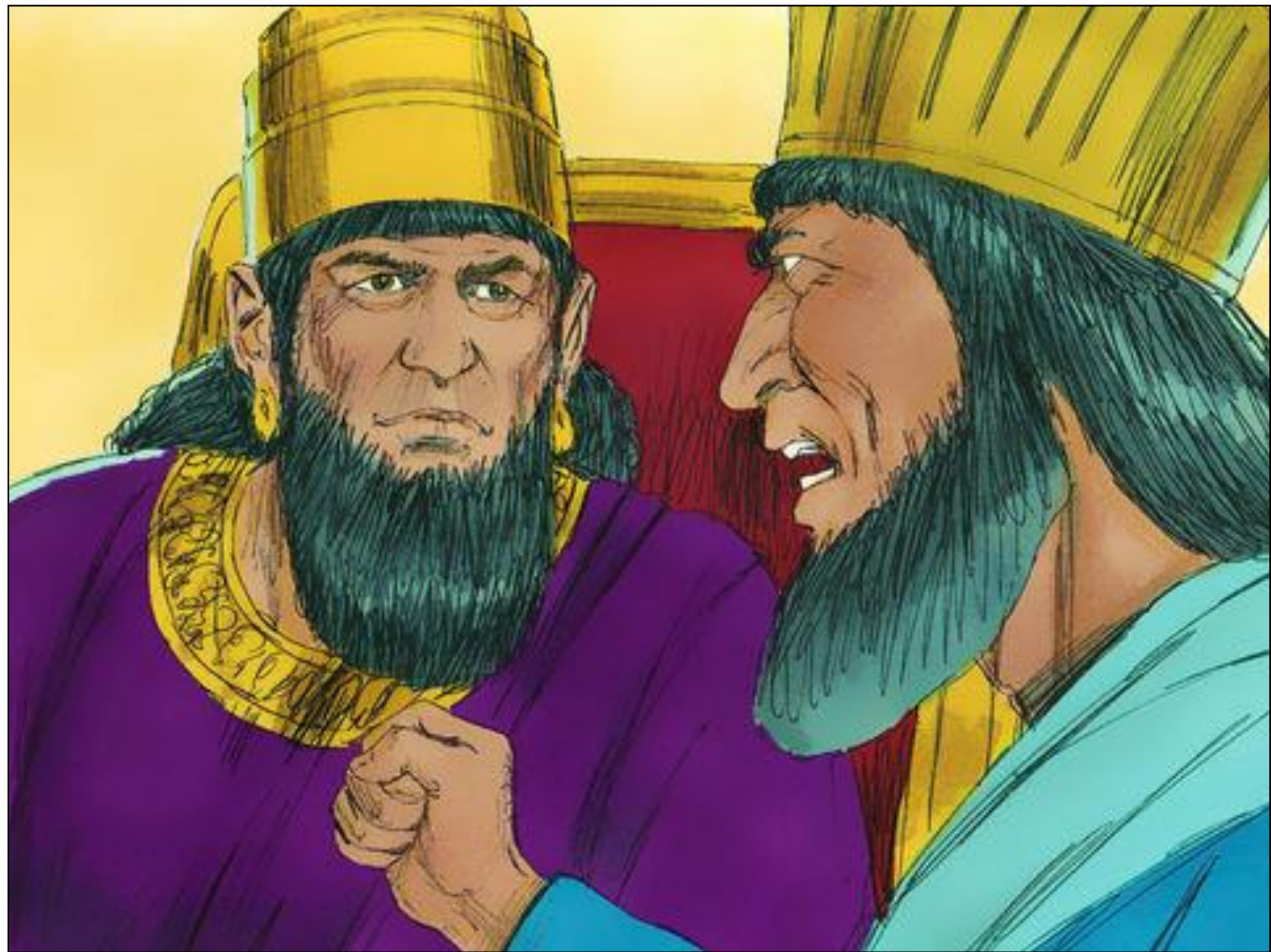
Mordecai explains he won't bow because he is a Jew
and is reported to Haman

13th Adar – It's my LUCKY Day !



In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the pur (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month(to kill the Jews). And the lot fell on the 12th month, the month of Adar.

