

Worksheet: The Characters of Haman and Mordecai

The theme of “reversal” is a central one in the Megillah, and happens especially to the characters of Mordecai and Haman. Here we will see the first example, and then you will be asked to look through the Megillah for more cases.

1. Read the end of פרק ב again:

כא בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמָרְדֳּכָי יוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ קִצָּץ בְּגָתוֹ וְתָרַשׁ שְׁנֵי-סָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׁמָרֵי הַסֹּף וַיִּבְקָשׁוּ לְשַׁלַּח יָד בְּמֶלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרָשׁ. כִּב וַיִּזְדַּע הַדָּבָר לְמָרְדֳּכָי וַיִּגֵּד לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְמֶלֶךְ בְּשֵׁם מָרְדֳּכָי. כִּג וַיִּבְקָשׁ הַדָּבָר וַיִּמָּצֵא וַיִּתְּלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם עַל-עֵץ וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּסֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ.

2. Based on this, what do you expect the next line to be? _____

3. What in fact is found in the next line? _____

4. Using a concordance, find out who else in Tanakh received a reward of “his chair above the chairs” of the others (כִּסְאוֹ מֵעַל כִּסֵּא...).
Reference: _____ Recipient of reward: _____
5. How does that person fit into the story of the Megillah, and how does that affect the issue of the reversal here? _____

Moving on in the Megillah, where else do we find Haman and Mordecai reversing positions?

א) _____

ב) _____

ג) _____