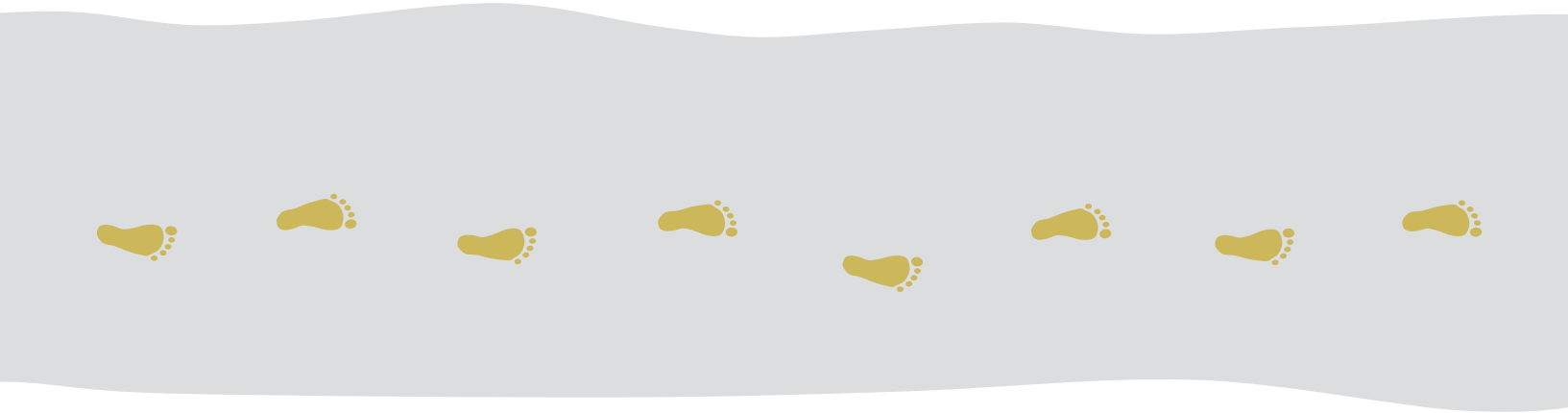


Mordcai

The Man with a Secret





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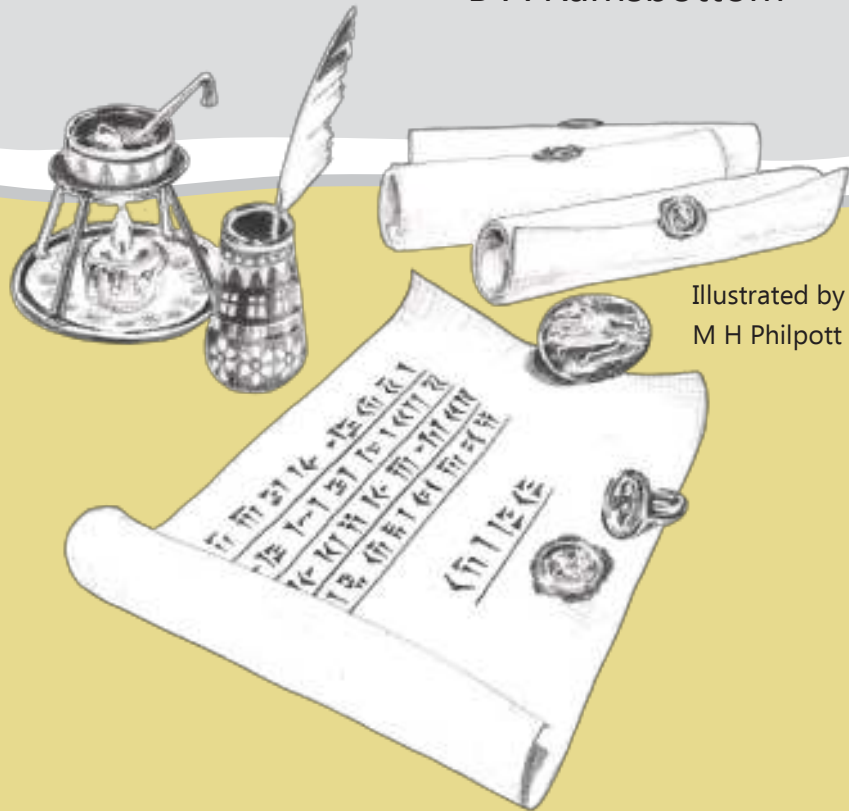
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Mordecai

The Man with a Secret

B A Ramsbottom



Illustrated by
M H Philpott

Where?

