



Esther was a beautiful Jewish girl. Her people had been taken away by force from their own land, so Esther lived in the land of Persia, which today we call Iran. Her parents were both dead and she had been brought up by her uncle's son, Mordecai.





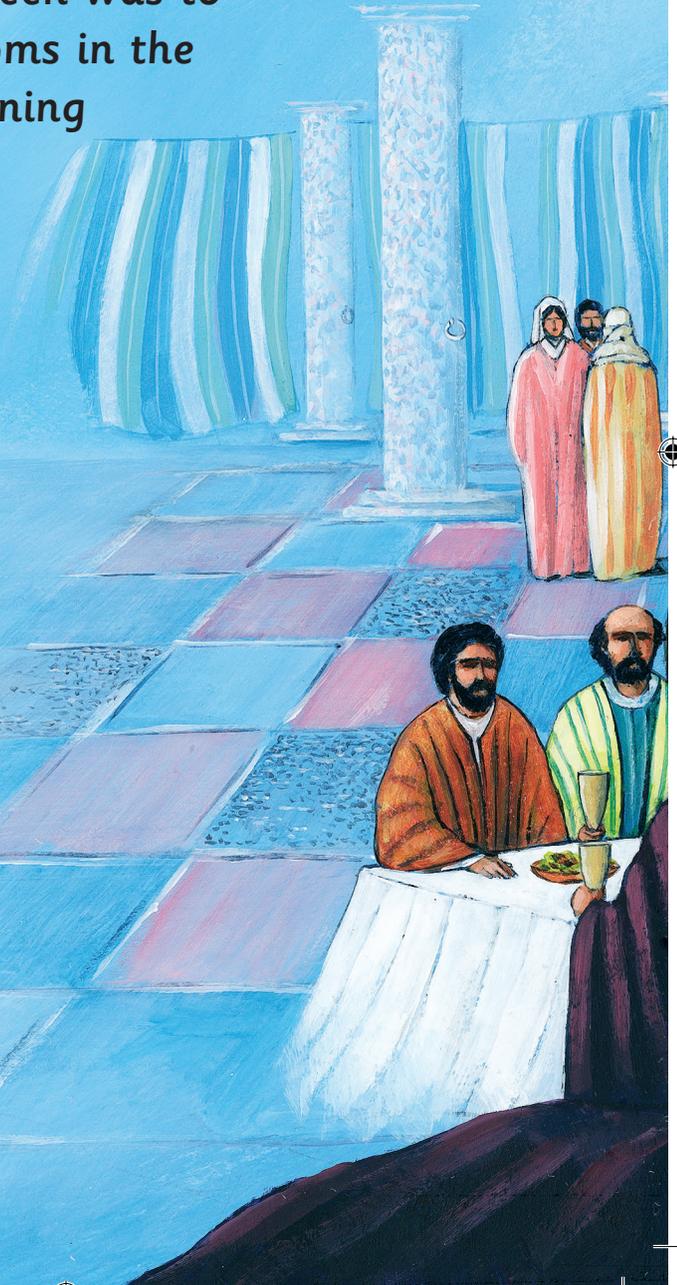
Ruling over Persia was the mighty King Ahasuerus. He had a wonderful palace in Shushan, with white, green and blue curtains, fastened with silver rings to marble pillars and rich marble floors coloured red, blue, white and black.

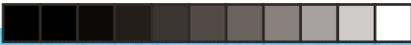




Ahasuerus made a grand feast for all his princes and servants. There was plenty of food and drink. After seven days of eating and drinking, the king gave the order that Vashti the queen was to come from her rooms in the palace, into the dining hall so that all the princes could admire her beauty.

‘Tell the king, I will not come,’ said Vashti.
King Ahasuerus was very angry





with her. He and his advisers decided to punish Vashti. She was to be queen no longer. Someone else was to be chosen to take her place.

A notice was sent out through the land.