Esther 3:7



Haman asks the king to issue a decree to wipe out all the Jews in his empire

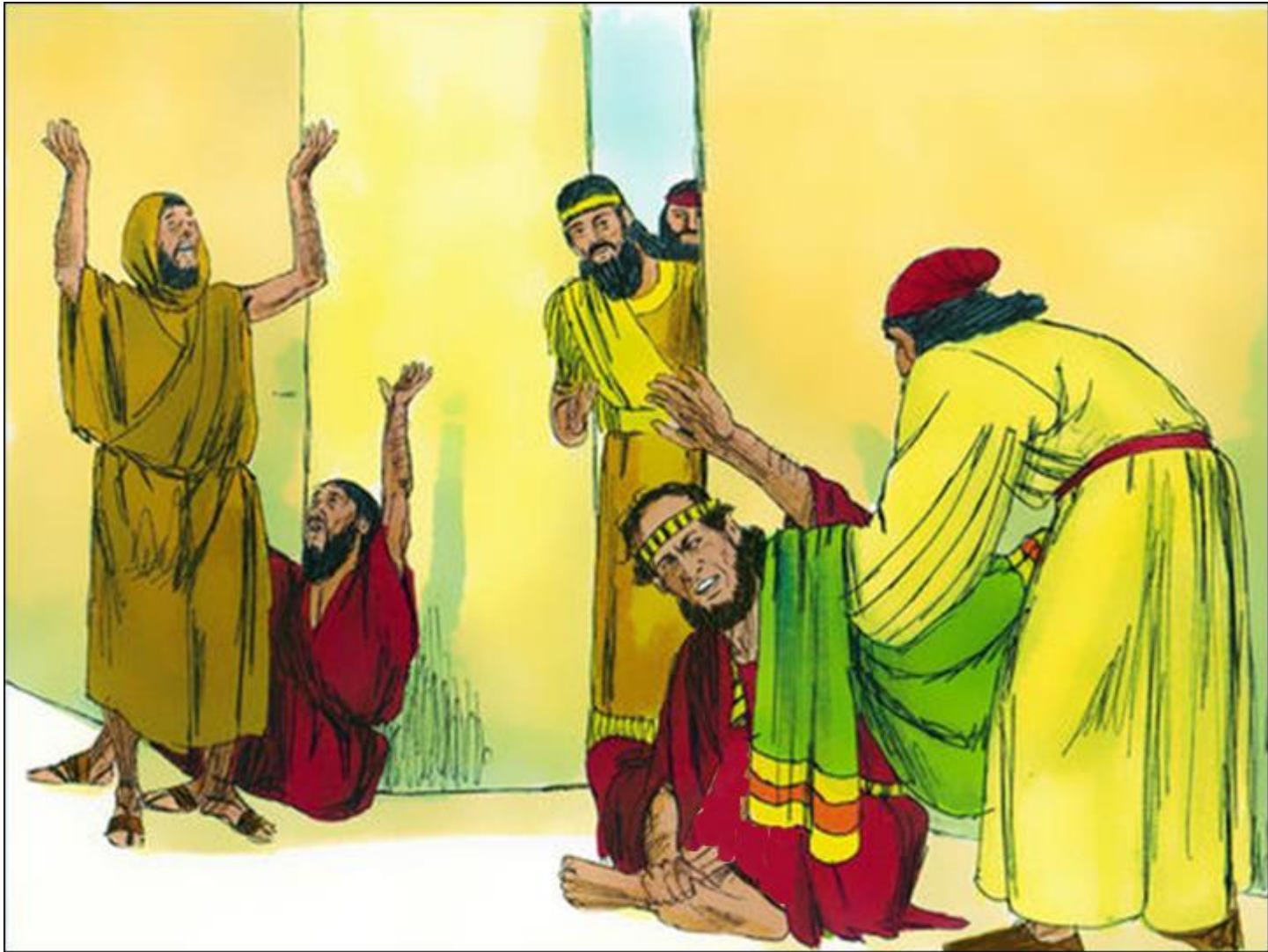
Once it is in writing



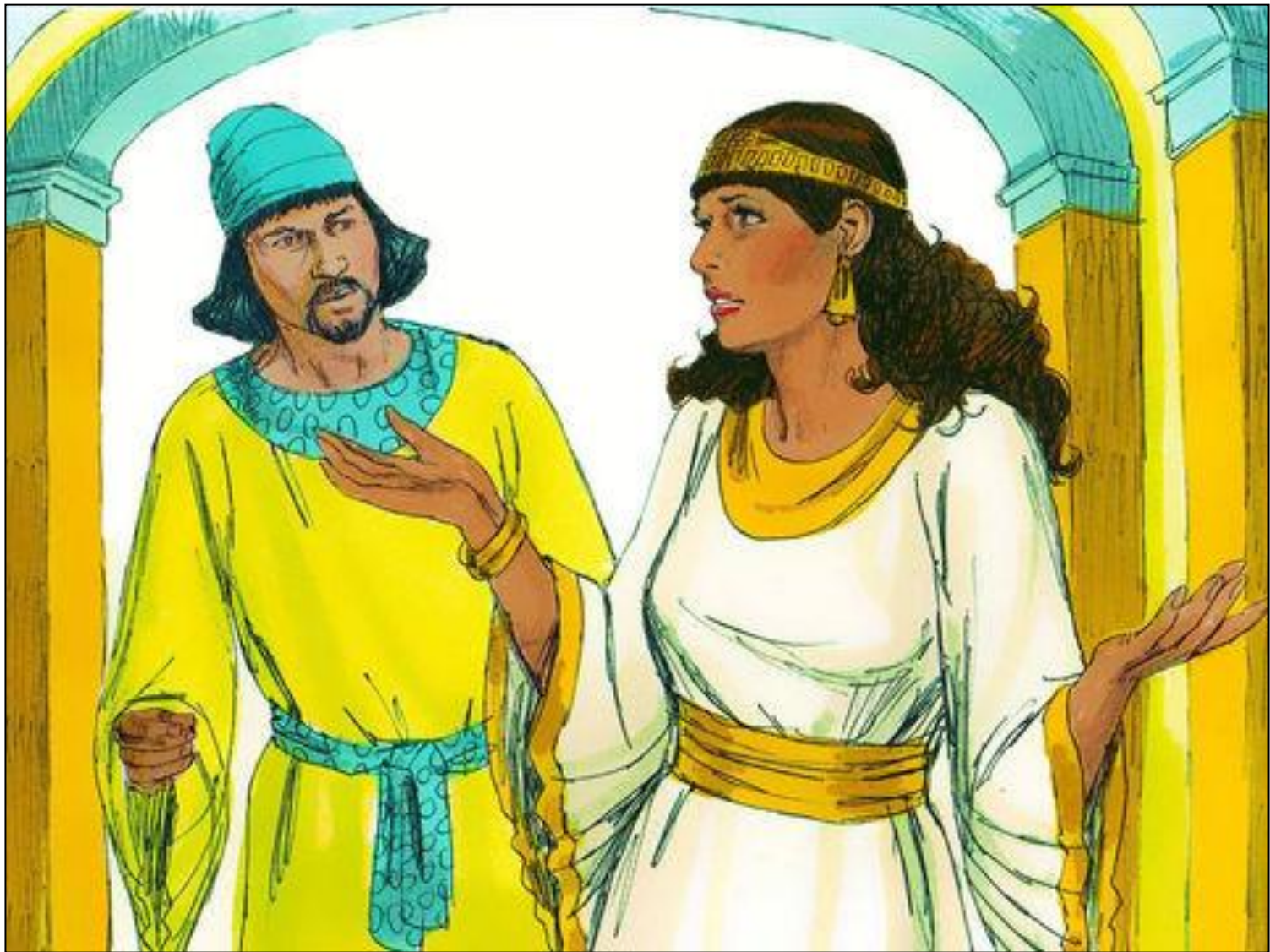
it's the law of the Medes and Persians



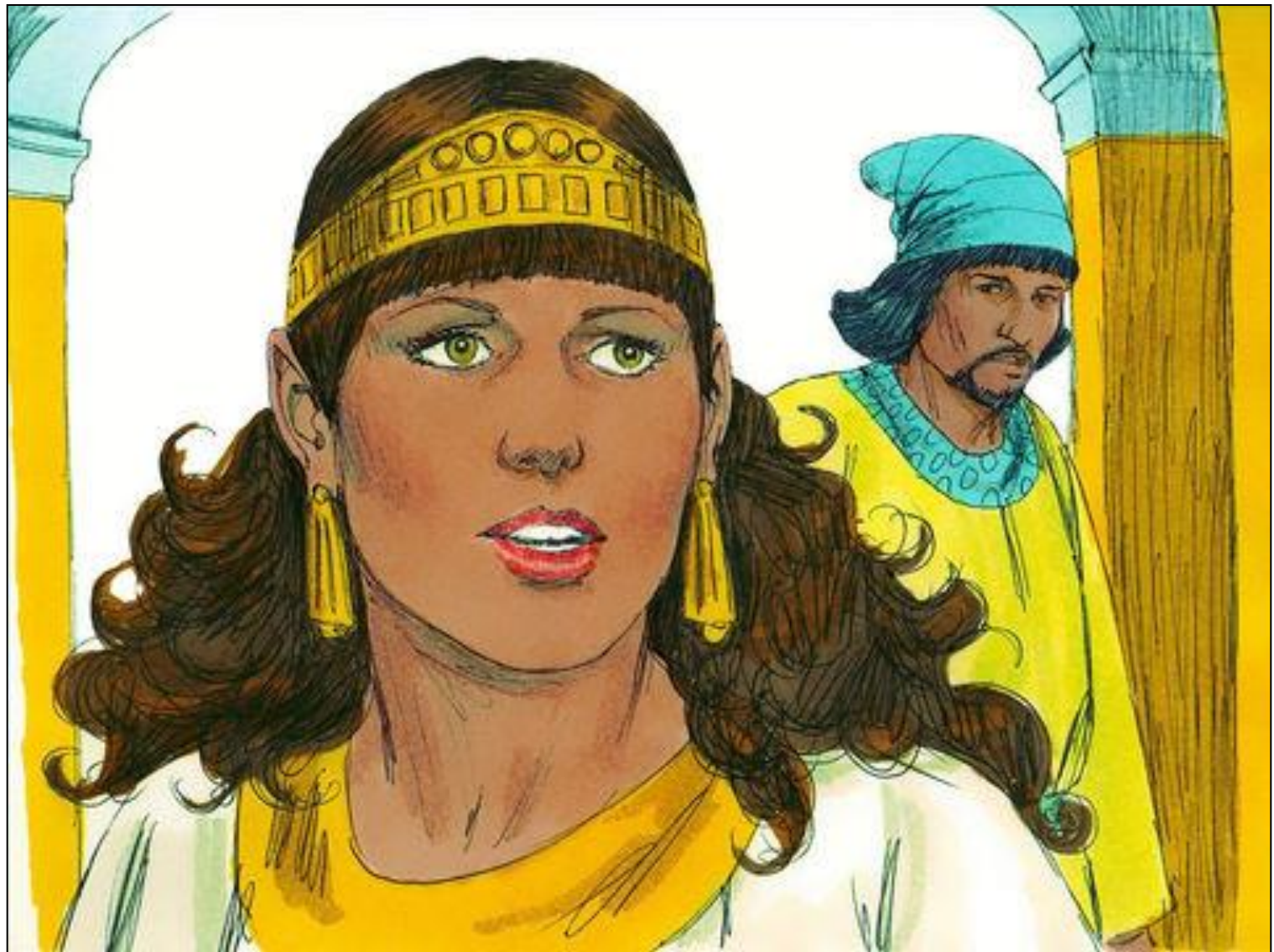
It's BAD news for Jews



Esther sends new clothes for Mordecai



