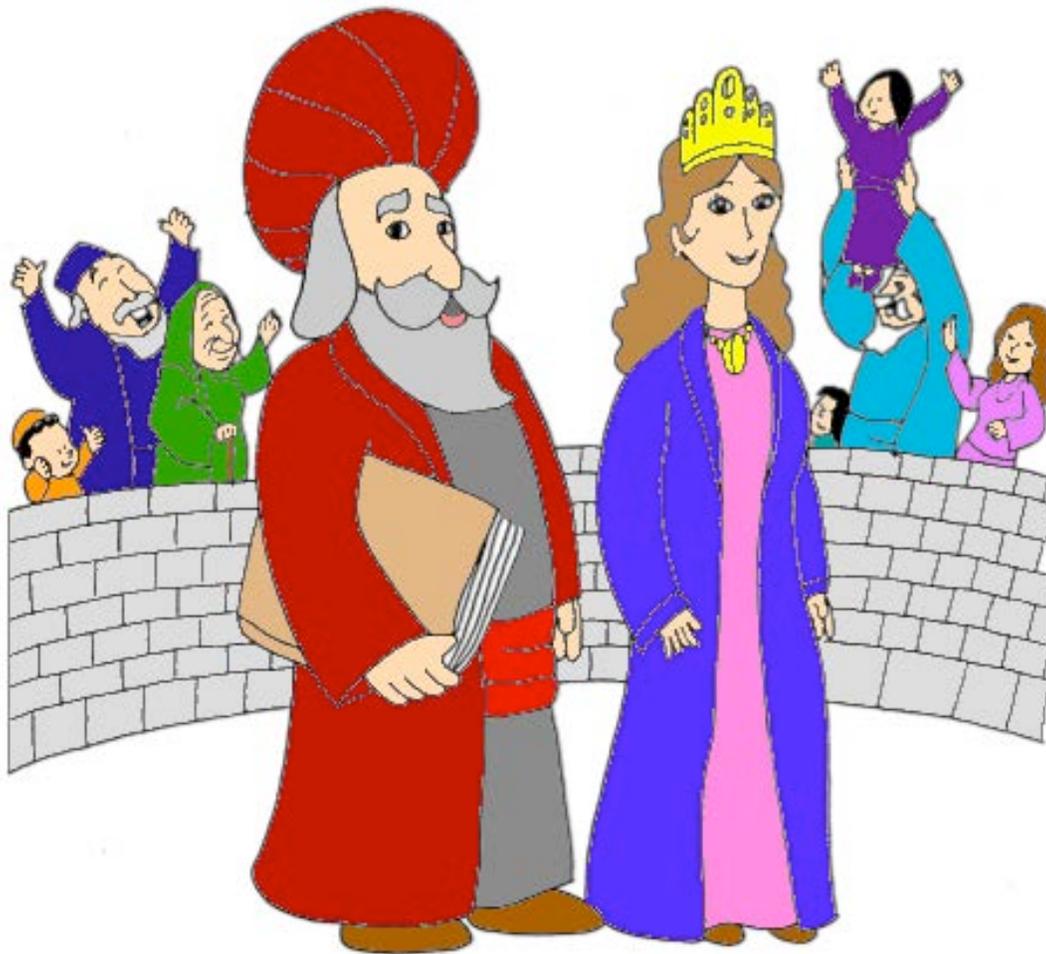