

## Esther 9:1 (NLT)

So on March 7 the two decrees of the king were put into effect. On that day, the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but quite the opposite happened. It was the Jews who overpowered their enemies.

## Esther 9:2 (NLT)

The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the king's provinces to attack anyone who tried to harm them. But no one could make a stand against them, for everyone was afraid of them.

## Esther 9:3-4 (NLT)

And all the nobles of the provinces, the highest officers, the governors, and the royal officials helped the Jews for fear of Mordecai. <sup>4</sup> For Mordecai had been promoted in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces as he became more and more powerful.

## Esther 9:24 (NLT)

Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted to crush and destroy them on the date determined by casting lots (the lots were called *purim*).

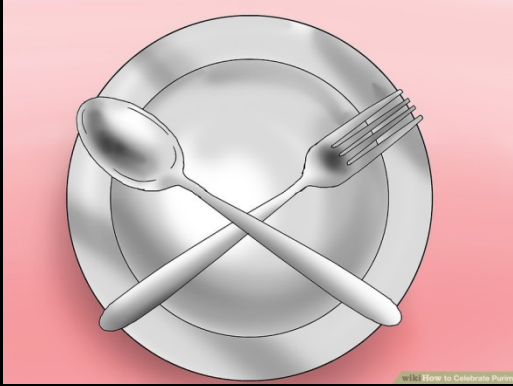
## Esther 9:25-26 (NLT)

But when Esther came before the king, he issued a decree causing Haman's evil plot to backfire, and Haman and his sons were impaled on a sharpened pole.<sup>26</sup> That is why this celebration is called Purim, because it is the ancient word for casting lots.

**The SOVEREIGN yet  
UNSEEN God**

**Esther 9-10**

# Celebrating Purim Today



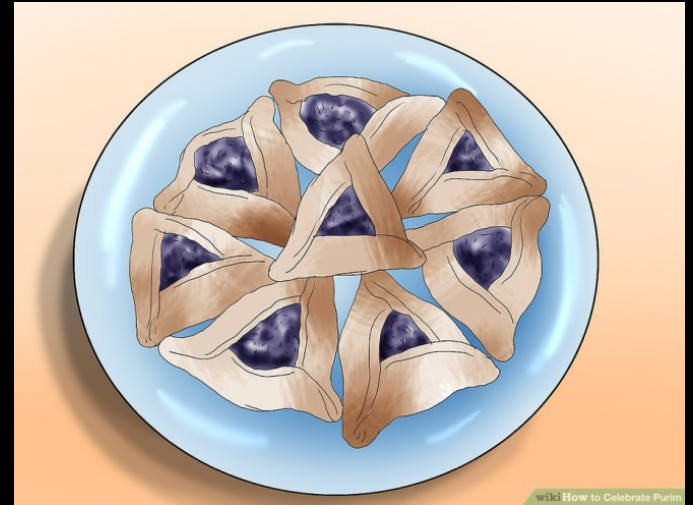
**FAST** the NIGHT before

Listen as Esther is **READ** Out Loud



Give **GIFTS** to the Poor

Cook **TRADITIONAL** Foods



Give **FOOD** to Friends

Host a **CELEBRATION**





The **Festival of Purim** is the only  
**O.T. Festival**  
**NOT established by Moses.**

Esther 3:13 (NIV)

Dispatches were sent by couriers to **ALL** the king's provinces with **the order to destroy, kill and annihilate ALL the Jews** - young and old, women and little children - on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, **and to PLUNDER their goods.**

Esther 8:11 (NIV)

The king's edict **granted the Jews** in every city the **RIGHT** to assemble and **PROTECT** themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate any **ARMED FORCE** of any nationality or province that might attack them and their women and children; **AND** to **plunder the property of their enemies.**

**Mordecai's decree could NOT REVERSE** Haman's because **no LAW** signed by the king could be **REPEALED**.  
Instead, Mordecai had the king sign a **NEW LAW** giving **Jews** the **RIGHT** to **FIGHT BACK**.

**→ Took NO PROFIT from  
DEFENDING Themselves**

Esther 8:11 (NIV)

The king's edict **granted the Jews** in every  
city the **RIGHT** to **assemble** and  
**PROTECT** themselves;  
**...AND to plunder the property of  
their enemies.**

The **deliberate decision NOT to ENRICH themselves** at the expense of their enemies would not go unnoticed in a culture where **victors were expected to take the spoil.**

The **very novelty of such SELF-DENIAL** would be remarked upon and remembered, and **taken as proof of the upright motives of the Jewish communities.** Constable

Esther's command was written down  
in the **RECORDS** - making it an  
**OFFICIAL** requirement  
for **ALL Jewish** people.