Mordecai asks Esther to ask the king to cancel the decree



The king hasn't seen me for a month – I could die !

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews **will arise from another place**, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Esther 4:12 - 16

for such a time as this?

**Other "Hamans" have come and gone
Evil has to be resisted.**



Hello Esther,
What do you want me
to do for you ?

Would you and Haman
come to a banquet
I've prepared ?





They don't know what Esther wants **yet**



Esther,
What do you want me
to do for you ?

Would you and Haman
come to **another** banquet
tomorrow ?

Then I'll tell you.



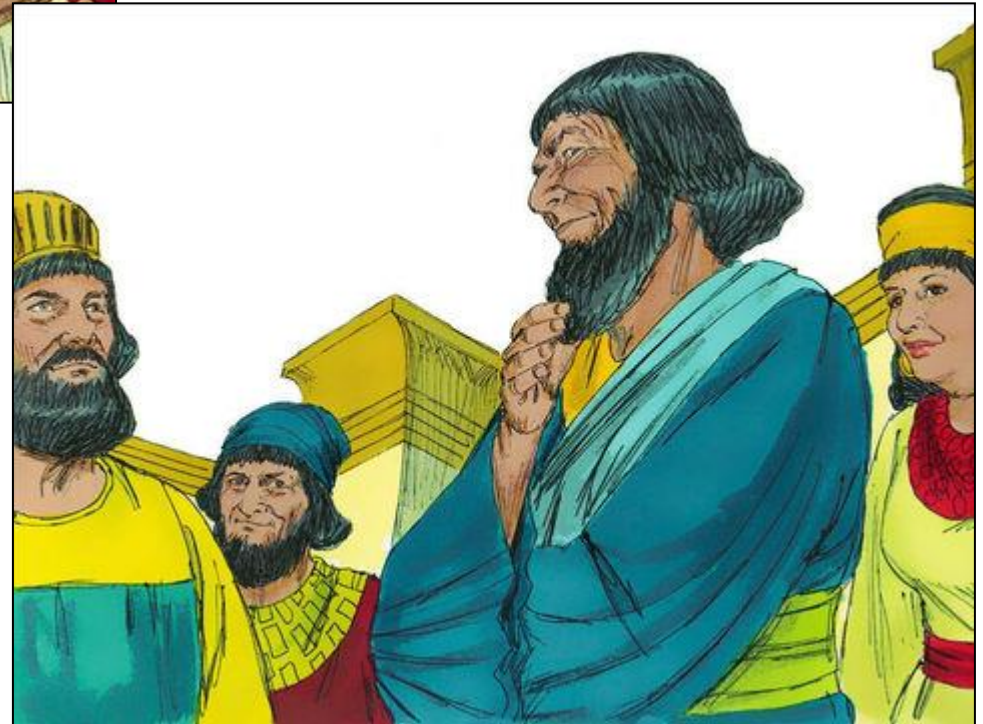


Haman has been invited to the banquet
BUT on the way home he sees Mordecai –
standing!

