



**BIBLE STUDY SERIES
COMPETITION NO. 6
THE BOOK OF ESTHER**

No	A	B	C	D	No	A	B	C	D	No	A	B	C	D
1					18					35				
2					19					36				
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Corrected by: _____

**BIBLE STUDY SERIES
COMPETITION No 6**

The Book of
ESTHER

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CHURCH: _____
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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read THE BOOK OF ESTHER contemplating its events and seeking the HOLY SPIRIT's guidance.
2. Accompany your reading with the readings of other contemplations and explanatory books especially those written by Rev. Father Tadros Y. Maly.
3. For each of the questions in section I, there may be more than one answer. Place an X for each answer in the correct boxes of the table found on the last page of this competition.
4. A special gift is offered to those whose names are called after any of the blessed personalities in the Book Of Esther. So for those lucky ones do not hesitate to contact Br. Ehab Wahib to claim your gift.
5. Commentaries audio cassettes for The Book Of Esther are available in the church's Book Shop.
6. The competition is another blessed chance to study the Bible so try hard and on your own so you may reap the fruits of the blessed word of God.

A WHISPER IN YOUR EAR

Our Beloved Youth, Brothers And Sisters

The clock of life ticks along
and one knows not when the hands will
cease,
whether it is in the early or the late hour.
It's only the present that we have,
so examine your relationship with the LORD.
Is it friendship...Is it fatherhood...or is it enmity?
Do not place your trust in tomorrow
lest the hands of the clock...STOP!



A copy of this competition can be obtained from St George Coptic Orthodox Church on or after 30/7/94.

These competitions are open for all christians. You can have a copy mailed to you or to any of your beloved by contacting **Br. Ehab Wahib** on

Telephone: (02) 558-3960.

**Address: 8/7 Bayley St.
West Murrumbidgee NSW 2204
Australia**

The competition will be handed back and prizes will be awarded to every person that hands an entry on 8/10/94.

Closing date for the competition is 4/9/94. Recitation test will be held after Vesper on Saturday 3/9/94 in St. George Coptic Orthodox Church. The

- 6) **Was second in the kingdom;**
a) Joseph.
b) Elkanah during Ahaz rein.
c) Mordcai.
d) Haman.
- 7) **Esther;**
a) is an Indian name that means a young lady.
b) in hebrew is Hedssah.
c) Daughter of Jai, the son of Shimei, son of Kish.
d) Was of the same tribe as St. Paul.
- 8) **In the book of Esther, God's name was mentioned;**
a) 5 times. b) 6 times.
c) 8 times. d) not a single time.
- 9) **Which of these happened last?**
a) The Jews would exchange gifts.
b) Ahasuerus appointed Esther as a Queen.
c) Nebuchadnessar captured Jeconiah, King of Judah.
d) Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.
- 10) **"So they called these days....."**
a) Aurim. b) Tamim.
c) Purim. d) Nathnim.
- 11) **Tarshish;**
a) Is the name of the city that Jonah wanted to flee to.
b) Ahasuerus' door keeper.
c) One of Persia and Media seven Princes.
d) Phoenician name for refinery.

12) To honour Haman;

- a) Ahasuerus promoted him and advanced him.
- b) Ahasuerus put on him a royal robe and give him one of the King's horses to ride.
- c) Ahasuerus extended to him the golden sceptre.
- d) Ahasuerus set his seat above all other princes.

13) Which of these statements are false;

- a) Bigtha and Abagtha were hanged on gallows.
- b) Bigtha and Bigthan told Esther of Mordecai speech.
- c) Abagtha and Bagthan are sons of Haman.
- d) Abagtha, Bagtha, and Bagthan are King Ahasuerus Eunuchs.

14) In the evening, and in the morning.....

Complete the following verses in the same order;

- a) The King could not sleep..... he ordered the Book of Chronicles to be brought to him.
- b) God created heavens and Earth..... Let there be light
- c) Weeping..... but joy....
- d) She went....., and she returned to the second house of the women.

