

Why It's Called Mardocheus Day

The Political Climate at the Time

- **Esther 1:1-3, 9-13, 15-20 & 21-22**
 - Vashti, disrespected the king in front of all his rulers and subjects setting a bad example for all the women in the empire
 - Ahasuerus aka Artaxerxes^{1, 2} puts Vashti away
- **Esther 2:1-4**
 - A new queen was being sought for the king

Who was Mordecai?

- A Guardian to Esther
 - **Esther 2:5-7 & 11**
- A Benjamite who lived in Shushan
 - **Esther 2:5** He was also a Benjamite
- A former slave of Nebucadnezzar
 - **Esther 2:6**

Who was Esther?

- Mordecai's cousin
 - **Esther 2:7**
- A humble & very obedient Israelite woman
 - **Esther 2:10**
 - **Esther 2:20**
 - **Esther 2:21-23**
- A very beautiful sister
 - **Esther 2:15**
 - **Esther 2:7**
- Queen Vashti's Replacement
 - **Esther 2:17**

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahasuerus> - sourced Feb 23rd 2024

Numerous scholars have proposed theories as to who Ahasuerus represents. Most scholars today identify him with [Xerxes I](#), as did 19th-century Bible commentaries.^[9] Three factors, among others, contribute to this identification:

1. It is believed the Hebrew 'Ahasuerus' descended from the Persian names for Xerxes I.
2. Historian [Herodotus](#) describes Xerxes I as being susceptible to women and in the habit of making extravagant offers to them, just as he did to Esther ("up to half my kingdom"). Herodotus mentions that the Persian empire stretched from India to Ethiopia and also refers to the magnificent royal palace in Shushan ([Susa](#)), corroboration of what is stated in the Book of Esther. In addition Herodotus mentions an assembly of Persian nobles called by Xerxes to advise him on the proposed war against Greece. Although Herodotus does not give the location of this assembly, the date – "after Egypt was subdued" – corresponds to Xerxes' third year when Esther records an assembly of Persian nobility at a feast. (Histories VII.8) Herodotus also mentions that following his [defeat at Salamis](#) Xerxes I became involved in [harem](#) intrigues involving his wife Amestris and his daughter-in-law, with whom he became enamoured. (Histories IX.108) Herodotus relates this occurred in the tenth month of his [seventh year as king](#) – the same time Ahasuerus was choosing beautiful women for his harem ([Esther 2:16](#)).
3. Annals from the reign of Xerxes I mention an otherwise unattested official by the name of "Marduka", which some have proposed refers to [Mordecai](#), as both are mentioned serving in the king's court.

² **Identification of "Ahasuerus" as Artaxerxes I** [\[edit\]](#)

While today the king of Esther is usually identified as Xerxes I, the ancient traditions identify him with his son, [Artaxerxes I](#). The Septuagint, the Vulgate, the [Midrash of Esther Rabbah](#), I, 3 and the [Josippon](#) identify him as **Artaxerxes**. Many historians and exegetes from ancient times and the middle ages also identified Ahasuerus with Artaxerxes I, including, most notably, [Josephus](#),^[10] who relates that "Artaxerxes" was the name by which he was known to the Greeks.^[11] The [Ethiopic](#) text calls him *Artēksis*, usually the Ethiopic equivalent of *Artaxerxes*.

Why It's Called Mardocheus Day

- Remember why Vashti was replaced!
 - Disobedience, disrespect & setting a bad example
 - **Esther 1:10-12**

Esther's Acts

- She tried to comfort her cousin after he learned that Haman, an Edomite Ruler, tricked the king Artaxerxes into decreeing the annihilation of the Israelites.
 - **Esther 4:1-4**
- She disobeyed Mordecai to save her own life
 - **Esther 4:5-11**
- She proclaimed a 3 day fast that she may be spared before the king
 - **Esther 4:15-17**
- She petitioned the king
 - **Esther 7:3**
 - **Esther 8:3-6**
- She set a trap for Haman an Edomite
 - **Esther 5:1-5**
 - **Esther 6:14 - 7:2**
- She got Haman killed
 - **Esther 7:6-10**
- She killed all Haman's sons
 - **Esther 9:12-14**

PART 2

- She set Mordecai over the house of Haman
 - **Esther 8:1-3**
- She decreeed Purim in the kingdom of Xerxes I
 - **Esther 9:29-32**

Why It's Called Mardocheus Day

- Because Mordecai devised and lead the whole operation
 - **Esther 2:8-9**
 - Q. Why?
 - A. **Esther 4:1-2** because he loved his people deeply
 - **Esther 10:1-3**
- Mordecai was the one who saved Xerxes I
 - **Esther 2: 21-23**
 - **Esther 6:1-2**
- Mordecai is the one who commanded Esther to go humbly beg Xerxes I for the lives of her people. Had he not done so we would not be here today.
 - **Esther 4:8**
 - **Esther 4:10-14** He convinced Esther by fear and by reason to be as concerned for her people as he was
- Mordecai wrote the decree to exterminate all that would have exterminated the Israelites

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- **Esther 8:7-15**
- Mordecai struck fear in the hearts of the heathens
 - **Esther 9:1-3**
- Mordecai saved heathens
 - **Esther 8:17**
- Mordecai became greater and greater in the King's house
 - **Esther 9:4**
- Mordecai established the 14th & 15th of Adar As Purim
 - **Esther 9:20-23**

CONCLUSION

The day is called Mardocheus Day because Mordecai did everything in his power to save his people from death and destruction. Esther is honoured because she humbled herself even unto death to execute the plans of her guardian Mordecai and once on board she added fuel to the fire.