



1. The Garden of Eden

- **Ha-adam:**

ויברא אלהים את האדם בצלמו בצלם אלהים ברא אותו זכר ונקבה ברא אותם: ויברך אותם אלהים ויאמר להם אלהים פרו ורבו ומלאו את הארץ וכבשוה...

God created Ha-adam in His image, in the image of God... male and female did He create them. God blessed them, God said to them: "Be fruitful and increase, fill the earth and conquer it ...

- **Ha-ishah**

ויבן ה' אלהים אֶת־הַצֶּלֶע אֲשֶׁר־לָקַח מִרֵּיהָאָדָם לְאִשָּׁה וַיְבָאָהּ אֶל־הָאָדָם... וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם זֹאת הִנֵּנִי עֵצָם מֵעֵצָי וּבָשָׂר מִבָּשָׂרִי לְזֹאת יִקְרָא אִשָּׁה כִּי מֵאִישׁ לָקַחְתָּהּ זֹאת: עַל־כֵּן יַעֲזֹב אִישׁ אֶת־אָבִיו וְאֶת־אִמּוֹ וְדָבַק בְּאִשְׁתּוֹ וְהָיוּ לְבָשָׂר אֶחָד:

God... fashioned the rib that He had taken from the man into a woman; and He brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one shall be called Woman (*ishah*), for from man (*ish*) was she taken." Hence a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, so that they become one flesh.

- **Eating the fruit:**

וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ לְמַאֲכָל וְכִי תֹאווֹתֶהּ הִוא לְעֵינַיִם... וַתִּקַּח מִפִּרְיוֹ וַתֹּאכַל וַתֵּתֶן גַּם לְאִישָׁהּ עִמָּה וַיֹּאכַל: וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֱלֹהִים לְאִשָּׁה מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ... בְּעֵצָב תֵּלְדִי בָנִים וְאֵל אִישְׁךָ תִּשְׁקָתָהּ וְהוּא יִמְשָׁל בָּךְ:

The woman saw that the tree was good for eating and a delight to the eyes... she took from its fruit and ate... God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done... in pain shall you bear children. And your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

- **Havvah:**

ויקרא האדם שם אשתו חוה כי היא היתה אם כל חי:

The man named his wife Havvah, because she was the mother of all the living.

The expulsion:

וַיִּשְׁלַחֵהוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִגֶּן עֵדֶן לְעַבְדָּהּ אֶת־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִשָּׁם:

So the Lord God sent him off from the Garden of Eden...

2. "She is My Sister": Genesis 12

וַיְהִי רָעַב בָּאָרֶץ וַיֵּרֶד אַבְרָם מִצֹּרְמָה... וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ הִנֵּה נָא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אִשָּׁה יָפֹת מֵרָאה אֶת: וְהָיָה כִּי־יִרְאוּ אֹתָךְ הַמִּצְרִיִּם וְאָמְרוּ אִשְׁתּוֹ זֹאת וְהָרְגוּ אֹתִי וְאֹתָךְ יָחִיו: אָמְרִי נָא אַחֲתִי אַתְּ... וַיִּרְאוּ הַמִּצְרִיִּם אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה כִּי יָפָה הִוא מְאֹד... וַתִּקַּח הָאִשָּׁה בֵּית פָּרְעֹה: וַלְאֲבָרָם הִיטִיב בַּעֲבוּרָהּ וַיְהִי לוֹ צֹאן וּבָקָר וַחֲמֹרִים וְעַבְדִּים וּשְׁפָחוֹת וְאֹתָנֹת וּגְמֻלִים: וַיִּגָּעַע יְהוָה אֶת־פָּרְעֹה נֹגְעִים גְּדֹלִים וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ עַל דְּבַר שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ אַבְרָם: וַיִּקְרָא פָּרְעֹה לְאַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לָמָּה לֹא הִגַּדְתָּ לִּי כִּי אִשְׁתְּךָ הִוא: לָמָּה אָמַרְתָּ אַחֲתִי הִוא וְאָקַח אֹתָהּ לִי לְאִשָּׁה וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה אִשְׁתְּךָ קָח וְלֵךְ... וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ אוֹתוֹ וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל אֲשֶׁר לוֹ:

There was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt... he said to his wife, Sarai, "Now I know what a beautiful woman you are; when the Egyptians see you and say, 'This one is his wife,' they will kill me and let you live. Please say that you are my sister..." The Egyptians saw how very beautiful the woman was... and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. And because of her... Abram acquired sheep, oxen... and camels. But the Lord afflicted



Pharaoh and his household with mighty plagues on account of Sarai, the wife of Abraham. Pharaoh...said, "What is this you have done to me! Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her as my wife? Now, here is your wife; take her and begone!" And Pharaoh...sent him off with his wife and all that he possessed.