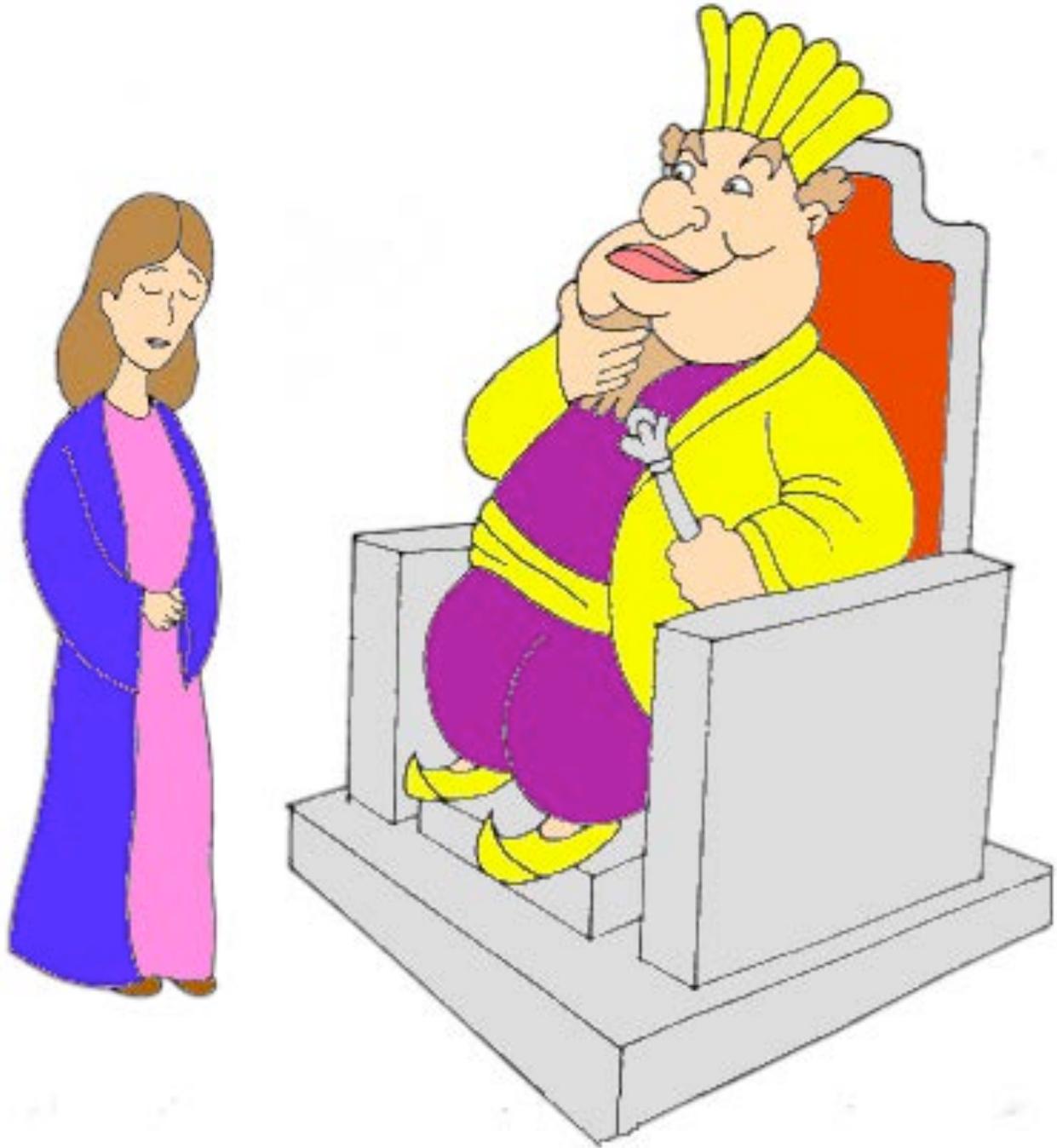# The Purim Story

