**Chiastic Structure of Megillat Esther**

**A.** Introduction – Achashverosh's kingdom

**B.** Two private feasts – one for the princes of the provinces (180 days), and the other, a special feast for the inhabitants of Shushan (seven days)

**C.** Esther appears before the king and is chosen as queen

**D.** Description of Haman's stature: "…King Achashverosh promoted (***gidal***) Haman, son of Hamedata, the Agagite, and advanced him (***va*-*yenaseihu***)"

**E.** Casting of the lot: War on the 13th of Adar

**F.** Giving the ring to Haman; Haman's letters; Mordekhai rending his clothes; fasting of the Jews

**G.** Esther's first feast

**H.** Haman's consultation with his associates

**I.** THE KING CANNOT SLEEP; EPISODE OF THE HORSE

**h.** Haman's consultation with his associates

**g.** Esther's second feast

**f.** Giving the ring to Mordekhai; Mordekhai's letters; dressing of Mordekhai in royal garments; feast for the Jews

**e.** War on the 13th of Adar

**d.** Description of the stature of the Jews and of Mordekhai: "All the princes of the provinces… were favoring(***menase'im***) the Jews… for the man Mordekhai was becoming increasingly powerful (***gadol***)"

**c.** Esther comes before the king to request an additional day of battle in Shushan

**b.** Two feasts for the Jews: one for the Jews of all the provinces (14th of Adar), and the other, a special feast for the Jews of Shushan (15th of Adar)

**a.** Conclusion – Achashverosh's kingdom