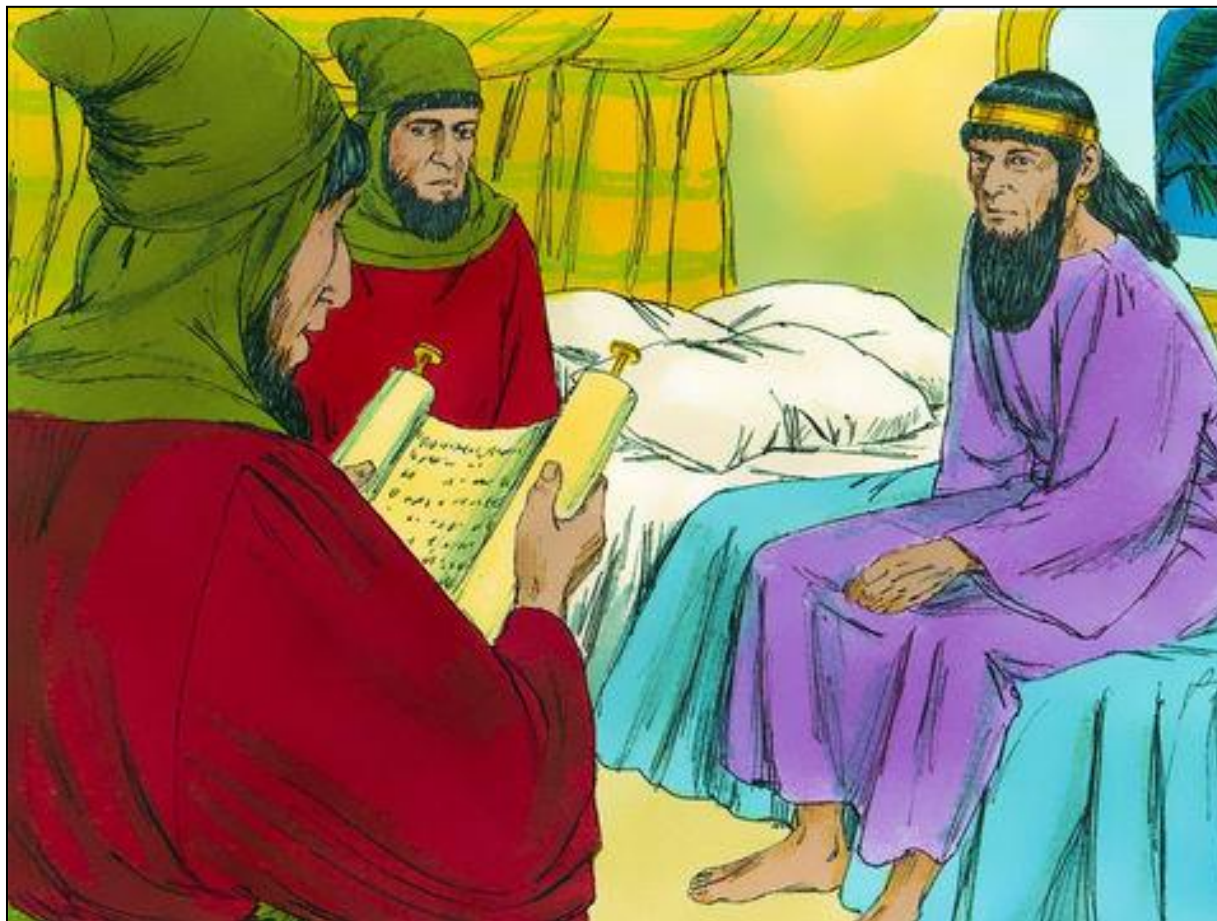
The family come up with a **great** idea.