15) Who was hanged at the gallows?

- a) Haman.
- b) Teresh
- c) Adlia.
- d) Mordecai.

16) In King Ahasuerus palace, there were;

- a) Pearl Jasper, Sapphire and Amethyst.
- b) Couches of gold and pillars of marble.
- c) Silver vessels of different shapes.
- d) white cloth and fine linen cords and purple.

17) **Sack cloth and ashes were mentioned in;**

- a) Jonah 2
- b) Isaiah 58
- c) Daniel 9
- d) Esther 4

18) **The number seven is the number of;**

- a) The selected virgins who were brought to Shushan the Citadel to Hegai.
- b) Feast days for all the people.
- c) The King's eunuchs who were ordered to bring Queen Vashti.
- d) Persia and Media princes who were ranked highest in the Kingdom.

19) **Mordecai told of God's great mercies saying:**

- a) Righteousness and mercy shall follow me all days of my life.
- b) For you have heard and saved them many times according to your great mercy.
- c) Oh Lord God of Israel no god resembles You on heaven nor on Earth. Oh keeper of His covenant and mercy to His slaves who walks in His commandments with all their hearts.
- d) Oh Lord, God and King, God of Abraham, spare your people.

20) **In these times, it was a royal tradition that;**

- a) Any man or woman who goes into the inner court, the King is to put him to death.
- b) The one to whom the king holds out the golden sceptre lives.
- c) No one may enter the King's gate clothing with sackcloth.
- d) The letter written on the King's name and sealed with the King's signet ring, no one can revoke.

- 21) **These are the King Ahasuerus orders:**
- a) Parade Mordcai through the city square proclaiming "Thus shall be done to the man whom the King delights to honour.
 - b) All Jews children two years of age and younger to be put to death.
 - c) All the King's servants to bow and pay homage to Haman except Mordcai.
 - d) The Jews to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces that would assault them, both little children and women, and to slander their possessions.
- 22) **These human feelings were mentioned in the Book Of Esther.**
- a) being angry.
 - b) being furious.
 - c) fear
 - d) Being joyful with glad heart.
- 23) **The Book of Esther tells us about;**
- a) a man with covered head.
 - b) A sleepless King.
 - c) a man rent his clothes.
 - d) an eunuch who betrayed his lord.
- 24) **The Book of Esther tells us about;**
- a) Flooding river.
 - b) falling Stars.
 - c) Darkened Moon.
 - d) Earthquakes and thunders.
- 25) **The Book of Esther is:**
- a) one of the Apocrypha Books.
 - b) one of the Katoobim Books.
 - c) one of the Historical Books.
 - d) the only book in the Bible that carries a woman's name.

- 26) **The Book of Esther teaches us the virtue of;**
a) worshipping only God. b) Honesty and sincerity.
c) the giving to the poor. d) Praying with a lowly heart.
- 27) **Mordcai told Esther to;**
a) not to reveal her kindred and her people.
b) tell the King about Teresh and Bighatha plot.
c) go to the king and to supplicate him and entreat him for her people.
d) make a banquet for the King and Haman.
- 28) **Day by day;**
a) Mordcai would walk around front of the court of women to learn how Esther was and how she fared.
b) The King's servants at the gate told Mordcai to obey Haman and to bow to him.
c) these days should be remembered and kept thought every generation, every tribe.
d) Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed
- 29) **Who of these people was not mentioned in the book:**
a) Zeresh b) Jeconiah
c) Telmai d) none of the above.
- 30) **The story of this book occurred;**
a) Between the two great returns to Jerusalem.
b) During the rein of Nebuchadnezzar.
c) During King Artaxerxes lordship.
d) During Alexander the Great reign.