3. A "Beautiful" Man: Genesis 39

וַיֹּסֶף הָרוּחַ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּקְנֶהוּ פוֹטִיפָר... מִיַּד הַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים... וַיִּפְקְדֵהוּ עַל-בֵּיתוֹ וְכָל-יֹשְׁלֵי נֶתַן בְּיָדוֹ... וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יָפֵה-תָאֵר וַיְהִי מְרֹאֶה... וַתִּשָּׂא אִשְׁת־אֲדֹנָיו אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ אֶל-יוֹסֵף וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂכָבָה עִמִּי: וַיִּמָּאֵן וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-אִשְׁת־אֲדֹנָיו... וְאִיךָ אֶעֱשֶׂה הָרָעָה הַגְּדוֹלָה הַזֹּאת... וַיְהִי כַּדְבָּרָה אֶל-יוֹסֵף, יוֹם יוֹם... וַתִּתְפַּשְׁהוּ בְּבִגְדוֹ לֵאמֹר שְׂכָבָה עִמִּי וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיֵּנָס... וַתִּקְרָא לְאִנְשֵׁי בֵיתָהּ... בָּא אֵלַי לְשָׁכַב עִמִּי וְאֶקְרָא בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל... וַיִּקְחֵהּ אֲדֹנִי יוֹסֵף אֹתוֹ וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ אֶל-בֵּית הַסֵּהר... וַיְהִי שָׁר שֶׁר בֵּית הַסֵּהר בְּיַד-יוֹסֵף אֶת כָּל-הָאֲסִירִים אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַסֵּהר

Joseph was brought down to Egypt and Potiphar bought him... from the hand of the Ishmaelites... (Potiphar) appointed him over his house and gave everything he had into his hand... Joseph was beautiful and good looking... his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." He refused and said to his master's wife... "How can I..." She spoke to Joseph every day... she grabbed his garment saying, "lie with me." He left his garment in her hand and fled... She called her household staff and said... "he came to lie with me and I cried out loud"... Joseph's master placed him in the jail house... the officer of the jail house placed in Joseph's hand all the prisoners in the jail house...

4. A Tale of Two Beautiful Queens: Megillat Esther

Chapter 1

כְּטוֹב לִבֵּי-הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּיּוֹם אָמַר... לְהָבִיא אֶת-וַשְׁתִּי הַמִּלְכָּה לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּכֶּתֶר מַלְכוּת לְהַרְאוֹת הָעַמִּים וְהַשָּׂרִים אֶת-יָפֶיהָ כִּי טוֹבַת מְרֹאֶה הִיא: וַתִּמָּאֵן הַמִּלְכָּה וַשְׁתִּי לְבֹא... וַיֹּאמֶר מְמוּכָן... לֹא עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לְבַדּוֹ עֹתָהּ וַשְׁתִּי הַמִּלְכָּה כִּי עַל כָּל-הַשָּׂרִים וְעַל-כָּל-הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ... כִּי-יֵצֵא דְבַר הַמִּלְכָּה עַל-כָּל-הַנָּשִׁים לְהַבְזוֹת בַּעֲלֵיהֶן בַּעֲיֵינֵיהֶן... וְנִשְׁמַע פִּתְגָם הַמֶּלֶךְ... וְכָל-הַנָּשִׁים יִתְּנוּ יָקָר לְבַעֲלֵיהֶן לְמַגְדוֹל וְעִדְקָטוֹן:

...when the king was drunk he said... to bring Queen Vashti before the king wearing the crown, to show the nations and officers her beauty, for she was beautiful... Queen Vashti refused to come... Memuchan said... not only against the king has Vashti the queen done wrong, but also against all the officials and all the peoples in the provinces of the King Ahashverosh... when the queen's word goes out to all the women, they will despise their husbands... Let a royal edict be issued (in which)... all wives will treat their husbands with respect, high and low alike.

Chapter 2

וַיִּפְקֹד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים בְּכָל-מְדִינוֹת מַלְכוּתוֹ וַיִּקְבְּצוּ אֶת-כָּל-נְעָרָה בְּתוּלָה טוֹבַת מְרֹאֶה... וְהַנְּעָרָה יָפֵה-תָאֵר וְטוֹבַת מְרֹאֶה... וַתִּלְקַח אֶסְתֵּר... בְּעָרְבָא הִיא בָּאָה וּבִבְקָר הִיא שָׁבָה אֶל-בֵּית הַנָּשִׁים... שְׁמֵר הַפִּילִגְשִׁים...

Let the king appoint officers... and gather every good looking virgin maiden... and (Esther) was beautiful and good looking... and Esther was taken...she would go in the evening she return in the morning to...the women's house...[to the] guardian of the concubines...

Chapter 3

וַיִּרָא הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי-אֵין מְרֻדָּכִי כְּרָע וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לֹא וַיִּמְלֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ חֲמָה... וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ... יֵשְׁנוּ עִם-אֲחִיד מִפְּגָר וּמִפְּרָד בֵּין הָעַמִּים בְּכָל מְדִינוֹת מַלְכוּתוֹ וְדִתֵּיהֶם שְׁנוֹת מִכְּלָעִם וְאֶת-דִּתֵּי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵינָם עֹשִׂים וְלִמְלָךְ אִישׁ-שׁוֹה לְהַנִּיחֵם:



Haman saw that Mordechai would not bow down to him and Haman was enraged... Haman said... "There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of other people and who not obey the king's laws; and it is not in your majesty's interest to let them live."

