



Purim: Part 2

Happy Purim
Everyone!!



Aims:

- 📖 To learn about story of Purim in real-time.
- 📖 To learn messages from the Megilla.
- 📖 To have fun – it's Purim!

Mishe nichnas Adar marbim b'Simcha

Purim is often known for jokes and doing things in a order perculiar.

Shabbat shalom

So far this year we have had so many unreal shabbatot ha'irgun and we have just a few more!

I'd like to now extend my thanks to all the roshim, sganim and madrichim that have been so unreal this year so far!

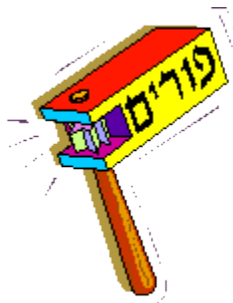
**Shabbat shalom and Purim sameach
David Reuben**





Purim: A Child's Festival

Purim is one of the most fun festivals of the Jewish year, yet also seemingly the most childish – banging tables and making noise to ‘boo’ some characters and cheer others; dressing up; jokes and Purim spiels which are almost like the Jewish ‘April Fool’s Day’ (obviously we came first though!).



Is there something behind the mask of what seems to be a pantomime-style celebration of a fairy story?! In fact, come to think of it, Disney should really do a musical film of the Megilla! I’m already looking forward to the ride at Disney World where Haman

leads you through the town...





Purim: What happened

If you ask the average Yosef Bloggs what happened at Purim, they will probably reel off a list of what happened in the Megilla: Achashverosh's feast, Esther becomes Queen, Haman wants to destroy the Jews, Esther exposes him, Jews are saved – hooray!


But in reality, the one thing this list does NOT express...is timing.

The story of Purim happens over many years:

Achashverosh makes a 180-day long feast for his minsters, army and court in the **3rd year** of this reign. This was followed by a week-long feast for all those in Shushan and Vashti's women's feast.

This was followed by the banishing of Vashti, Persian beauty contest (the Q-Factor!) and Mordechai's entering of Esther for this contest.



 Esther becomes Queen in the **7th year** of his reign, in the month of Tevet. Soon after, Bigtan & Teresh's plot was exposed by Mordechai & later, Haman becomes Prime Minister.



But it
off in
year



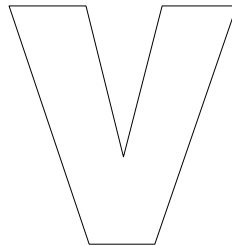
all kicks
the 12th
of

Achashverosh's reign:

- Nisan:** Haman draws lots to choose the day when the Jewish people should be destroyed. They chose 13th Adar, thus allowing for 11 months of preparation.
- 13th Nisan:** The decree is sent out by order of the King. The city of Shushan (and probably everywhere else) was bewildered.








At this point, the Jews go into mourning and Mordechai cries publicly in the city, waiting outside the palace. He manages to persuade Esther to plead on behalf of the Jews to Achashverosh. Esther gathers the Jews together and declares 3 days of mourning. According to Chazal (the Sages) the fast happened on 14th, 15th & 16th Nisan – thus overriding Pesach! There are also opinions that it happened towards the end of Nisan/early Iyar.



How does the man on the moon cut his hair?
Eclipse It!

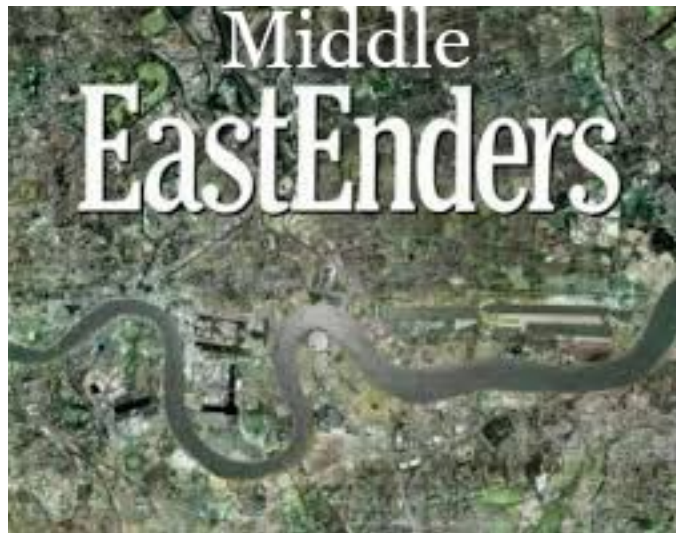
On the **3rd day** (according to Chazal – 16th Nisan; though some say it refers to the 3rd day of Pesach – 17th Nisan!), everything kicks off, so let's look at the day's events in real-time!¹ Note that the times in italics are my own guesses to show how the story happened so quickly, we don't know what they were exactly!