- 31) **The Purim is;**
- a) a feast celebrated by King Ahaseurus after his victory over Greeks.
 - b) is celebrated to remember the great works of God towards his people.
 - c) on its last and great day Jesus said "Come to me you thirsty and you shall drink"
 - d) was celebrated by the Macabies as Mordcai's feast.
- 32) **Mordeai refused to worship Haman.**
- a) out of his insolence and pride.
 - b) because he has some other royal desires.
 - c) for not to set Haman's glory above God's Glory.
 - d) because he was told so by Carshina and Shethar.
- 33) **Upon Queen Vashti's refusal, the King consulted:**
- a) Esther and Haman in the banquet.
 - b) the wise men who understood the times.
 - c) those who knew the law and justice.
 - d) the princes of Media and Persia.
- 34) **Shushan the Palace was said to have:**
- a) rejoiced and was glad.
 - b) repented.
 - c) fallen fallen.
 - d) perplexed.
- 35) **Who of these women resembled Haman's wife:**
- a) Isabel "Ahab's wife"
 - b) Abigail "Nabal's wife"
 - b) Pilot Pontias' wife
 - d) Herodia "Phillip's wife"

- 36) **Many people turned to judaism because;**
- a) Esther became Queen instead of Vashiti.
 - b) the people feared the jews.
 - c) King Ahaseurus became ajew.
 - d) the King extended the sceptre to Queen Esther.
- 37) **Which of these questions were mentioned in The Book Of Esther?**
- a) What's to be done to my vineyard that I have not done?
 - b) What shall we do to Queen Vashti according to the law because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus.
 - c) what shall be done to the man that the King delights to honour.
 - d) what should I do when God stands and what could I answer when He misses.
- 38) **Vashti:**
- a) is a persian name means beloved or beautiful.
 - b) was known to be beautiful.
 - c) refused to come when she was called by the eunuchs.
 - d) she made a banquet for all the people in the King's Palace.
- 39) **From Esther's prayers:" Help me, who am alone and have no helper but you ... Hear the voice of the despairing" these wording resembles;**
- a) the Litany of Offerings.
 - b) the Syrian Fraction.
 - c) the Litany of Sick.
 - d) Saint Gregory's reconciliation prayer.

- 40) Purim Days are the:**
- a) 14th and 15th of the 12th Month.
 - b) 13th and 14th of Adar.
 - c) 22nd and 23rd of Sivan.
 - d) 14th and 15th of Adar.
- 41) The writer of the Book of Esther, certainly, is;**
- a) the great Jewish Synagogue.
 - b) Ezra.
 - c) Mordcai.
 - d) unknown.
- 42) Cush;**
- a) is Ham's first born and all his offspring.
 - b) is meant to be Ethiopia in many occasions.
 - c) lies to the north of Torus Mountains.
 - d) is a tribe of which a woman was married to Moses.
- 43) Chapter 10 of the Book of Esther contains:**
- a) 3 verses.
 - b) 13 verses.
 - c) 16 verses.
 - d) 23 verses.
- 44) Our church accepts the "addition of Esther", which contains the completion of the Book of Esther as one of the Deutrocanonia because:**
- a) it was included in the Septuagint.
 - b) it was included in the apostolic laws and was proven in the grouping according to Ibn El-Assal.
 - c) it was referred to in the New Testament books.
 - d) it was referred to by great fathers of the church like St. Kebrianos and St. John Chrisostom.

- 45) **These Kings promised women with half of their kingdom.**
 a) King Herod to Herodias.
 b) King Ahasuerus to Queen Esther in the banquet.
 c) Holofernes "Nebuchadnezzar's army commander" to Judith.
 d) Solomon the son of David to the Queen of Sheba.
- 46) **In the Book of Esther, the Lord was called;**
 a) whose might is over all.
 b) all-seeing God and Saviour.
 c) You are Lord of all.
 d) You rule as King over all things.
- 47) **Mordecai prayed to the Lord saying:**
 a) hear my prayers and have mercy upon your inheritance.
 b) do not surrender Your Sceptre to what has no being.
 c) do not neglect Your portion that you redeemed for Yourself
 d) put eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion.
- 48) **Haman was described to be:**
 a) wicked
 b) arrogant
 c) proud
 d) Adversary
- 49) **Ahasuerus sent his letters using:**
 a) horseback riders
 b) couriers
 c) the lieutenants and governors
 d) women palace eunuchs.
- 50) **Bred from swift steeds:**
 a) the countries nobles.
 b) the country jews
 c) Mordecai tribe.
 d) speedy horses.