Can you find where the events in this story took place?



Look on the story pages for the question mark

... and then look for the places on this map.

The Persian Empire was really the first world empire — stretching from Sudan in Africa, to Pakistan in Asia, and to Greece in Europe. It comprised 127 provinces (or areas).



Map

(Russia)

(Greece)

Black Sea

Royal Road

Sardis

(Turkey)

Caspian Sea

SYRIA

MEDIA

PERSIAN EMPIRE

Great Sea

(Mediterranean Sea)

Damascus

JUDAH

Jerusalem

Babylon

Euphrates

Tigris

Shushan (Susa)

PERSIA

(now known as Iran)

Ur

Persepolis

Red Sea

Persian Gulf

Great Britain for scale

ARABIA

Who was Mordecai?

Mordecai was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin. Years ago, his great grandfather Kish had been captured and taken from his home in Judah to live in the Persian empire, and since then his sons, grandsons and great-grandsons—including Mordecai—had lived there too.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mordecai is a Persian name, not a Jewish name

A very unusual story

Although the story of Mordecai is found in the Bible, it does not once mention God. Even so, the story shows us how God is in control of everything—of every small detail of our lives and of the most important things in the world concerning kings and countries.

Fact file

Who was Ahasuerus?

King Ahasuerus ruled over the empire of Persia from his palace in Shushan. Although his name doesn't appear in other books besides the Bible, he is generally thought to be King Xerxes, known for his great riches and power. You can find out more about him at places like the British Museum in London.

DID YOU KNOW?

Shushan is today known by the name Susa

This story happened here

History Timeline

Adam,
Noah,
Babel

Abraham,
Moses,
Joshua

Judges,
David,
Solomon

Kings of
Israel and
Judah

Daniel,
Esther,
Nehemiah

The Lord
Jesus
Christ

Mordecai the Jew

Can you see what these two bad men are doing? A dreadful thing! They are planning to murder the mighty King of Persia, King Ahasuerus.

