

Purim, a time of Celebration and Thankfulness

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What is Purim?

Purim defined from the Oxford dictionary, is described with this sentence. A lesser Jewish festival held in spring (on the 14th or 15th day of Adar) to [commemorate](#) the defeat of Haman's plot to [massacre](#) the Jews as recorded in the book of Esther.

I'm quite sure that the defeated, planned genocide of a people or nation should have a bit more recognition than just being know as a lesser Jewish festival.

When it comes to observed religious celebrations, some are given a grander recognition than others.

Such as Christmas, Easter, Ramadan, and the first two are made up and perverted by that which doesn't reflect much of what and whom God is about with many that observe those 2 days. At least not in recent years.(See notes below.)

(From Chabad.org)

The jolly Jewish holiday of Purim is celebrated every year on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Adar (late winter/early spring). [Purim](#) 2025 begins on **Thursday night, March 13** and continues through **Shabbat, March 14** (extending through Sunday in Jerusalem). It commemorates the (**Divinely orchestrated**) salvation of the Jewish people in the ancient Persian empire from Haman's plot "to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day."

(Hamas tried to recreate a similar attack against the Jewish people on

October 7th 2023), **killing about 1,200 people and taking another 251, hostage. Israel responded with an air and ground campaign in the Gaza Strip, during which at least 48,365 people have been killed, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.**

Literally “lots” in ancient Persian, Purim was thus named since Haman had thrown lots to determine when he would carry out his diabolical scheme, as recorded in the [Megillah](https://www.chabad.org/holidays/purim/article_cdo/aid/645309/jewish/What-Is-Purim.htm) (book of Esther).
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And yet Purim is defined as a lesser Jewish holiday, by some. Makes you wonder what the feelings of the one that came up with the Oxford definition is.

Now, we know that this was not the first time that someone wanted to cause great harm and destruction upon the Jewish people, the fighting still continues against them today.

In the time of Mordecai and Esther, (the Jewish population) were facing the threat of genocide again, not the first time, why? Hatred. Hatred from a man that felt a need for revenge of his bloodline.

We know that Haman was a descendant of King Agag, the king of the Amalekites, and King Saul of Israel destroyed the Amalekites, and the Prophet Samuel killed Agag. Why Samuel, wheres the King Saul in all of this.

King Saul hesitated in doing what the Lord commanded him to do. You can read the details beginning in 1 Samual chapter 15:1.

King Saul was negligent in the performance of his duty and ignored what God told him to do, concerning the Amalakites.

When you are unwilling to do that which God has commanded you to do, there will be unforeseen consequences for your actions.

Enter Haman.

Haman was an official in the Persian court under King Ahasuerus (aka Xerxes). Haman's descent from Agag is indicated by his epithet or label "Agagite".

But hatred, greed, and misrepresentation of the Jews to King Xerxes fueled the fire for the extermination of the Jews at this time.

Misrepresentation of the Jews, came in the form of lies from the mouth of Haman that the Jews laws, were different from that of King Xerxes and therefore they should not remain within his kingdom. By remain Haman meant killed and eliminated.

Haman wanted them all killed due to the defiance of one man, Mordecai, a man that refused to bow the knee to him.

Have you ever wondered what the conflict was between Haman and Mordecai. Why did Haman hate him so much, he wasn't there when King Saul advanced against the Amalakites. You can find the answer if you read about them from the Talmud.

Regardless of the reason, he hated Mordecai and wanted him gone along with all the others and sought permission from the king.

Oh, and did I mention that money was involved. Haman would gladly pay the king ten thousand talents of silver (about \$3,840,000,000) dollars (today) to get the job done. Haman's version

of Biden gate.

Have you heard the phrase "man plans, God laughs", it's similar to Proverbs 16:9, which says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

One can make any plan of action one wants but, God is still in control of what will happen. Many people forget that.

Proverbs 16 clearly lays out the relationship between our plans and God's involvement and, response!

And just as a thought, after service, open your bibles to proverbs 16 and read the entire chapter. Why you ask? Because this is one of many chapters from the word of God that encourages us to live Godly lives. Something that we should do daily but may be neglected do to other distractions. Maybe even write the chapter number in your bible when you or another face challenges of this life.

But getting back to Purim, the conditions looked bad for the Jewish people, Mordicai wasn't the only one that knew of what was to come but, Mordecai acted and took the problem to God for the solution to the problem at hand. Many others may have been going through what we call a meltdown, greiving, crying, losing their minds.***

One must remember, there will be one or two indivisiduals that will always stand out against that which is wrong or evil. We see it throughout all of history.

That one person that will take the attacks from others to do what is right and just. Even at the cost of their reputation, loss of wealth and

or property, and even their life.

And we see this from the beginning, from the book of Esther when Mordecai refuses to bow to Hamans' promotion given to him by King Xerxes, in (chapter 3). One might ask as to how Haman came to be Xerxes's prime minister, how did he find favor of the king and why did Haman hate the Jews? Let's look at his hatred for the Jews.

There are other reasons besides his kin being killed for his hatred and I encourage you to study it out, but today let's deal with the hatred.

His bloodline was that of the Amalakites, his father Hammedatha whom brought him into this world more than likely had a great hatred of the Jews himself, due to the defeat of the Amalakites to the Jews and instilled that hatred into his son Haman.