75 feet



For a bad case of insomnia chronicle-sleep-aid



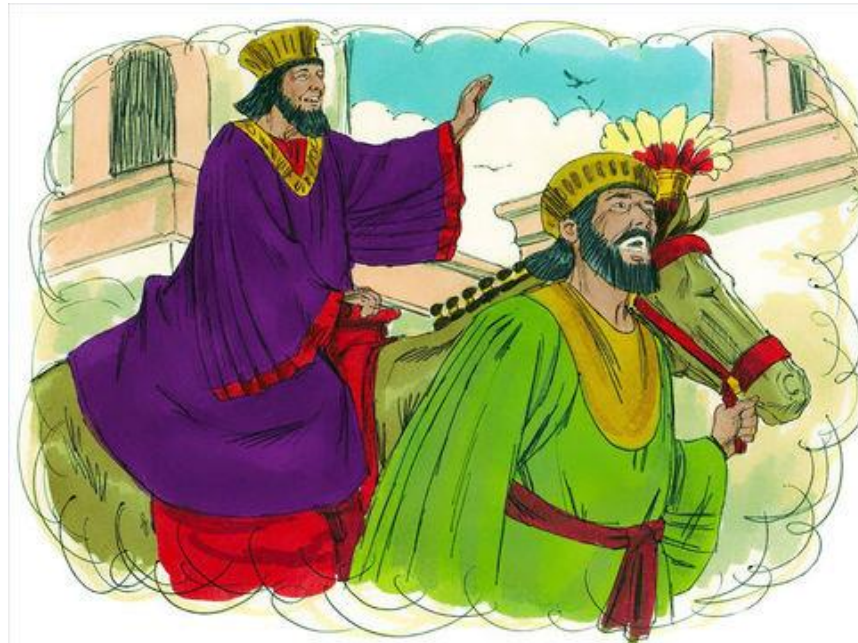
"What honour and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered. Esther 6:3

Just then !

Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honour?" Now Haman thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honour than me?"

Esther 6:6

Give him the works !





"Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended." Esther 6:10

The escort to banquet No. 2 comes for Haman



What do you want ?



Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favour with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life--this is my petition. And spare my people--this is my request. For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated."

Esther 7:3-4

Who is responsible for this?

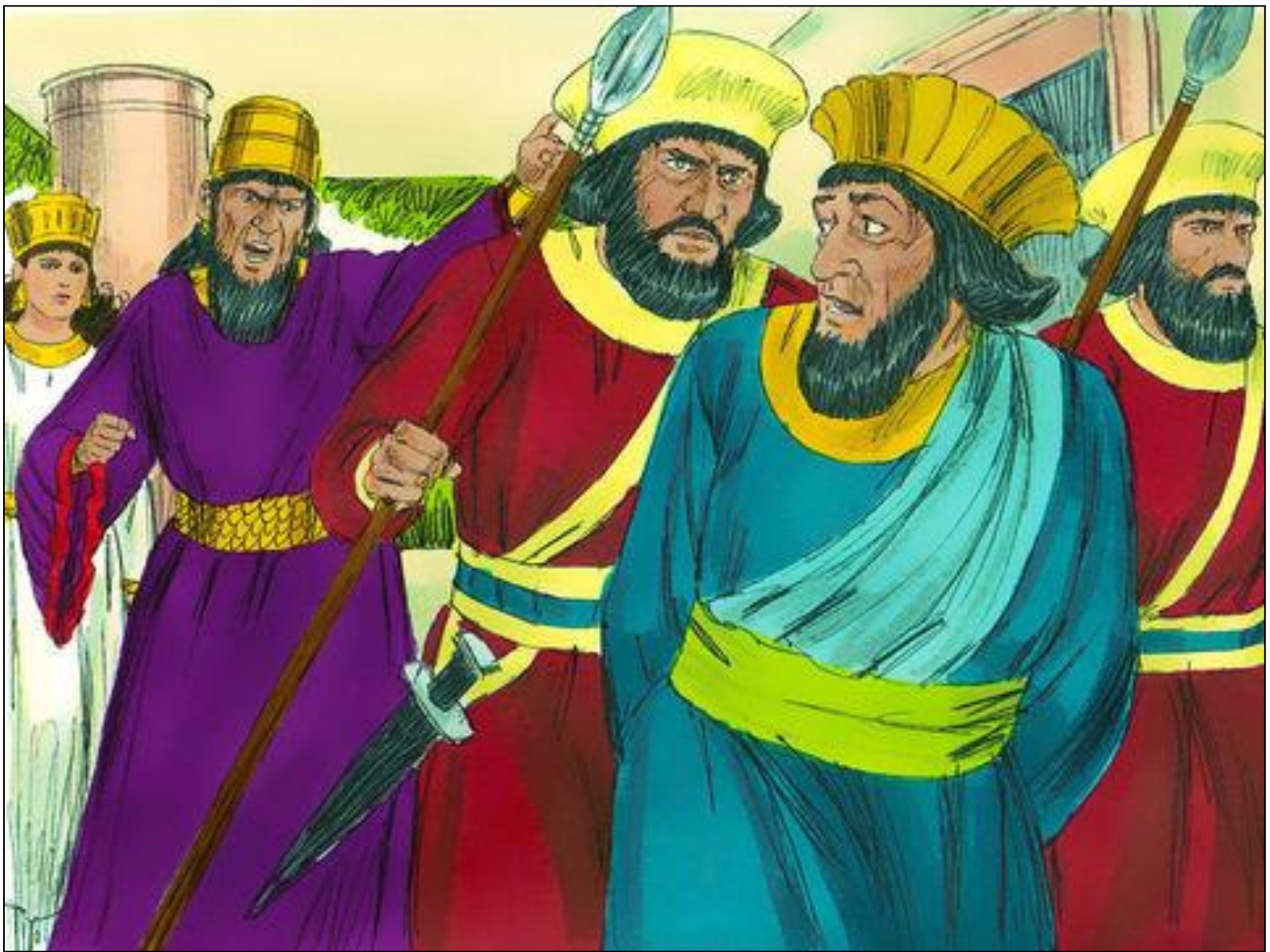
It's Haman !