SECTION 2

A. Each of the following 5 pictures represents different occasion from The Book Of Esther. Using only the available space, briefly describe each of them giving a **spiritual contemplation**.

1



2

3



4





B. *"Fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day."*
(Esther 4:16)

Mention two occasions of our Coptic Orthodox Church's history in which all people fasted to overcome a hardship or an affliction.

1. _____

2. _____

C. Memucan advised Ahasuerus to declare another Queen than Vashti.
Give three Biblical examples of good advice;

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

and three Biblical examples of bad advice,

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

and who of the Kings left God's Advice and inquired of Beelzebub
the god of Ekron, and who is the profit who blamed him;

King: _____

Profit: _____

D. Mention three similarities between Mordecai and the Lord Christ;

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

and three similarities between Esther and the New Testament's Church;

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(E) Knowing that Biblical cubit equals 39 cm, How high was Haman's gallows in meters?

- _____
- _____
- _____

SECTION 6

Memorise the Gospel; for the Gospel shall preserve you,
and recite the Psalms; for the Psalms shall protect you.

(by H H Pope Shenouda III)

Spiritual Exercise

Recite:

1. Mordecai's Prayers (Esther 13:9-18).
2. First part of Esther's Prayer (Esther 14:3-12).
3. Fasting and Prayers Fraction.

THE ADDITIONS TO THE BOOK OF

ESTHER

*Translated in the order of the Greek version of Esther but with the
chapter and verse numbers of the King James Version*

I ¹IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE reign of Artaxerxes the Great, on the first day of Nisan, Mordecai the son of Jair, son of Shimci, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, had a dream. ²He was a Jew, dwelling in the city of Susa, a great man, serving in the court of the king. ³He was one of the captives whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had brought from Jerusalem with Jeconiah king of Judea. And this was his dream:

⁴Behold, noise⁴ and confusion, thunders and earthquake, tumult upon the earth! ⁵And behold, two great dragons came forward, both ready to fight, and they roared terribly. ⁶And at their roaring every nation prepared for war, to fight against the nation of the righteous. ⁷And behold, a day of darkness and gloom, tribulation and distress, affliction and great tumult upon the earth! ⁸And the whole righteous nation was troubled; they feared the evils that threatened them, and were ready to perish. ⁹Then they cried to God; and from their cry, as though

from a tiny spring, there came a great river, with abundant water; ¹⁰light came, and the sun rose, and the lowly were exalted and consumed those held in honor.

¹¹Mordecai saw in this dream what God had determined to do, and after he awoke he had it on his mind and sought all day to understand it in every detail.

12 Now Mordecai took his rest in the courtyard with Gabatha and Tharra, the two eunuchs of the king who kept watch in the courtyard. ²He overheard their conversation and inquired into their purposes, and learned that they were preparing to lay hands upon Artaxerxes the king; and he informed the king concerning them. ³Then the king examined the two eunuchs, and when they confessed they were led to execution. ⁴The king made a permanent record of these things, and Mordecai wrote an account of them. ⁵And the king ordered Mordecai to serve in the court and rewarded him for these things. ⁶But Haman, the son

of Hammedatha, a Bougaean, was in great honor with the king, and he sought to injure Mordecai and his people because of the two eunuchs of the king.

*Esther 1.1-3.13 follows
here in the Greek*

13 This is a copy of the letter: "The Great King, Artaxerxes, to the rulers of the hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia and to the governors under them, writes thus:

2 "Having become ruler of many nations and master of the whole world, not elated with presumption of authority but always acting reasonably and with kindness, I have determined to settle the lives of my subjects in lasting tranquillity and, in order to make my kingdom peaceable and open to travel throughout all its extent, to re-establish the peace which all men desire.

