

**Handout**

## Outline of the Purim Story

- King Ahasuerus dethrones Queen Vashti.
- Esther is crowned queen after winning a beauty contest.
- Mordecai (Esther's cousin) uncovers a plot to kill the king and reports it.
- King Ahasuerus promotes Haman, making him more powerful than all the other officials.
- Mordecai refuses to bow before Haman [a close confidant of the king].
- Haman seeks to destroy the Jews after his run-in with Mordecai.
- Mordecai appeals to Esther to save her people. Esther approaches King Ahasuerus and invites him and Haman to a banquet.
- Mordecai is honored for having saved the king's life. Esther entertains the king and Haman, and invites them to a second banquet.
- Esther pleads for her people at the second banquet. She accuses Haman.
- The king grants Esther's request and condemns Haman to die on the gallows that he built for the Jews.
- The Jews defend themselves throughout Persia [against those following out the decree to destroy the Jews].
- The holiday of Purim is established.
- Mordecai advances to a position of importance.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from My Jewish Learning, "[The Story of Purim](#)."