By Rebecca Redner

Illustrations by David Sokoloff downloaded from chinuch.org

This is Esther and her Uncle Mordechai. Esther and Mordechai are Jewish. The lived in a land called Persia many many years ago.

The king of Persia was named King Achashverosh. King Achashverosh was lonely because he did not have a wife. One day he saw beautiful Esther and fell in love with her. Esther and King Achashverosh were married, and she became Queen Esther. But Esther did not tell King Achashverosh that she was Jewish.

King Achashverosh had an advisor named Haman. Haman felt like he was very important, so he wanted everybody to bow down to him. Most people were scared of Haman, so they bowed when he walked by.
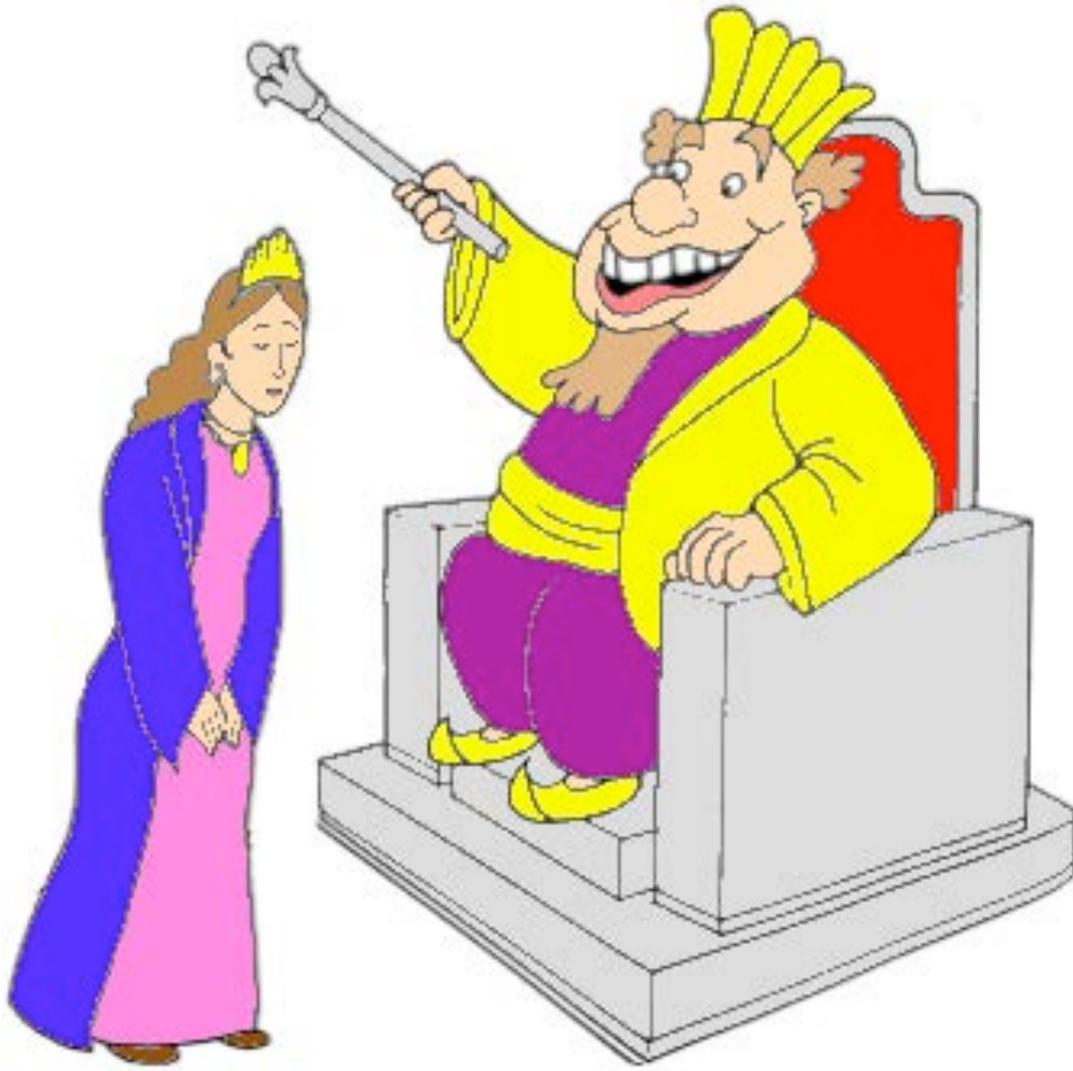
But Mordechai did not bow to Haman. Mordechai said, "No! I will not bow to you! I am Jewish, and I only bow to God." This made Haman very angry.
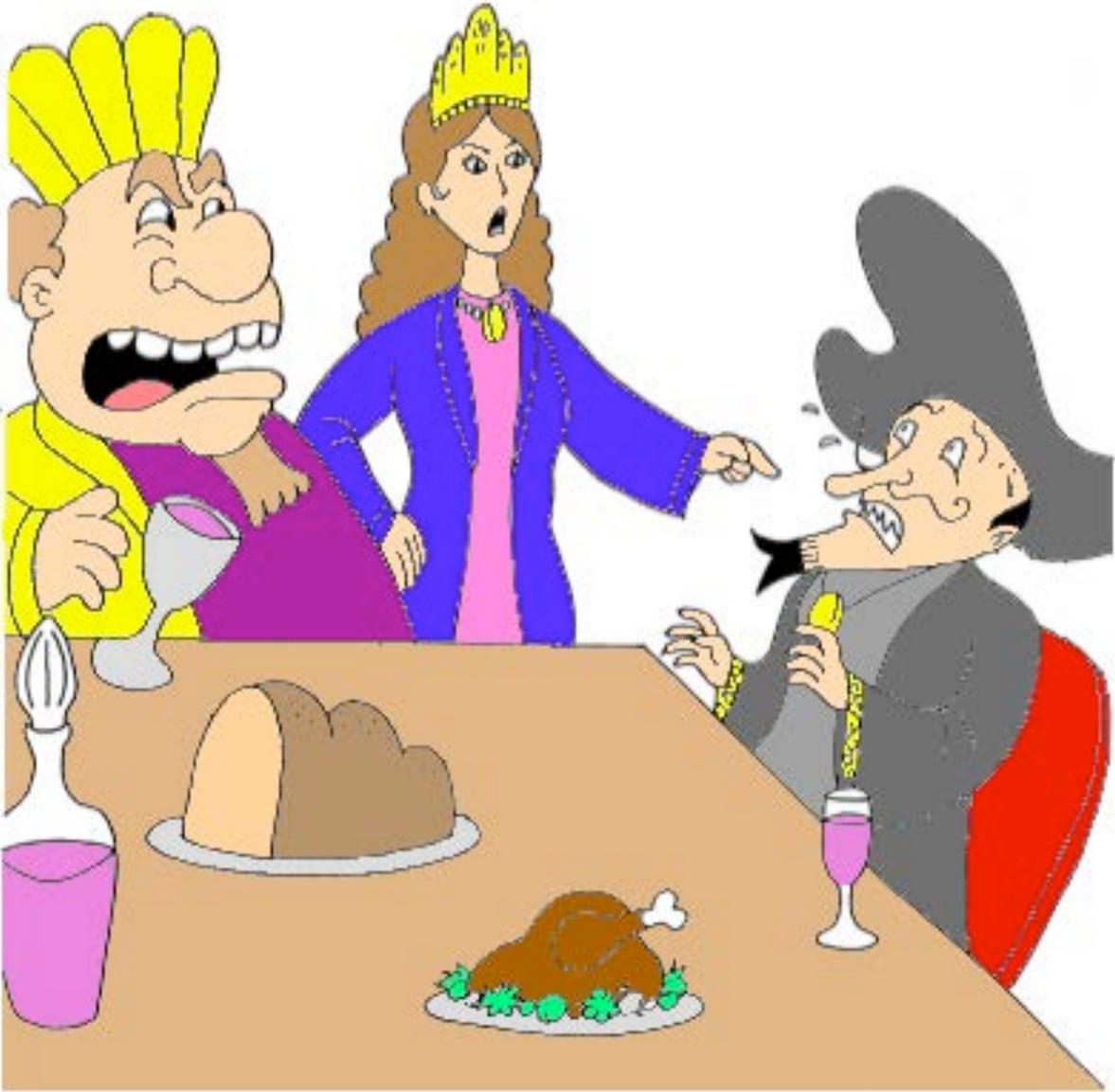
Haman became so angry that he decided to kill not only Mordechai, but all of the Jewish people in Persia. Haman rolled dice to choose a day to carry out his evil plan. He picked the thirteenth day of the month of Adar.