3 "When I asked my counselors how this might be accomplished, Haman, who excels among us in sound judgment, and is distinguished for his unchanging good will and steadfast fidelity, and has attained the second place in the kingdom, ⁴pointed out to us that among all the nations in the world there is scattered a certain hostile people, who have laws contrary to those of every nation and continually disregard the ordinances of the kings, so that the unifying of the kingdom which we honorably intend cannot be brought about. ⁵We understand that this people, and it alone, stands constantly in opposition to all men, perversely following a strange manner of life and laws, and is ill-disposed to our government, doing all the harm they can so that our kingdom may not attain stability.

6 "Therefore we have decreed that those indicated to you in the letters of Haman, who is in charge of affairs and is our second father, shall all, with

their wives and children, be utterly destroyed by the sword of their enemies, without pity or mercy, on the fourteenth day of the twelfth month, Adar, of this present year, ⁷so that those who have long been and are now hostile may in one day go down in violence to Hades, and leave our government completely secure and untroubled hereafter."

*Esther 3.14-4.17 follows
here in the Greek*

8 Then Mordecai⁹ prayed to the Lord, calling to remembrance all the works of the Lord. He said:

9 "O Lord, Lord, King who rulest over all things, for the universe is in thy power and there is no one who can oppose thee if it is thy will to save Israel. ¹⁰For thou hast made heaven and earth and every wonderful thing under heaven, ¹¹and thou art Lord of all, and there is no one who can resist thee, who art the Lord. ¹²Thou knowest all things; thou knowest, O Lord, that it was not in insolence or pride or for any love of glory that I did this, and refused to bow down to this proud Haman. ¹³For I would have been willing to kiss the soles of his feet, to save Israel! ¹⁴But I did this, that I might not set the glory of man above the glory of God, and I will not bow down to any one but to thee, who art my Lord; and I will not do these things in pride. ¹⁵And now, O Lord God and King, God of Abraham, spare thy people; for the eyes of our foes are upon us⁶ to annihilate us, and they desire to destroy the inheritance that has been thine from the beginning. ¹⁶Do not neglect thy portion, which thou didst redeem for thyself out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁷Hear my prayer, and have mercy upon thy inheritance; turn our mourning into feasting, that we may live and sing praise to thy name, O Lord; do not destroy the mouth of those who praise thee."

18 And all Israel cried out mightily, for their death was before their eyes.

14 And Esther the queen, seized with deathly anxiety, fled to the Lord; ²she took off her splendid apparel and put on the garments of distress and mourning, and instead of costly perfumes she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she utterly humbled her body, and every part that she loved to adorn she covered with her tangled hair. ³And she prayed to the Lord God of Israel, and said:
"O my Lord, thou only art our King; help me, who am alone and have no helper but thee, ⁴for my danger is in my hand. ⁵Ever since I was born I have heard in the tribe of my family that thou, O Lord, didst take Israel out of all the nations, and our fathers from among all their ancestors, for an everlasting inheritance, and that thou didst do for them all that thou didst promise. ⁶And now we have sinned before thee, and thou hast given us into the hands of our enemies, ⁷because we glorified their gods. Thou art righteous, O Lord! ⁸And now they are not satisfied that we are in bitter slavery, but they have covenanted with their idols ⁹to abolish what thy mouth has ordained and to destroy thy inheritance, to stop the mouths of those who praise thee and to quench thy altar and the glory of thy house, ¹⁰to open the mouths of the nations for the praise of vain idols, and to magnify for ever a mortal king. ¹¹O Lord, do not surrender thy scepter to what has no being; and do not let them mock at our downfall; but turn their plan against themselves, and make an example of the man who began this against us. ¹²Remember, O Lord; make thyself known in this time of our affliction, and give me courage, O King of the gods and Master of all dominion! ¹³Put eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion, and turn his heart to hate the man who is fighting against us, so that there may be an end of him and those who agree with him. ¹⁴But save us by thy hand, and help me, who am alone and have no helper but thee, O Lord. ¹⁵Thou hast knowledge of all