-  Esther wears royal clothes and Achashverosh allows her into his chamber. She asks for him and Haman to come to a feast that day. **11.00am.**
-  At the feast, hours later, Esther asks for a second feast for the next day. **2.00pm.**
-  Haman leaves the feast and is annoyed once more by Mordechai's refusal to bow to him. When he gets home, he is encouraged by his wife and friends to build a gallows 50 amot high & ask the King in the morning to hang Mordechai on it. **5.00pm.**
-  The gallows were made. **7.00pm.**
-  Achashverosh couldn't sleep and asks for the Book of Chronicles (the JC!) to be read before him. He realises that Mordechai was never rewarded for revealing Bigtan & Teresh! **1.00am.**

¹ Note that this day covers chapters 5,6, 7 and part of 8 of Megillat Esther

- 📖 At that moment, Haman walks into the courtyard and is asked by the King to take Mordechai round Shushan in royal robes! **1.30am.**
- 📖 Haman collects Mordechai and leads him round the City in royal robes! **10.00am.**
- 📖 He gets home rather upset and Zeresh, his wife, tells him that he can't beat the Jews. **11.00am.**
- 📖 At that very moment, the King's servants hurried Haman to the second feast. **11.05am.**
- 📖 At the feast, Esther accuses Haman of trying to destroy the Jews. **12.00pm.**
- 📖 Haman pleads for his life with Esther but falls on her and is disgraced. Charvonah, one of the servants, suggested that Haman be hanged on his own gallows! **12.30pm.**
- 📖 Achashverosh gave Haman's estate to Esther and his signet ring to Mordechai. They ask the King to revoke the decree to kill the Jews – it's important to realise that the danger has not yet passed as there are still many of Haman's supporters at large who are legally allowed to kill the Jews in 11 months time. Achashverosh replies that they cannot revoke the decree as that's Persian law – but they can make a second royal decree 'favourable in the eyes of the Jews'.

And that concludes a crazy and intense period of activity for the Jewish people – as exciting as an Eastenders finale...








To round off this exciting story, have a look at what happened in the rest of that year, starting off with the summer (Sivan).

- 23rd Sivan:** The King's scribes issue a decree allowing Jews to organise and defend themselves and to destroy their enemies on 13th Adar. Therefore we now have two decrees which allow for a civil war to take place on 13th Adar, next spring! Mental stuff. At this announcement, Mordechai left the palace in royal robes and the Jews had 'light, gladness, joy and honour'. Many people were now scared of the Jews.
- 13th Adar:** The Civil War happened and the Jews won! They killed all of Haman's sons, 500 men in Shushan and many other enemies throughout Persia and Media. Esther asks for an extra day's fighting in Shushan and for Haman's sons to be hanged.
- 14th Adar:** More fighting in Shushan and 300 anti-semites killed. Jews around Persia made a festival – Purim!
- 15th Adar:** Jews in Shushan could finally rest and made a festival – Shushan Purim!



And the Jews celebrated Purim every year to this day - and lived happily ever after!

OK so now we've understood the timing of the Megilla, let's look at some key messages to take from it:


-  The story of Purim was nearly a national disaster and the end of the Jewish people yet it came out of nothing. This just goes to show how much we rely on Hashem for our continued survival and enjoyment of life – one minute things are fine, you never know what's round the corner.
-  Why did it take Mordechai so long to get a second decree out to allow the Jews to save themselves? What was so difficult? Although we don't know the answer, it is interesting to look at the dates here: 23rd Sivan is exactly 70 days after 13th Nisan, when the first decree went out. Maybe there is a message here to remind the Jews to go and build the Beit Hamikdash – after all, the '70 year exile' had ended and the Jews were still happy in Persia.
-  The story of Purim actually encompasses the whole year – from Nisan through to Adar. In a way, we celebrate Purim every day by just being alive and living a Jewish life. That's exactly what people like Haman – and Hitler – didn't want. In essence, every single action we do is a sign that we have beaten these enemies and the Jewish people's eternity is assured – **נצח ישראל לו ישקר !**




Achashverosh's

Sceptre:

One person sits on the throne at the front with a sceptre and everyone else stands at the other side of the room. When the sceptre is raised, they can move forward and when it is lowered, any movement results in expulsion from the palace! First to touch the tip of the sceptre wins.

 **Treasure Hunt:** Make a treasure hunt of the various events that happened in the Megilla and find them, then have to place them in order.

 **Mafia, Wink Murder** and any game where you can 'accuse Haman' of something!

 For Aleph: **Good old Purim plays!** And you can even show them to the parents/community?

 For Bet: Make your own **Purim Spiel**, making fun of the madrichim! Keep it appropriate!

KVUTSAH PLANNING SHEET-

