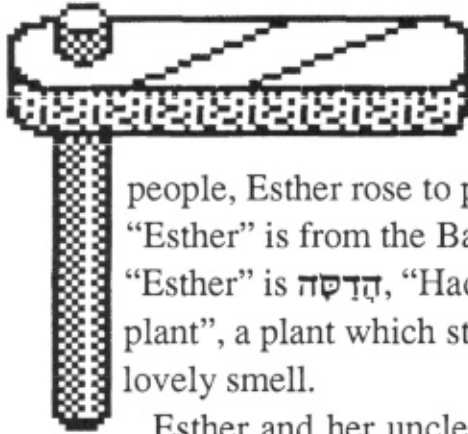


פּוּרִים

Purim



Purim is the celebration of God's protection of His people from death by the evil plottings of a man name Haman. Like many Jewish people, Esther rose to political power in a foreign court. The name "Esther" is from the Babylonian god "Ishtar". The Hebrew name for "Esther" is **הַדַּסָּה**, "Hadasah", which is the name for the "Myrtle plant", a plant which stays green all year around, and produces a lovely smell.

Esther and her uncle Mordechai kept their Jewish identity a secret and wisely so, since Haman tricked the King into issuing an order that every Jew in Persia should be killed. After two banquets Esther revealed her Jewish identity and was granted permission by the king for the Jews to defend themselves against those who were planning their destruction. Haman, who had prepared a gallows upon which he planned to hang Mordechai, Esther's uncle, was himself killed on that very gallows as punishment for his deceitful plot against the Jews.

The name for the festival "purim" comes from the Hebrew word for "lots". "Casting lots" in the ancient times was kind of like flipping a coin in our day. While it may look like a chance decision, the Hebrews believed that God controlled how the lots fell, and that He could make His will known by this method (Prov 16:23). The Jews were allowed to defend themselves for two days and thus a day of festival and remembrance was established for Jews throughout their generations that they should remember the great victory which God made for them, and celebrate His goodness. In the city of Susa the festival was celebrated for two days, but in the rural areas one day was designated, the 14th of Adar. (In leap years, Purim is celebrated in second Adar.)

According to Deuteronomy 25:17-19, we are required to remember what Amalek did to us as we left Egypt, and to blot out his memory from under the heavens. Since Haman was from the line of Amalek, tradition requires that as the scroll (*megillah*) of Esther is read at Purim, at every mention of Haman's name, enough noise is made so that it will be "blotted out" and not recognized. We read Deuteronomy 25:17-19 on Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath to "remember to forget", which is always the Sabbath just before Purim.

Purim Wordfind

T R L W C F G P K F F W B A V F J B H Q Z O O E U
 X F A D A R H N I W M Z A D G E T C C I M H C A D
 V Q T F J C W R R G L P V Z W S E E K P G A K H N
 U C K B K L E O S B R W M S V D U G R S F M K A B
 Y W W C A O G N B N T O Z M G T Q T E E H A W S W
 O E W D I T L O R C R S G W X G N U T P S N L U V
 J L S J W S X H I D V J G G A H A W P Y K T C E Y
 M E U T Q O Q D E J A A H P E Y B G E H D A N R Q
 Z Y O B H U E C J G L P B P M R S T C M Y S U U S
 Y X T H G E A Y W L L G S I N W I Z S F W C P S R
 B P H I Q I R Z O J X A C T S H T U J J L H W P F
 L K G E H S N W K N R P D Z N M H T G T P E D C J
 Z R I C H E S I Y O Q H S N F Y S F S E V N J E H
 T F L S E D N S V H E H F F E Z A V T N W B O W P
 C W S U K G Y P Q C S E W S A S V O D B H A M A N
 I O Q S D L F V H D Q W W C N W S C K E A H K U V
 H B V A G U Q N U T G A L U Y X M I L L R T P K I

ESTHER

MORDECAI

AHASUERUS

LOTS

GALLOWS

HAMAN

ADAR

SUSA

VASHTI

BANQUET

QUEEN

KING

JEWS

GROGGER

SCEPTER

HAMANTASCHEN

EDICT

LIGHT

GLADNESS

JOY

HONOR

CROSS OUT HAMAN

Long ago in the kingdom of Persia, Haman, a wicked minister of the king, tried to kill all the Jews. He didn't succeed. On Purim the story of the Jewish victory over Haman is read from Megillat Esther. Each time Haman's name is read we make noise to drown out his name.

HAMAN appears 30 times in the letters below. Cross out each one you find.

SAMPLE

H	A	M	A	N	O	H	H
H	K	O	U	Y	T	R	A
N	A	D	E	R	S	N	M
M	O	M	F	O	U	R	A
X	D	S	A	B	E	E	N
C	E	R	B	N	J	U	Z
Y	O	U	N	A	M	A	H

H	A	M	A	N	O	U	Y	T	N	A	M	A	H	J	O	U	R	I	M	N	B
H	A	P	P	Y	P	U	R	I	M	B	V	F	R	E	W	H	H	A	W	S	R
N	H	A	M	A	N	F	O	U	R	H	A	M	A	N	A	T	A	F	I	V	E
O	N	E	H	A	M	A	N	L	O	H	O	P	U	R	I	M	S	M	O	N	E
H	A	M	A	N	E	S	T	H	E	R	A	K	A	R	B	E	N	H	A	P	L
M	O	E	D	E	C	H	A	I	O	P	U	M	S	H	A	B	B	A	T	N	O
H	O	N	E	H	A	M	A	N	M	O	R	E	A	N	T	H	A	M	A	N	Y
B	A	P	U	R	I	M	H	A	M	A	N	O	P	N	G	E	S	T	H	E	R
N	B	M	P	U	Y	T	R	E	W	S	A	C	V	B	I	N	A	M	A	H	B
A	B	V	A	O	H	A	M	A	N	L	K	J	H	U	Y	T	R	E	N	B	U
M	U	Y	T	N	M	O	R	D	E	C	H	A	I	N	H	G	H	A	M	A	N
A	E	S	T	H	E	R	X	N	A	M	A	H	W	E	R	A	M	B	C	S	A
H	A	M	A	N	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	S	O	O	N	M	B	V	C	H
S	H	A	V	U	O	T	N	H	A	M	A	N	S	E	V	E	N	A	W	E	A
M	N	A	M	A	H	Y	O	M	K	I	P	P	U	R	M	B	T	Y	N	B	M
R	E	W	S	A	W	H	A	M	A	N	H	A	M	A	N	T	Y	R	E	W	A
P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	I	S	C	O	M	I	N	G	S	O	O	N	B	N
H	V	F	H	A	M	A	N	E	H	H	A	P	P	Y	P	U	R	I	M	C	E
A	M	N	V	F	R	E	S	A	W	A	L	O	I	U	Y	T	P	U	R	I	M
M	M	N	O	U	Y	T	E	R	D	V	M	B	G	N	A	M	A	H	A	W	E
A	S	H	U	S	H	A	N	W	U	R	D	A	P	U	R	I	M	T	E	R	B
N	S	N	A	M	A	H	S	E	V	E	N	B	N	J	O	T	H	A	M	A	N

HOW MANY HAMANTASCHEN?

On Purim we eat hamantaschen, triangular-shaped cakes filled with either a mixture of poppy seeds and honey or a fruit filling. Some people say the cakes are made in a triangle to remind us of the hat of Haman, the wicked enemy of the Jews. Others say it's the shape of his ear.

First guess how many hamantaschen are in the box. Then try to count them.

