

Ahasuerus agreed to Haman's plan
and a decree to this effect was announced:
all Jews were to be killed on the 14th day of the 12th month.

Dear God, please protect poor people
from people like Haman

Chapter 4

When Mordecai heard about Haman's plan,
Mordecai asked Esther to appeal to Ahasuerus for help.
Mordecai and Esther both knew that to approach the king
without an invitation was a crime punishable by death,
unless the king saw fit to welcome an uninvited person.
So they prayed to God to move the heart of Ahasuerus
to welcome Esther.

Dear God, please move the hearts of rulers
to care for their people

Chapter 5

After Esther prayed to God for a long time,
she went to the palace and presented herself to the king.
At first the king was angry that Esther came without being
invited, but then his heart softened and he welcomed her.
When King Ahasuerus saw that Esther was distressed,
he asked her what was wrong.
He promised to do anything for her.
Esther asked that there be two special banquets for herself,
the king and Haman.
The king agreed and the banquets were arranged.
Haman meanwhile was making his own arrangements:
a high gallows on which to hang Mordecai.

Dear God, please move the hearts of rulers
to be kind to their people