

Happy Purim mixer Happy Purim

P U R I M

Purim is the festival found in the book of Esther. It is full of the eschatological teachings of G-d. As we read the book of Esther we will see certain figures come to the front of the scene.

The king, Achashvayrosh (Ahasuerus), will represent G-d. The next character to come along is Vashti, who will be a picture of the unbelievers. After her we will come to Esther. She will play the part of the Believers. After her we see Mordecai who is a picture of the Messiah Yeshua. And at last we come to our adversary, the evil Haman, who will be in the place of Satan or the False Messiah.

As we read the book of Esther we start to see the plan of G-d that will take place on the earth in the first seven years of the Messianic Kingdom (Millennium). This is often referred to as the Tribulation Period. The fact that the Tribulation Period is the first seven years of the Messianic Kingdom is seen in many of the festivals, especially the Sabbath. However that is another story, for now let's look at the book of Esther and see what we can learn.

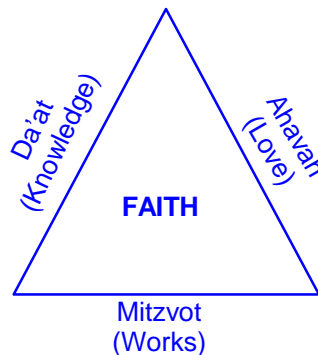
The king was the supreme ruler of the world. No one was allowed to question him or his commands, in fact once he had given a command he himself could not retract it. Daniel 6.12...

"And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man

within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

In this we can find confidence in G-d, once He has said His Will and His promises, He will be faithful to carry them out.

"Faith is a triangle with several different aspects to it"



In Hebrew faith and confidence are synonymous and are known as Emunah. Faith is a triangle with several different aspects to it.

If we do not have all of these aspects of faith then we simply do not have Biblical faith as taught by the Prophets and Apostles in the scriptures. Back to the story.

The king called everyone to the citadel in Shushan, both small and great for a feast. This feast was to last for seven days. On the seventh

day the king commanded his eunuchs that served him to bring Vashti before him wearing her royal crown. According to Josephus, she was to appear before the king and the other guests wearing nothing but her royal crown. The queen refused to come to the king as ordered. The king was furious with her and had her removed from her royal position.

"Eternal life comes from repentance and faith in the Messiah of Yisrael"

G-d demands obedience from His servants. The Jewish people thought that just because they were Jews and the seed of Avraham that they had eternal life. Yeshua referred to this in Matt. 3.9...

"and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Avraham as our father.' For I say to you that G-d is able to raise up children to Avraham from these stones."

Eternal life comes from repentance and faith in the Messiah of Yisrael. Everyone is given the opportunity to come to G-d, on His terms, if they refuse, they will lose their place in the Kingdom of G-d, whether Jew or Gentile.

This does not mean that Yisrael has lost her place in the Kingdom. And that in turn brings up another question! Who is Yisrael? What is their role? Who is the bride?

Let's look at these often misunderstood subjects. Let's look at the role of Yisrael first. The nation of Yisrael was created by G-d for a purpose, they had a role to play and that role was to lead the other nations to the Living G-d. G-d gave them the scriptures and the instructions, the Sabbath and Festivals. These things were given to Yisrael so that they would know the things that pleased and displeased G-d and could instruct the other nations in these matters.

The scriptures say in Luke 12.48....

"...For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

The nation of Yisrael was given much, and much was required from them that was not required from the other nations. That is the law of G-d which cannot be changed.

And that brings us to the next question, Who is Yisrael? The people (Gentiles) that came to the G-d of Yisrael were to keep the parts of the Law that applied to them, but they were not required to become Jewish to be part of Yisrael. When they came to believe in the G-d of Yisrael they were grafted into the common wealth of Yisrael. They became part of the Nation of Yisrael and the promises made to her. They did not replace Yisrael nor did they become Jews but they were part of Yisrael.

The third question, Who is the Bride, was pretty much answered in the second question but to expound on it a little, the bride is anyone who worships, obeys and has faith in the G-d of Yisrael. There is only one Bride, the believing Yisrael.

The king sent out a royal decree that stated that Vashti had lost her royal position. When the king's wrath subsided, he decided that another should take the place of Vashti, one who was more worthy.

The decree went out and young virgins were brought to Shushan the citadel and were given beauty supplies to make themselves beautiful when they appear before the king.

"There is only one Bride, the believing Yisrael"

Mordecai had a cousin named Esther. Her name in Hebrew is Hadassah, which means, myrtle. The myrtle is an evergreen plant. It is symbolic of everlasting life and it has fragrant berries which cause it to produce a sweet smell.

