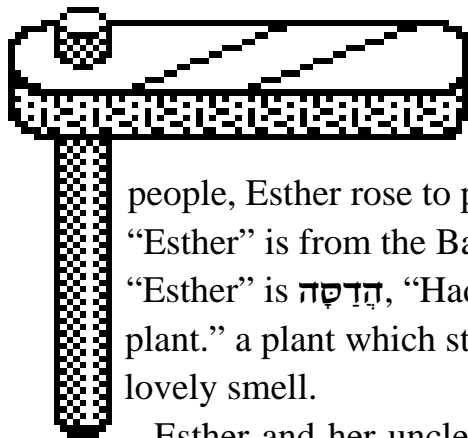


# פּוּרִים

## *Purim*



**P**urim is the celebration of G-d's protection of His people from death by the evil plottings of a man named 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 הַדְסָה, "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 G-d 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 and all non-Jews who had attached themselves to Israel. Throughout their generations, they would remember the great victory which G-d 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

Find each of the following words:

AMALEK  
CARNIVAL  
ESTHER  
FESTIVAL  
GALLOWS  
GROGGERS  
HAMAN  
HAMENTASHEN

MEGILLAH  
MORDECHAI  
NOISEMAKERS  
PERMISSION  
PLOT  
SECRET  
THE KING

H	E	H	A	M	A	N	K	S	L	P	C	A	T	O
H	A	L	L	I	G	E	M	A	E	R	L	E	A	R
M	H	M	A	N	L	A	V	E	A	C	R	O	S	W
O	N	H	L	A	V	I	N	R	A	C	R	L	T	A
R	N	I	M	M	N	S	G	S	E	C	R	E	T	M
D	O	A	E	R	E	W	T	S	H	G	E	P	T	I
E	I	H	A	H	H	O	L	E	S	T	H	E	R	H
C	S	C	S	A	S	L	G	A	R	M	T	R	E	A
H	E	E	R	L	A	L	N	T	V	C	S	M	H	V
A	M	D	E	L	T	A	I	E	H	I	E	I	T	R
I	A	R	G	I	N	G	K	T	N	E	T	S	S	E
T	K	O	G	G	E	T	E	O	A	S	K	S	E	K
A	E	M	O	E	M	O	H	L	M	T	E	I	E	V
L	R	G	R	M	A	L	T	P	A	E	A	O	N	F
P	S	R	G	P	H	P	C	H	H	R	H	N	C	G

# THE EVIL HAMAN

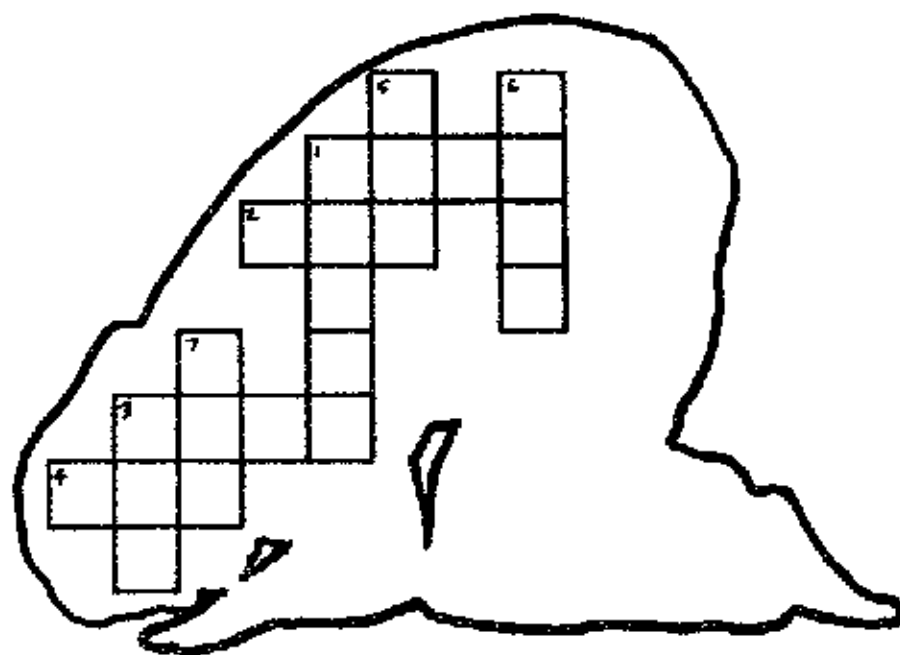
ESTHER 3

## ACROSS

- 1) OPPOSITE OF LOVE
- 2) YOU WEAR A \_\_\_\_\_  
ON YOUR HEAD (RHYMES  
WITH "CAT").
- 3) OPPOSITE OF UP
- 4) A RULE, DECREE,  
STATUTE - RHYMES  
WITH "PAW"

## DOWN

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ HATED THE  
JEWS (RHYMES WITH  
"CANAN").
- 3) OPPOSITE OF MOM
- 5) MORDECAI \_\_\_\_\_ BY  
THE GATE EVERY  
DAY (RHYMES  
WITH "CAT").
- 6) CHILDREN OF ISRAEL,  
HEBREWS
- 7) HAMAN DEMANDED  
THAT EVERYONE \_\_\_\_\_  
DOWN TO HIM (RHYMES  
WITH "HOW").



# Esther Saves Her People



Brave Esther went before the king to ask for help for her people.  
—Esther 5:2

# Esther is chosen queen.

Esther 2:1-18