Vashti/Esther	Joseph
לְהָרְאוֹת הָעַמִּים וְהַשָּׂרִים אֶת־יָפְיָהּ כִּי טוֹבַת מֶרְאָה הִיא :	וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יָפֵה־תֵּאֵר וַיְפַה מֶרְאָה :
וַתִּמָּאֵן הַמַּלְכָּה וַשְׁתִּי	וַיִּמָּאֵן
וְהַנְעֲרָה (הַדָּסָה-אֶסְתֵּר) וַתִּתְּאֵר וְטוֹבַת מֶרְאָה	וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יָפֵה־תֵּאֵר וַיְפַה מֶרְאָה :
וַתִּלְקַח אֶסְתֵּר	וַיֹּסֶף הַנִּרְד מִצְרַיִמָּה
בְּעֶרְבָא הִיא בָּאָה וּבִבְקָר הִיא שָׁבָה...	וַיִּמָּאֵן
וַיִּפְקֹד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת מְלָכוֹת... וַיִּקְבְּצוּ אֶת־כָּל־נַעֲרֵה־בְּתוּלָה טוֹבַת מֶרְאָה	יַעֲשֶׂה פָרְעֹה וַיִּפְקֹד פְּקִידִים עַל־הָאָרֶץ... וַיִּקְבֹּץ אֶת־כָּל־אֲכָלָא שִׁבְעַ שָׁנִים
כִּי כֵן יִמְלֹאוּ יָמֵי מְרוֹקֶיהָן	כִּי כֵן יִמְלֹאוּ יָמֵי הַחַנּוּטִים

Joseph	Vashti/Esther
Joseph was...good looking	To show... her beauty, for she was good looking
He refused	Queen Vashti refused
Joseph was good looking	[Esther] was good looking
Joseph was brought down to Egypt	Esther was taken
He refused	She went in the evening and returned in the morning
Let Pharaoh <u>appoint officers</u> on the land... He <u>gathered</u> all the food	Let the king <u>appoint officers</u> throughout his kingdom... And <u>gather</u> every good looking virgin
so were completed the days of embalming	So were completed the days of perfuming

Chapter 4

וּלְצֻוֹת עָלֶיהָ לָבוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַתְחַנֵּן־לּוֹ ... וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר ... לֵךְ כְּנוֹס אֶת־כָּל־הַיְּהוּדִים ... וְצֻמוּ עָלַי ... וְיַעַשׂ כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־צִוְּתָה עָלַי אֶסְתֵּר :

Mordechai commanded [Esther] to go to the king and plead for her people... Esther ...responded..."Go, gather all the Jews... and fast for me... and I will go to the king..." and he did as Esther commanded him.

Chapters 7-8

וַתֵּעַן אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה ... תִּתְּנֵנִי לִי נַפְשִׁי בְּשִׂאלָתִי וְעַמִּי בְּבִקְשָׁתִי : כִּי נִמְכַּרְנוּ אֲנִי וְעַמִּי לְהִשָּׁמִיד לְהָרוֹג וּלְאֵבֶד וְאֵלּוּ לְעַבְדִּים וּלְשִׁפְחוֹת נִמְכַּרְנוּ הַחֲרָשְׁתִּי ... בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה הָיוּ נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחָשֶׁוֹרֶשׁ לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה אֶת־בֵּיתָהּ הַזֶּה מִן־כָּר הַיְּהוּדִים ...

Queen Esther said, "let my life be granted as my wish and my people as my request. For we have been sold... to be destroyed, massacred and exterminated. Had we only been sold as bondmen... I would have kept silent... On that day the king Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther...



Chapter 10

וְתִכְתֵּב אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה ... וּמֹרְדֵכַי הַיְּהוּדִי אֶת־כָּל־תִּקְוָהּ... לְקַיֵּם אֶת־יְמֵי הַפְּרִים הָאֵלֶּה ... וּמֵאֲמַר אֶסְתֵּר
קַיֵּם דְּבָרֵי הַפְּרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְנִכְתֵּב בַּסֵּפֶר :

Queen Esther... and Mordecai the Jew wrote a confirmation... to uphold these days of Purim...
and Esther's ordinance validating these observances of Purim was recorded on a scroll.

5. Song of Songs

בָּאתִי לְגַנִּי אֲחֹתִי כָלָה

I have come to my garden, my sister, my bride...(5:1)

דוּדִי לִי וָאֲנִי לוֹ

My beloved is mine and I am his (2:16)...

אֲנִי לְדוּדִי וְעָלִי תְשׁוּקָתוֹ

I am my beloved's and his desire is for me (7:11)...

הַיּוֹשֶׁבֶת בְּגַנִּים חֲבֵרִים מְקַשִּׁיבִים לְקוֹלָהּ הַשְּׂמִיעִינִי :

O you who dwell in gardens, a lover is listening. Let me hear your voice (8:13)...