→ **God Specializes in turning  
SORROW into JOY**

<sup>22</sup> ...the **Jews got RELIEF** from their  
enemies...

their **SORROW** was turned into **JOY**  
and their **mourning** into a day of  
**celebration**



Isaiah 35:10 (NLT)

Those who have been **ransomed** by the **LORD will return**. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. **Sorrow and mourning will disappear**, and they will be **FILLED with joy and gladness**.

John 16:20 (NLT)

I tell you the truth, **you will weep and mourn** over what is going to happen to **ME**,  
but the world will rejoice.

You will **grieve**, but **your GRIEF**  
**will suddenly turn to wonderful JOY.**

→ We Must **REMEMBER** God  
is **FAITHFUL**

<sup>30</sup> ...words of **goodwill** and **assurance**

<sup>31</sup> ...to **ESTABLISH** these days of Purim

**REMEMBRANCE** declares  
people and events  
are **WORTHY** of **HONOR.**

HOTC

**SALVATION** should be  
**Celebrated** with **JOY.**

HOTC

Count your  **blessings**, name them one by one

Count your  **blessings**, see what God has done

Count your  **blessings**, name them one by one

**And it will surprise you what the Lord has done**

→ **Contrasting Haman**  
and **Mordecai**

Esther 8:15 (NIV)

**Mordecai** left the king's presence wearing **royal garments** of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the **city of Susa** held a **JOYOUS** celebration.



Proverbs 11:10 (HCS)

When the **righteous thrive**,  
a **city rejoices**, and when the **wicked**  
**die**, there is **joyful shouting**.

**Purim forever** holds out **HOPE**  
to the Jewish people that their  
enemies' plans **will be OVERTURNED,**  
that **God CONTROLS** the dice,  
and that **the Jews will never** be  
**exterminated** from the earth.

Although **God** is **NOT** mentioned  
in the **book of Esther**,  
**HE** is everywhere apparent  
as **the ONE** who **opposed** and  
**foiled Satan's** diabolical schemes  
by **Sovereign INTERVENTION.**

# List of COINCIDENCES

1- Vashti is Removed as Queen

2- King Xerxes loses huge Naval battle and his Army is Routed in Greece

3- He returns having LOST prestige **4 yrs.** goes by

4- Esther is taken into Harem as a potential to become Queen

5- Mordecai hears two of the Kings guards conspiring to Kill him

6- **FOUR yrs.** go by - Haman an Enemy of the Jewish people honored

7- Because Mordecai won't show him Fear or Respect Haman seeks to destroy ALL the Jews

8- He throws the dice setting the date for the GENOCIDE almost a year in the future

9- Asks the King for permission to destroy a people who are lawbreakers and are troublemakers

10- Mordecai sees the Death Decree

11- Goes into deep mourning

12- Mordecai asks Esther to go in to the KING and beg for mercy

13- They fast for 3 days

14- Esther is Reminded that She has become the Queen **for SUCH  
a TIME as This**

15- Esther enters the Kings presence without an invitation - her LIFE  
is Spared

16- She invites the King and Haman to a banquet

17- Haman sees Mordecai not bowing and wants to **DESTROY** him

18- King can't sleep has **history of his court read** HEARS About  
Mordecai saving him

19- Up all night decides to **Reward Mordecai**

20- Haman comes to ask for Mordecai's execution ends up **HONORING**  
Mordecai through city

21- Returns home in Shame - told by wife and advisors he will **never prevail** over Jews

22- Called to 2<sup>nd</sup> banquet - Esther unveils how Haman planned her

23- King leaves in Anger - comes back in as Haman falls on Queen's couch - **HAMAN is EXECUTED**

24- Mordecai is given the chance to **WRITE** another Decree which would nullify the First

25- Mordecai is promoted and becomes more and more important and powerful in government

26- Jews have 8-9 months to arm themselves and prepare for attacks

27- The day both decrees are enacted - a small number of people attack the Jews

28- The Jews are resoundingly Victorious - **REFUSE** to touch the spoils of the battles

29- Mordecai becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command

The **Sovereignty of God** is clearly  
seen in **ALL** the **DETAILS**