Mordecai comes from the tribe of Binyamin from the line of Kish. This is the second time we see someone coming from the line of Kish. In the book of I Samuel chapter 9 verses 1 & 2....

"There was a man of Binyamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Binyamite, a mighty man of power. And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Sha'ul...."

In the book of Exodus chapter 17 we read about a battle between Amalek and Yisrael. The L-rd said that He would blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. Amalek will be a picture of Ha-Satan, *Satan*.

I Sam. 15.2-3....

"Thus says the L-RD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Yisrael, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

Sha'ul was told to kill the Amalekites but he spared king Agag. Samuel later killed king Agag, but he apparently had

children before Samuel could kill him. This will be brought out at a later time.

Esther's father and mother were dead and Mordecai was raising her. He was her kinsman redeemer. The redeemer must be the next of kin and be willing and able to pay the price for redemption. With this we can see why Yeshua had to become a man. Without becoming a man He would not have been able to qualify as our Kinsman Redeemer.

Esther is chosen to replace Vashti. She will not divulge that she is a Jew at the request of Mordecai. Mordecai is found sitting in the king's gate. This is where court was conducted in those days. This means that Mordecai was probably an official of the king. As he is sitting in the gate he overhears a plot to kill the king by two of the kings doorkeepers. He tells Esther who in turn tells the king in the name of Mordecai the plot that is at hand by his doorkeepers. The king had them hanged when the plot was confirmed and the events of the account was written in the chronicles of the Medes and Persians.

Now comes Haman, who we see the king promoting to be second in command. Haman will come from the Agagites. Remember earlier that king Sha'ul was to kill the Amalakites, but he left king Agag alive. If king Sha'ul had done as the L-rd had commanded, then there would have never been a Haman, for Haman is a direct descendent of king Agag.

Everyone within the king's gate paid homage to Haman, everyone that is except Mordecai. The reason that Mordecai would not pay homage to Haman is not given, but it is probable that he knew that Haman was a descendent of king Agag and that G-d would not look kindly on him paying homage to a descendent of someone that G-d Himself had commanded that

Yisrael wipe out. That would be the same as saying that G-d was wrong in His decision to wipe out the line of the Amalakites. This can be seen in the fact that Mordecai had told the other officials that he was a Jew when they questioned him about why he would not bow to Haman.

When Haman sees that Mordecai would not bow to him he became furious but would not lay a hand on him for fear of the Jews. A plot formed in the twisted mind of Haman to kill all the Jews in the land. So in the first month, that is Nisan or Aviv, Haman cast lots or pur, to see when the Jews would be destroyed. The lot fell on the twelfth month which is the month of Adar. They then cast the lots to see which day of the month it was to fall, it landed on the thirteenth day.

Haman now goes before the king to put his plan into effect. He tells the king that there is a people whose laws are different from all other peoples and that they should be destroyed. The king agrees and makes a decree to that effect. If you will notice that the only reason Haman gives is that the people are different. Remember this when you are persecuted for being a believer. The only reason that they need is that you are different, and if you are not different then you have an even bigger problem.

When Mordecai learned of the plot to kill the Jews he tore his clothes and put on sackclothes. Queen Esther's maids told her of Mordecai. Esther sent clothes to Mordecai but he would not accept them. Esther then sent one of the king's eunuchs to question Mordecai. The eunuch returned with the explanation and a copy of the decree that was sent out to all the provinces of the king. Mordecai also sent word to Esther through the eunuch to plead to the king for her people.

Esther sent word back to Mordecai that to enter into the

presence of the king without being summoned meant death unless he would hold out his scepter. The king kept twelve axemen around his throne to kill anyone that came into his presence without being summoned. It is very normal that Esther was afraid of the request that Mordecai had made of her.

Mordecai sent back this message....

"Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4.13-14

Mordecai explained that if she did not rise up at this time then G-d would send someone else to save His people, but her and her father's house would perish.

Esther understood the message from Mordecai. She decided that she would do as he requested, she asked only one thing in return. That the Jews fast for three days for her. In the Septuagint we have a copy of the prayer of Mordecai. In it we see that Mordecai is praying to the G-d of Avraham. When Esther asked for the people to fast for her, she was in essence asking them to pray to G-d for her as well. In this story we see the reason for fasting is that we may concentrate on our prayers to G-d and put the things of the world behind us as we pray.

It now becomes very important to watch the dates that are mentioned in the book of Esther. Dates are always important, G-d has put them in the scriptures for a very important reason. Never just read over a date in the scriptures. Look them up and see what else happened on that day, they will tell a story.

Chapter 3 verse 12a reads....

Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded;....

This day, the thirteenth of Nisan, is the day that we start counting for the events that will follow. This is the day that all the events just mentioned between Esther and Mordecai took place. Keep in mind also that this is the day before Passover.