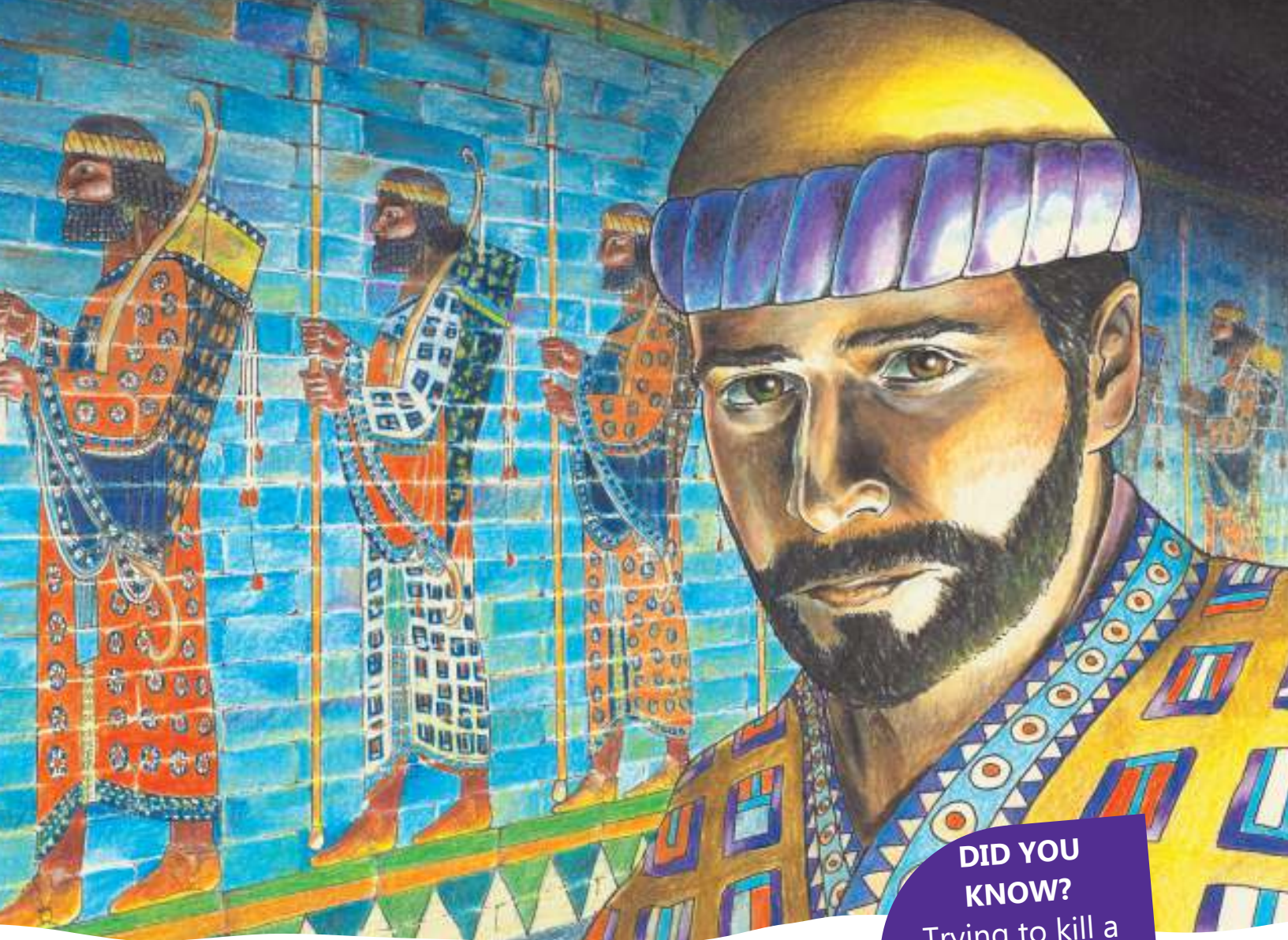


But here is another man, so different—good and gracious. His name is Mordecai, and he found out what was happening. Bravely he sent a warning. So the two men were captured and put to death.

It was a wonderful thing that Mordecai had done, saving the king's life. But what happened to him? Nothing! You would have thought that the king and everyone else would have been so pleased. Surely they would reward him, give him a present, or something like that. But no! Nothing at all. Life just went on as before.



*On the map, can you find: **PERSIA***



We wonder what Mordecai felt. We know one thing: he had a wonderful secret. I wonder what it was?