The king walks out into the garden in fury





Haman begs for his life
but the king comes in and sees him 'molesting' his wife.

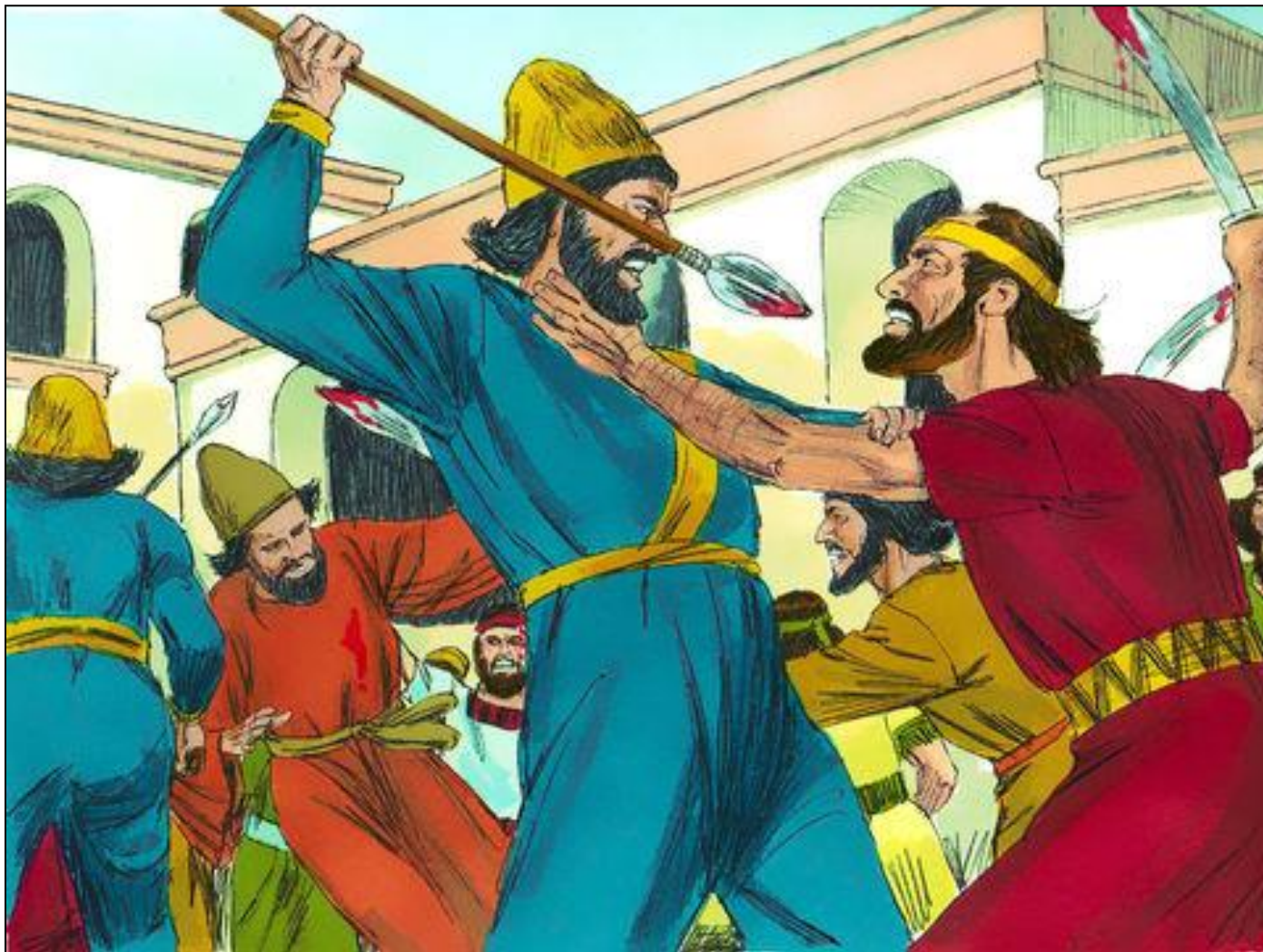


He is removed and hanged on his own gallows

Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king's signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king. The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies.