The time has come for queen Esther to appear before the king. She put on her royal robe and went into the inner courts of the king's palace. When the king saw her he had compassion on her, for he loved her very much. He showed this compassion by holding out the golden scepter to her.

In the book of Genesis, Ya'akov (Jacob) is blessing his children. When he comes to Y'hudah (Judah) he says....

"Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people."

Because of this prophecy, the Messiah is known as the "Lion of Judah." He is also seen as the scepter. This can better be seen in Numbers 24.17 ...

"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Ya'akov; A Scepter shall rise out of Yisrael, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of Sheth."

For the king to offer the scepter was to offer life. G-d offers life to us by extending His Scepter, the Messiah.

The king asks Esther what it is

that she requests. Esther replies ...

"If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

The king could not believe his ears. This queen has risked her life to ask him if he and Haman would come to a banquet. He summoned Haman to come at once.

The messengers arrive at the house of Haman with the news that the queen has prepared a banquet for the king and he was the only other one invited.

At the banquet, the king again asked Esther what her request was. She replied ...

"My petition and request is this: If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

Haman is now on the top of the world. That is until he sees Mordecai in the king's gate. Haman refrained from doing anything to Mordecai at that time, instead he went home and called for his friends and wife. He began to tell them of all that he had, but it avails him nothing as long as Mordecai lives.

Anti-Semitism has no basis. It stems from nothing but Satan himself. Hitler is a very good example of this. Hitler was losing the war, he badly needed to get guns and ammo to his troops at the front. For this he needed his trains. Instead of using the trains to supply his troops with their needs, he choose to use them to send the Jews to the gas chamber. This makes no sense, but then again anti-Semitism never does.

Haman's wife and friends tell him to build a gallows seventy-five feet tall and to request from the king in the morning that Mordecai

be hanged on it.

However, that night G-d would not allow the king to sleep. The king ordered that the chronicles be brought and read to him. When it was read that Mordecai had saved the king's life by reporting what his doorkeepers were plotting, the king asked how he was rewarded. His servants answered, "he has not been rewarded."

At this time the king heard someone walking in the court and asked who it was. The servants answered, "it is Haman." The king allowed him to come in.

Haman was there to ask that Mordecai be hanged. However, G-d had other plans. Before Haman could ask his request the king asked his own question ...

"What should be done for the man that the king wishes to honor?"

Haman, being full of pride, thought that the king was referring to him. So Haman thought of the most elaborate things that his mind could think of. Then the king said ...

"Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

Haman's plan had backfired. He was now to do for Mordecai what he thought was going to be done for him. Haman was allowed by G-d to name his own punishment.

Haman done as the king commanded. Afterwards he returned to his house mourning because of what he was forced to do for the man he hated more than anything else in the world.

While Haman was still talking to his wife, the king's eunuchs came to take Haman to the second banquet that Esther had prepared.

At the banquet the king again asked Esther what it was she

wanted. This time the answer was different ...

"If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

Esther still has not revealed that she is a Jew. Haman has no idea what is about to happen. The king can not believe what he has just heard. Who would dare to raise a hand against the queen. Esthers answer ...

"The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!"

Haman's whole world had just fell out from under him. For the first time he realized that Esther was a Jew. Haman has dug a pit and has now fallen in as the scripture says in Proverbs 26:27a ...

"Whoever digs a pit will fall into it,

In those days, punishment came in many forms, none of which Haman wanted to have administered to him. For example, they would skin you alive, gouge out your eyes, etc.

The king was besides himself. He left the room so he could think. While he was gone, Haman through himself across Esther to plead for his life. However, when the king came in and found Haman on top of the queen, he didn't quite see it that way. He thought Haman was trying to rape the queen. The king had Haman removed and hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.

"Whoever digs a pit will fall into it"

Remember that you were told to pay attention to the dates. Let's retrace them. The starting date was Nisan the 13th, the people were to fast and pray for three days then the queen would appear before the king, that puts the first banquet on Nisan the 16th. At the first banquet Esther asked for Haman and the king to come to another banquet the next night. That brings us to where we are now, the second banquet, the date is the 17th of Nisan. Why is this date special? In the scriptures, we will be using two calendars. From Genesis 1.1 - Exodus 12.1 you will be using what is called, "The Civil Calendar."

From Exodus 12.2 - Revelation 22.21 you will use the "Religious Calendar." Let's take a look at this date, the 17th of Nisan.

In Genesis 7.1-8.22 we learn about the flood. It also gives us the day that the ark sat down on top of Mt. Ararat, that day was the 17th day of the seventh month. Since we are in the Civil calendar, the seventh month is Nisan. So on the 17th day of the month of Nisan Noah was saved and Satan was defeated from destroying the righteous.