Mordechai told Esther about Haman's plan and asked her to go to the king. But there was a rule that people could only see the King if he invited them. Esther fasted and prayed to God to ask for his help before she went uninvited to the king.

 Esther was scared, but she finally went to see King Achashverosh. But King Achashverosh was happy to see her, and he smiled. Esther invited the King and Haman to a party that night.
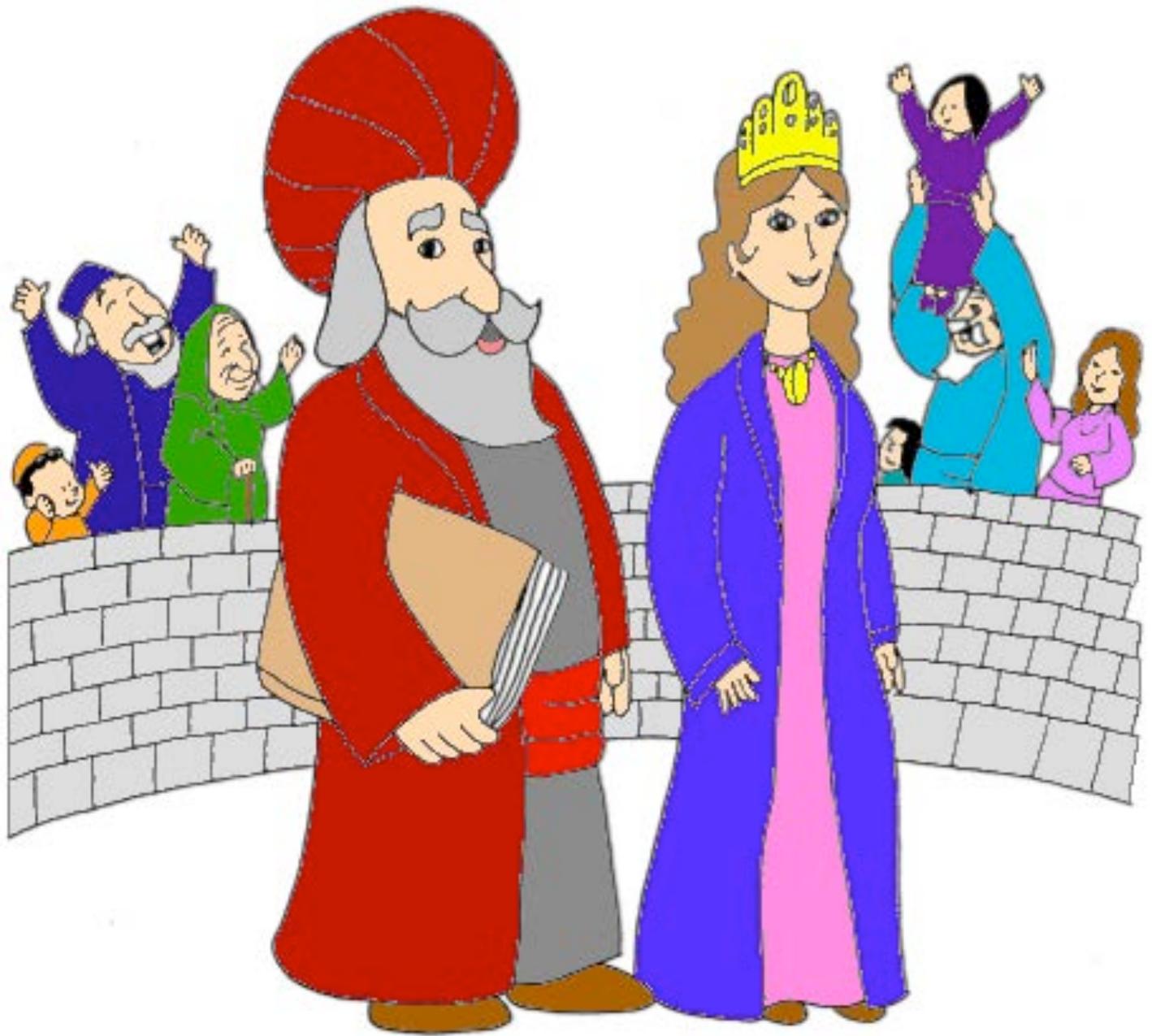
At the party, Queen Esther said that there was an evil man who wanted to kill her.

"Who is it?" said King Achashverosh.

"It is Haman," said Queen Esther. "He wants to kill all of the Jews, and I am a Jew."

So King Achashverosh stopped Haman's evil plan, and ordered that Haman be killed instead.

Every year on Purim we remember how Queen Esther and her uncle Mordechai saved the Jews of Persia, and we celebrate!