things; and thou knowest that I hate the splendor of the wicked and abhor the bed of the uncircumcised and of any alien. ¹⁶Thou knowest my necessity—that I abhor the sign of my proud position, which is upon my head on the days when I appear in public. I abhor it like a menstruous rag, and I do not wear it on the days when I am at leisure. ¹⁷And thy servant has not eaten at Haman's table, and I have not honored the king's feast or drunk the wine of the libations. ¹⁸Thy servant has had no joy since the day that I was brought here until now, except in thee, O Lord God of Abraham. ¹⁹O God, whose might is over all, hear the voice of the despairing, and save us from the hands of evildoers. And save me from my fear!"

15 On the third day, when she ended her prayer, she took off the garments in which she had worshiped, and arrayed herself in splendid attire. ²Then, majestically adorned, after invoking the aid of the all-seeing God and Savior, she took her two maids with her, ³leaning daintily on one, ⁴while the other followed carrying her train. ⁵She was radiant with perfect beauty, and she looked happy, as if beloved, but her heart was frozen with fear. ⁶When she had gone through all the doors, she stood before the king. He was seated on his royal throne, clothed in the full array of his majesty, all covered with gold and precious stones. And he was most terrifying.

⁷Lifting his face, flushed with splendor, he looked at her in fierce anger. And the queen faltered, and turned pale and faint, and collapsed upon the head of the maid who went before her. ⁸Then God changed the spirit of the king to gentleness, and in alarm he sprang from his throne and took her in his arms until she came to herself. And he comforted her with soothing words, and said to her, ⁹"What is it, Esther? I am your brother. Take courage; ¹⁰you shall not die, for our law applies only to the

people.⁴ Come near."

11 Then he raised the golden scepter and touched it to her neck: ¹²and he embraced her, and said, "Speak to me." ¹³And she said to him, "I saw you, my lord, like an angel of God, and my heart was shaken with fear at your glory. ¹⁴For you are wonderful, my lord, and your countenance is full of grace." ¹⁵But as she was speaking, she fell fainting. ¹⁶And the king was agitated, and all his servants sought to comfort her.

Esther 5.3-8.12 follows here in the Greek

16 The following is a copy of this letter:

"The Great King, Artaxerxes, to the rulers of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven satrapies, and to those who are loyal to our government, greeting.

2 "The more often they are honored by the too great kindness of their benefactors, the more proud do many men become. ³They not only seek to injure our subjects, but in their inability to stand prosperity they even undertake to scheme against their own benefactors. ⁴They not only take away thankfulness from among men, but, carried away by the boasts of those who know nothing of goodness, they suppose that they will escape the evil-hating justice of God, who always sees everything. ⁵And often many of those who are set in places of authority have been made in part responsible for the shedding of innocent blood, and have been involved in irremediable calamities, by the persuasion of friends who have been entrusted with the administration of public affairs, ⁶when these men by the false trickery of their evil natures beguile the sincere good will of their sovereigns.

7 "What has been wickedly accomplished through the pestilent behavior of those who exercise authority unworthily, can be seen not so much

from the more ancient records which we hand on as from investigation of matters close at hand. ⁸For the future we will take care to render our kingdom quiet and peaceable for all men, ⁹by changing our methods and always judging what comes before our eyes with more equitable consideration. ¹⁰For Haman, the son of Hammedatha, a Macedonian (really an alien to the Persian blood, and quite devoid of our kindness), having become our guest, ¹¹so far enjoyed the good will that we have for every nation that he was called our father and was continually bowed down to by all as the person second to the royal throne. ¹²But, unable to restrain his arrogance, he undertook to deprive us of our kingdom and our life, ¹³and with intricate craft and deceit asked for the destruction of Mordecai, our savior and perpetual benefactor, and of Esther, the blameless partner of our kingdom, together with their whole nation. ¹⁴He thought that in this way he would find us undefended and would transfer the kingdom of the Persians to the Macedonians.