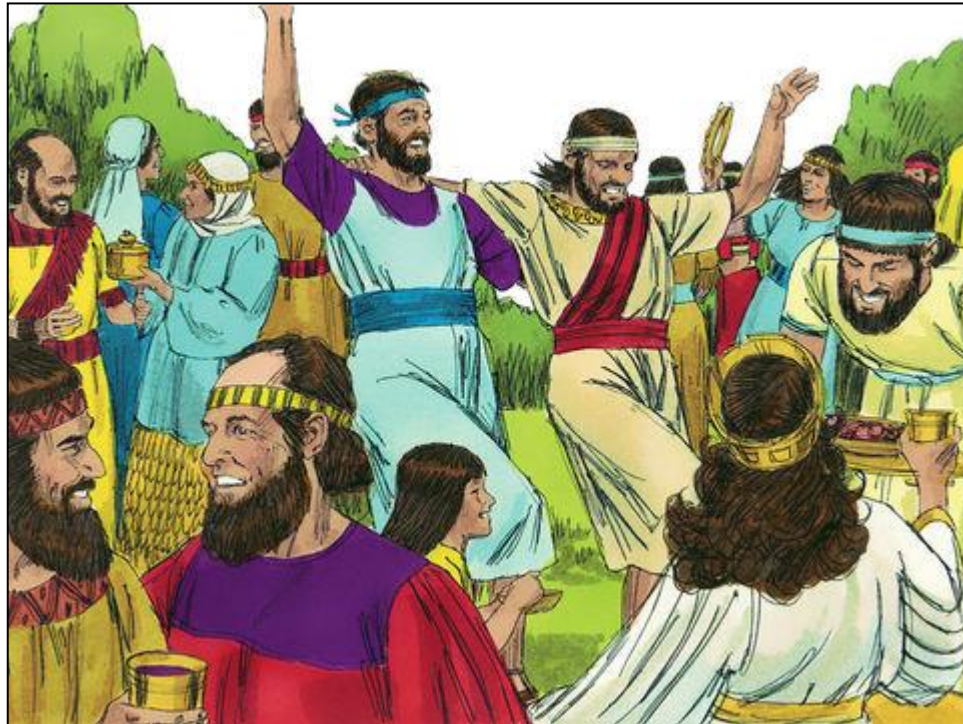
Esther 8:10-11





The Jews were allowed to defend themselves
BUT they didn't take any property
(it's not about money)

Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor. Esther 9:20 -22



What is odd about the book of Esther ?

- 1, God is not mentioned
- 2, Names are derived from Persian gods: Marduk, Astarte
- 3, There are no miracles



1, God is not mentioned - the LORD יהוה

ותאמר אסתר אם-על-המלך טוב יבוא **ה**מלך
והמן **ה**יום אל-המשתה אשר-עשיתי לו:

Esther 5:4

והמלך קם בחמתו ממשתה היין אל-גנת
הביתן והמן עמד לבקש על-נפשו מאסתר
המלכה כי ראה **כ**י-כלתה **ה**אליו **ה**הרעה **מ**את
המלך:

Esther 7:7

**This sequence occurs
only twice in 10 chapters !
BUT HE IS THERE !**

2, Names are derived from Persian gods: Marduk, Astarte

Esther's Hebrew name was Hadassah (Myrtle)

Was it kept under cover ?

We see the same name change in the book of Daniel
(Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah)

Just because they give you a name of a god
doesn't mean you worship it. (eg. Dennis)

For there is one God
and one mediator between God and mankind,
the man Christ Jesus,
1 Timothy 2:5

3, There are no miracles

How many 'coincidences' to make a miracle ?

All of these things are 'ordinary' in themselves

It just happened that :

Vashti refused to come

Esther was the favourite

Mordecai saw the conspiracy and they kept a record

The people prayed

The king accepted Esther's unannounced entrance

The king couldn't sleep that night

The servants read from the right part of the record

Haman arrived just then

Mordecai was promoted to Haman's position



Lessons for us from Esther

God is at work in the detail

(How often can you see a miracle in the making ?)

Isn't that worth celebrating ?

Lessons for us from Esther

God is at work in the detail

(How often can you see a miracle in the making ?)

God uses individuals who are available

(Are you willing ?– it could be dangerous !)

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Lessons for us from Esther

God is at work in the detail

(How often can you see a miracle in the making ?)

God uses individuals who are available

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God saves his people

(Are you sure you are one of them ?)

Isn't that worth celebrating ?

Lessons for us from Esther

God is at work in the detail

(How often can you see a miracle in the making ?)

God uses individuals who are available

(Are you willing ?– it could be dangerous !)

God saves his people

(Are you sure you are one of them ?)

God rules the nations of the world

(That applies now)

Isn't that worth celebrating ?

The Book of Esther

A story with a personal interest for you and me

- No Jewish people → No apostles
- No Jewish people → No Messiah Jesus
- No Jewish people → No return of the King



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28