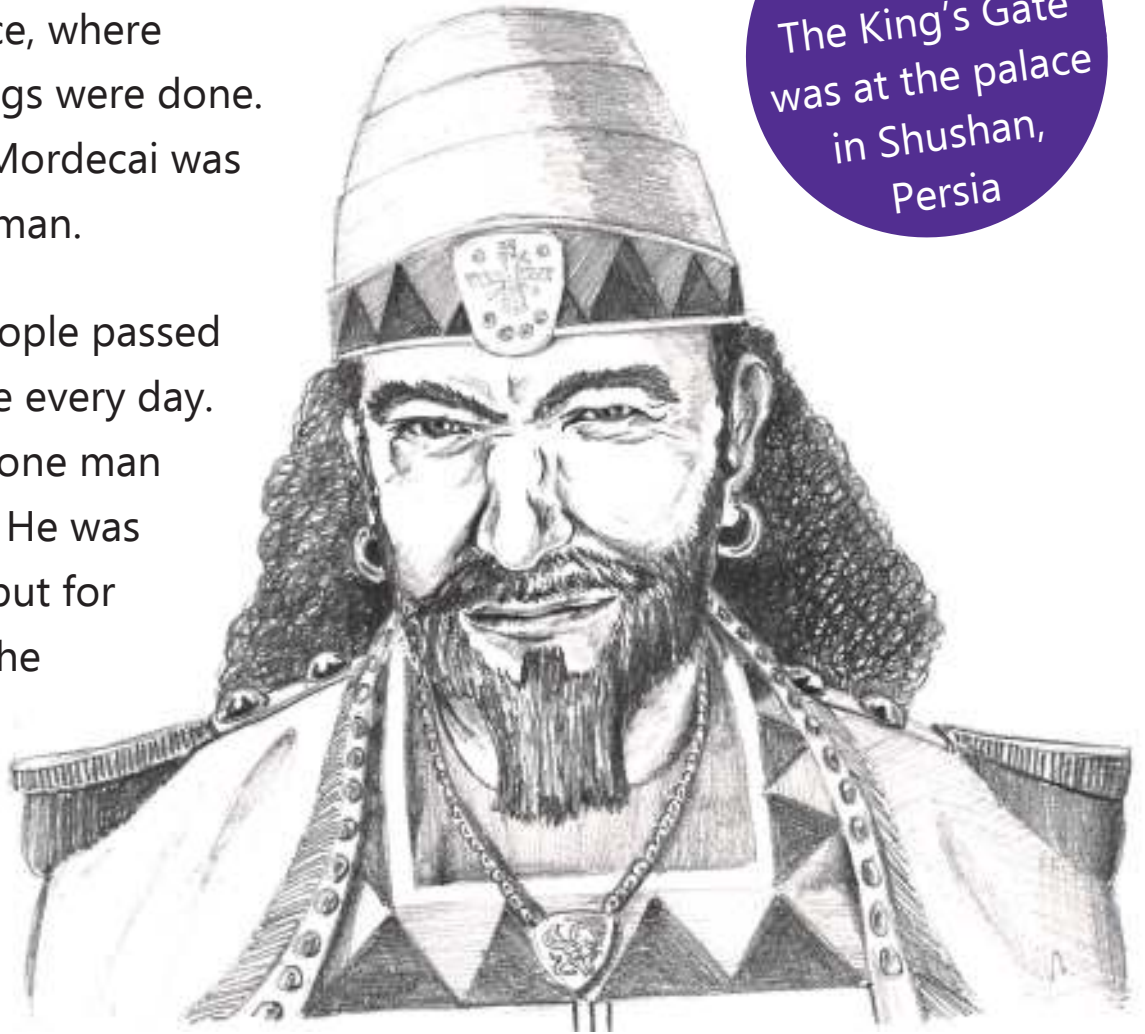
DID YOU KNOW?
Trying to kill a king or queen is called treason

You can read about this in the Book of Esther chapter 2, verses 21 to 23

Haman, the King's Favourite

We are told that Mordecai 'sat in the King's Gate.' This was a very important place, where important things were done. It seems that Mordecai was a well-known man.

All kinds of people passed the King's Gate every day. But there was one man called Haman. He was an evil man—but for some reason the king specially liked him.



DID YOU KNOW?

The King's Gate was at the palace in Shushan, Persia



*On the map, can you find: **SHUSHAN***



He made him a great man, and everyone had to bow down to him whenever he passed.

But what about Mordecai? No way! He would never bow down to such a wicked man.



So you can imagine what happened. Haman was angry. He was furious. He was determined to get rid of Mordecai. He was so proud he just could not bear anyone who wouldn't bow down to him.

But how could he do it? It would seem ridiculous to people if he just got rid of a man because he didn't like him.

Suddenly he had an idea. He found out that Mordecai was a Jew (one of God's own special people). So he thought of a cruel plan—get rid of all the Jews that were in the land—and Mordecai would be one of them. It was a dreadful plan.

DID YOU KNOW?
The word Jew is used because they came from Judah

Haman was such a great man, and the king admired him so much, that it seemed sure to succeed. But there was one thing that Haman did not know. There is a God in heaven who is almighty, and He loves and cares for His people.

You can read about this in Esther chapter 3, verses 1 to 7

? On the map, can you find: **JUDAH**