15 "But we find that the Jews, who were consigned to annihilation by this thrice accursed man, are not evildoers but are governed by most righteous laws ¹⁶and are sons of the Most High, the most mighty living God, who has directed the kingdom both for us and for our fathers in the most excellent order.

17 "You will therefore do well not to put in execution the letters sent by Haman the son of Hammedatha, ¹⁸because the man himself who did these things has been hanged at the gate of Susa, with all his household. For God, who rules over all things, has speedily inflicted on him the punishment he deserved.

19 "Therefore post a copy of this letter publicly in every place, and permit the Jews to live under their own laws. ²⁰And give them reinforcements, so that on the thirteenth day of the

twelfth month, Adar, on that very day they may defend themselves against those who attack them at the time of their affliction. ²¹For God, who rules over all things, has made this day to be a joy to his chosen people instead of a day of destruction for them.

²²Therefore you shall observe this with all good cheer as a notable day among your commemorative festivals, ²³so that both now and hereafter it may mean salvation for us and the loyal Persians, but that for those who plot against us it may be a reminder of destruction.

²⁴Every city and country, without exception, which does not act accordingly, shall be destroyed in wrath with spear and fire. It shall be made not only impassable for men, but also most hateful for all time to beasts and birds."

This is followed in the Greek by 8.13-10.3, where the Hebrew Esther ends. The Greek version adds the following:

10 ¹And Mordecai said, "These things have come from God. ²For I remember the dream that I had concerning these matters, and none of them has failed to be fulfilled. ³The tiny spring which became a river, and there was light and the sun and

abundant water—the river is Esther, whom the king married and made queen. ⁴The two dragons are Haman and myself. ⁵The nations are those that gathered to destroy the name of the Jews. ⁶And my nation, this is Israel, who cried out to God and were saved.

The Lord has saved his people; the Lord has delivered us from all these evils; God has done great signs and wonders, which have not occurred among the nations. ¹⁰For this purpose he made two lots, one for the people of God and one for all the nations. ¹¹And these two lots came to the hour and moment and day of decision before God and among all the nations. ¹²And God remembered his people and vindicated his inheritance. ¹³So they will observe these days in the month of Adar, on the fourteenth and fifteenth of that month, with an assembly and joy and gladness before God, from generation to generation for ever among his people Israel."

11 ¹In the fourth year of the reign of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, Dositheus, who said that he was a priest and a Levite, and Ptolemy his son brought to Egypt the preceding Letter of Purim, which they said was genuine and had been translated by Lysimachus the son of Ptolemy, one of the residents of Jerusalem.



Great Lent's Fraction (to the FATHER)

O our Master and Lord, the Almighty God, who sent His Only-Begotten Son to the world to teach us the law and commandments of the holy Gospel. He taught us that by fasting and praying devils can be casted out.

By fasting and praying Elijah was raised up to Heaven and Daniel was saved from the lion's den.

Moses Practiced fasting and praying that he received the commandments inscribed by the Finger of God.

Also the people of Nineveh adopted fasting and praying that God spared them, remitted their sins and turned His wrath away from them.



Fasting and praying were pursued by the prophets that they were foretold the advent of Christ many years before His incarnation.

Aided by fasting and praying, our Fathers the Apostles preached all the nations, converted them to Christianity and baptised them in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Likewise the martyrs gave their lives for the Name of Christ who declared the proper confession before Pontius Pilate.

By practicing fasting and praying the righteous and cross bearers escaped to the mountains, wilderness and caves because of their love for the King Christ.

Let us also pursue fasting and praying by uprooting every evil and to live in purity and righteousness that we may proceed to this Holy Sacrifice and gratefully partake of Him.

So that with a pure heart, an illuminated soul, an unashamed face, sincere faith, perfect love and an unshakeable hope, we dare in intimacy without fear to call You, O God, the Heavenly Father and say:

Our Father Who art in Heaven....