Revenge, a blood feud still alive against the Jewish people after all those years? Yes. And that same hatred is still held against not only the Jews but others today.

Note: The Hatfields / Mc Coys. Their feud lasted from 1865 to 1891, they shook hands in 1976 and finally ended the feud officially on June 14th 2003. A little over 5.50 generations. Haman was the 16th generation of his kin, about 400 years of hatred. A long time to hold a grudge.

Now all of us know what happened with Mordecai and Esther, the events that led to the first decree for annihilation and the one allowing the Jews to defend themselves from death. And we have all read the story. Or should have.

As I prepared for this message today I asked God for an understanding of what Purim means to not only myself but also for others. Especially for those that do not celebrate this festival.

Today there is so much chaos and bitterness among not only nations but also within our own families.

Fueds exist politically, socially, and involve themselves in all of our lives daily, in one form or another to the point of disagreements and literally death of others. Doesn't matter what we call them. Grudges, revenge, social justice, racism, war, it's all hatred in one form or another.

And family and friends become separated due to a misunderstanding, an offense, a disagreement which Satan will use to his benefit to cause chaos and hatred, to fuel the fires of racism against another.

Purim is a celebration of freedom, love, a time to finally set aside the grief and worry, a time to come together and unite with one another.

To encourage each other to seek that which God wants for us, to stand in the gap for those that can't defend themselves from evil and lead with righteousness before God. Not just in words but also actions. As Esther.

Yeshua, many years ago, gave of Himself to the point of death to all that would believe in Him to have eternal life with Him and His Father in heaven. To have, to live a peaceful life in this world.

We pray for that peace everytime we recite the Aaronic Blessing for ourselves and others.

So, today ask yourself, examine yourself, are you holding an offense to another, a grudge, some form of disappointment that is causing you grief or worry or hatred of that brother or sister.

Are you seeking a peaceful outcome, a decree from our King, our Savior, Yeshua. He has given us the answer.

If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1John 5:14.

We read of the prayers of Mordecai, Esther, and all the people and in the end they were joyful and thankful that God saved them. This Purim, let us celebrate with each other (dispite the distance) in the most joyful way possiable, giving thanks and glory to our God and Lord and Savior. Amen.

Go forth and enjoy this day with family and friends, even if they don't understand what Purim is all about. Sit down, have a meal with them even if they don't agree with you and wish them peace. This may be your opportunity to encourage another, for such a time as this. Amen.

Deference of description of festivals from those of God by the world.

Note 1. Christmas, [Christian festival](#) celebrating the birth of [Jesus](#). The English term *Christmas* (“mass on Christ’s day”) is of fairly recent origin. The earlier term *Yule* may have derived from the [Germanic jōl](#) or the [Anglo-Saxon geōl](#), which referred to the feast of the [winter solstice](#). The corresponding terms in other [languages](#)—

Navidad in [Spanish](#), *Natale* in [Italian](#), *Noël* in [French](#)—all probably denote [nativity](#). The [German](#) word *Weihnachten* denotes “hallowed night.” Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also been a [secular](#) family [holiday](#), observed by Christians and non-Christians alike, devoid of Christian elements, and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts. In this secular Christmas celebration, a mythical figure named [Santa Claus](#) plays the pivotal role.

Note 2. Easter, is a Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a time of joy and celebration, and is one of the most important holidays in the Christian faith.

How is Easter celebrated?

- Easter is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer.
- Easter is celebrated with many symbols of new life, including eggs, chicks, flowers, and rabbits.
- Easter is also known as Pascha or Resurrection Sunday.
- What does Easter celebrate?
 - . Easter celebrates the triumph of life over death
 - . Easter celebrates the triumph of good over evil, sin, death, and the physical body.

Note 3: What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the [Islamic calendar](#). A foundational pillar of practicing Islam is fasting during the month of Ramadan. This devotional act is observed by over a billion Muslims worldwide today. [Fasting is a major act of worship, and it is a powerful means of cultivating God-consciousness in the heart and mind.](#) Fasting has both physical and spiritual benefits, including purifying the soul, inspiring self-reflection, and increasing empathy and good works.

Bonus for those that have inquiring minds for how Haman came into the position that he did. Below is the reading from the Talmud with an explanation.

Haman is identified by the Talmudists with **Memucan**, the last of the seven princes "which saw the king's face" (Esth. i. 14), giving to "**Memucan**" the signification of "prepared for punishment" (Targ. to Esth.; [Meg. 12b](#)). Haman was a direct descendant of Agag in the sixteenth generation and consequently an Amalekite (Targ. Sheni; Josephus, "Ant." xi. 6, § 5). The Septuagint, however, gives for "ha-Agagi" ὁ Μακεδόν in Esth. ix. 24, while in the preceding instances no translation whatever is given. Having attempted to exterminate the Jews of Persia, and rendering himself thereby their worst enemy, Haman naturally became the center of many Talmudic legends. Being at one time in extreme want, he sold himself as a **slave** to **Mordecai** ([Meg. 15a](#)). He was a barber at Kefar Qarzum for the space of twenty-two years (*ib.* 16a). **Haman had an idolatrous image embroidered on his garments, so that those who bowed to him at command of the king bowed also to the image** (Esth. R. vii.).