Next we go to Exodus 12.1-14.31. This is the story of the Passover. Remember that when counting these or any other days in the scriptures, that the days start at sundown. The children of Yisrael were to offer a lamb on the 14th of Nisan and eat it on the 15th of Nisan.

"On the day that Haman was hanged, the king gave Esther his house and Mordecai his signet ring"

On the night of the 15th, Pharaoh allows the people to go into the desert for three days to worship G-d. They leave on the

15th of Nisan and go to Succoth to get the bones of Joseph, they did not however camp there. They left Succoth and camped at Etham. The day now changes to the 16th of Nisan. From there G-d told them to turn and camp at Pi Hahiroth. The day is still the 16th of Nisan. That day Pharaoh pursues Yisrael and finds them at the sea. A pillow of fire separates Yisrael from Pharaoh and his army. G-d parts the Red Sea. Night sets in and the day changes to the 17th of Nisan. The children of Yisrael crossed the sea and came up alive on the other side on the 17th of Nisan.

Pharaoh, who is a picture of Satan was killed in the sea. So on the 17th of Nisan the children of Yisrael were saved and the enemy was defeated.

Yeshua was sacrificed on the 14th of Nisan, was in the grave three days and three nights. He rose from the grave on the 17th of Nisan. On the 17th of Nisan we were saved and the enemy was defeated because he took an innocent life that did not belong to him.

On the day that Haman was hanged, the king gave Esther his house and Mordecai his signet ring. Remember that Esther is a picture of the believer. When Satan is destroyed we will be given back what Adam lost to Satan. We have that in part now but we will have it in it's fullness in the Messianic Kingdom. We will be snatched away and Yeshua will be coronated in Heaven. We can see a picture of this in Daniel 7.13-14 ...

"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His

kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."

The Ancient of Days is the Father, the Son of Man is Yeshua and the clouds are the believers. We are going to the coronation of the Messiah and the wedding.

Esther then asked that the king save her people. Since he could not change the law, he allowed Mordecai and Esther to write another law that allowed the Jews to protect themselves. This was done and Mordecai sealed it with the signet ring.

We now come to the month of Adar. The month that the Jews were to be destroyed. They instead destroyed their enemies.

The ten sons of Haman were also killed. In the book of Daniel we read about four kingdoms; Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. Rome will have the power of all the others. It also has ten horns. These ten kings are seen in the ten sons of Haman.

The Jews feasted and assembled themselves together on the 14th of Adar to celebrate. Mordecai wrote a decree to all the Jews that they should celebrate the 14th and 15th of Adar as the day of rest from their enemies.

The name of the festival was called, "Purim," because of the lots that were casts.

The last chapter of Esther is the kingdom of Achashvayrosh and how Mordecai was second only to the king. This is the Kingdom to Come.

The entire book of Esther is about Yeshua. Psalms 40.7 ...

"Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me."

This is referring to the Messiah. From Genesis to Revelation is about the Messiah. We must search the scriptures to find Messiah on every page and in every verse.

He is there. It will be a journey that will take you a lifetime and

you will never be able to contain all that the scriptures have to offer. r

PURIM TODAY

Today the Jewish people, according to the commandment of Mordecai, celebrate the feast of Purim in its appointed time. This is not a Mo'ed, it is never the less a very important festival for understanding the end times in which we live.

The festival consists of the reading of the Megillah, that is the whole book of Esther. As the story is read, the people in the congregation will participate in the story. When the name of the king, Achashvayrosh, is mentioned the people will shout, Praise G-d. When the name of Vashti is sounded then the people will say, Tick, tick, tick. When you hear the name of Esther you will respond, Ahhh. Mordecai will receive the sound of joy, Yea, Yea, Yea. When

the name of the wicked Haman is read the response will be to drown out his name with the stomping of feet, sounding noise makers and shouting at the top of your voice, Boo, boo, boo.

The people are encouraged to wear costumes to the Purim party. Many girls will come dressed as the beautiful Esther and many boys will be the king or Mordecai. This is a joyful time for all, adults and children alike. Here, all are children, children of the Most High. Here to give Him praise and thanksgiving for the redemption He has given us through His Redeemer, Yeshua Ha-Mashiach.

Let us read the book of Esther and understand what G-d is communicating to us. Let us see the beautiful plan that the Holy One,

blessed be He, is showing to us, that we will have confidence in Him. Many times in the scriptures G-d will show the same truth in different ways. What is said in the book of Esther is repeated many times in other parts of the scriptures. One will rest on the other, and together they will build a house that will stand the weather and in this house we can find shelter from the storm that is sure to come.

G-d Bless and Happy Purim!

Steve & Karen Salter

