



Today is the Day of Purim Wednesday, Sunset March 23 to Sunset 24th, 2016 The Day of Turn-About

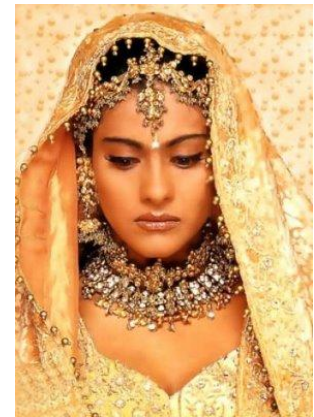
In the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on its thirteenth day ... on the day that the enemies of the Jews were expected to prevail over them, it was turned about: the Jews prevailed over their adversaries. Esther 9:1

And they gained relief on the fourteenth, making it a day of feasting and gladness. - Esther 9:17

[Mordecai instructed them] to observe them as days of feasting and gladness, and sending delicacies to one another, and gifts to the poor. - Esther 9:22

Any day can be the day Purim. Purim is a Jewish holiday, which is one of the most joyful and fun holidays during the Jewish calendar and fall in March/April of the year. This festival commemorates a time when the Jewish people were living in Persia (Iran & Iraq) and were saved from extermination.

This story is told in the bible in the Book of Esther. The Heroes of this wonderful story are Esther and her cousin Mordecai, who raised Esther since she was a young child, and loved her as his own daughter. Esther is chosen to become part of Xerxes's house, King of Persia. She hides her identity from the King on the council of her uncle Mordecai, who senses a divine plan.



What is so amazing about this story, is that Esther finds favor with the King and becomes His Queen. The King loves Esther above all women and she is elevated into a position for *"such a time as this" to save the Jewish nation!*

The villain of the story is the evil Haman, who plotted to destroy the Jewish people. This arrogant and egotistical advisor to the king, hated Mordecai because he would not bow down to Haman. The reason he would not bow, was because he was a Jew. This is Haman's speech and plot, presented to the King, one that is all too familiar to Jews today, in Esther 3:8-9.



Esther 3:8-9; 8) Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. 9) If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business." NIV

(To understand a weight of talent - is the weight of 3,000 shekels, an estimate of 100 pounds of silver)

The King gave the outcome of the Jewish people to Haman, to do as he pleased to them. Haman planned to exterminate all the Jews and had used the lottery to choose the date of their destruction, thus the name, *Purim means "Lot"*.

Mordecai overheard the plot and went into deep prayer and mourning. Mordecai knew for certain that Haman's decree was not an accident of history, but a consequence of failings within the Jewish people. That is why Mordecai's response was "he clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes and went out into the midst of the City." He turned to repentance, and urged the rest of the Jews to do likewise.

The act of fasting was observed by the people of Israel whenever they were faced



war. After fasting Mordecai shared the plot with Queen Esther and persuaded Esther to speak out, to stand up on behalf of the Jewish people to the King. This was Esther's dilemma; To go to the King without being summoned would mean instant death.

These are the words Mordecai spoke to Esther and I believe God is saying this to us today about Israel and even the cultural war we have raging here in America.

Esther 4:14; 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to this royal position for such a time as this?" NIV

Realizing she could perish, Esther fasted for three days along with Mordecai, the Jews, and her handmaidens, to prepare herself. She then went to the King. He welcomed her by extending his golden Scepter. She had a dinner for the King and revealed the plot of Haman to the King, her personal identity and the Jews were saved.

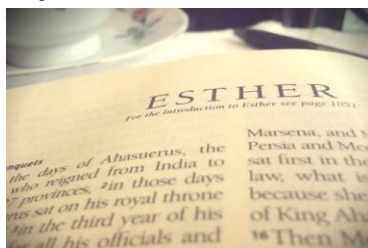


Haman was hanged on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordecai and Haman's estate was given to Esther!

Celebrating Purim (Feast of Lots) in Jerusalem:

The Purim holiday is preceded by a **minor fast**, which commemorates Esther's preparation of three days fasting to meet the King.

Purim is on the 14th of Adar on Hebrew Calendar. Purim is this Wednesday, Sunset, March 23 to Sunset March 24th, 2016 in America. This day of great joy, is expressed in different ways in the Jewish community, some examples follow.



The primary commandment of Purim is the **reading of the book of Esther** and to hear its message. It is customary to boo, hiss, stamp feet, and rattle noisemakers whenever the name of Haman is mentioned in the service. The purpose of the custom is to "blot out the name of Haman!"

There are "**Sholach Monot**" - **Sending of gifts of food**. People send each other all kinds of foods of meats, delicious cakes and candies. Food is a way of bringing about fellowship with others. The joy we have is not only for ourselves but is to be shared with others as well.

A 3rd way of celebrating Purim is "[Matonot Loevyonim](#)" (gifts to the poor). We help others in need because we cannot celebrate or be happy when our brother is suffering.

The 4th way is the meal that is eaten to celebrate God's Great Salvation for His nation, Israel. in the time of Mordechai and Esther. The Jews are commanded to eat, drink and be merry – no fasting is allowed on this day.



The 5th Way was for children dress up as characters from the book of Esther or others in the Bible. Some dress up like their mothers or fathers. Others dress up as brides; while some just dress up in any type of costume they want. This is in line with what the Book of Esther says, "The Jews gained the upper hand over their enemies and it was turned about."(Esther 9:1)"The month which

had been transformed from sorrow to gladness and from mourning to festivity". (Esther 9:22). Purim is the time of turn around, so Children become someone else.

We should all look at this time for the "turnaround" in every area. If there is evil and sin in our various countries, then let there be a turnaround! If we have personal situations that are bothering us, let's believe for God's turnaround!

Today's Issues:

As we read the papers today, ISIS, Iran and Iraq are being written about along with Israel every day. Killing of both Jews and Christians in many countries to "exterminate them" has begun again. Could there be a connection to the purpose of Purim and God's plan for the last days?



This story is now available to watch on DVD, titled "One Night with the King." It is a quality illustration of the bravery and obedience of Queen Esther..

Today – we have a man leading in Old Persia (Iran) declaring and paying those who will kill the Jews. He is publicly promoting "A World without Zionism"

We are in royal positions in America, compared to other countries. We have a golden opportunity, today, to stand with Israel, as well as speak out against the on-slaughter of evil in our society. We have power, money, and God's authority in prayer to make the great turnaround! We have been saved for

"Such a time as this!"

We must prepare ourselves through fasting, study (please read the book of Esther this week), fellowship, and diligent activism to save and turn around our nation and save the Jewish people. We can enter the Feast of Purim everyday by believing for the turn around in every situation and by preparing for the **biggest turn around of History, the Return of our Messiah, Jesus Christ.**

Happy Purim to Everyone and Many Blessings,
Kent & Christie Glesener