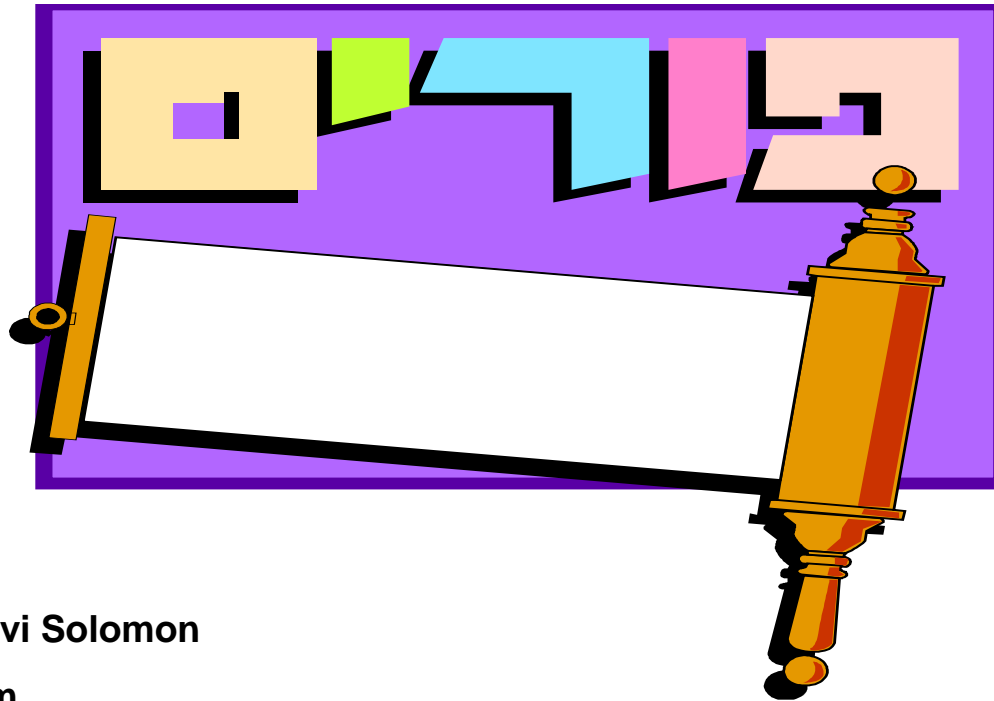


The Story of Purim



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Sources taken from

www.aish.com & www.tzivos-hashem.org

The Story of Purim

The story of Purim took place over 2000 years ago, when the Jewish people were living in Persia.

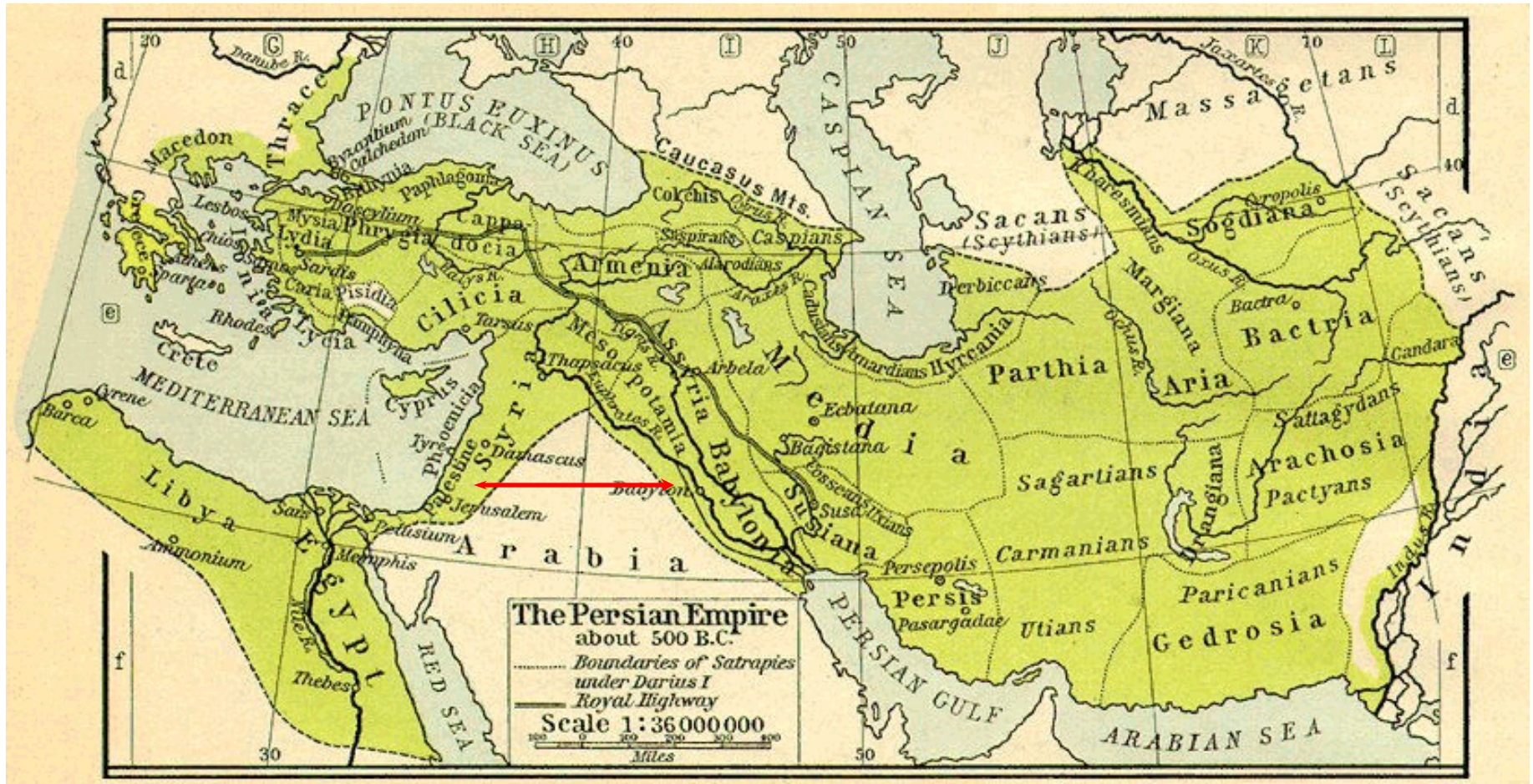
It was a hard time. The First Beit Hamikdash in Yerushalaim had been destroyed and lay in ruins.

The Jews had been driven out of Israel, and exiled to Babylon, where they had to start a new life.

For 70 years, they struggled to make a living in a foreign land.



Map of the Persian Empire



פרק א'

CHAPTER 1 -- KING ACHASHVEROSH THROWS A PARTY

1. A lavish six-month celebration marks the third year in the reign of Achashverosh, king of Persia.
2. Queen Vashti refuses the king's request to appear at the celebration and display her beauty for the assembled guests. Achashverosh has her killed
3. The king's advisors suggest that Vashti be replaced with a new queen.



Achashveirosh was a powerful king of Persia. He conquered Babylon, and moved his capitol city to Shushan, where he ruled over almost the entire world -- 127 countries in all, from India (*Hodu*) in the east to Ethiopia (*Kush*) in the west. It was the largest kingdom in the world

The prophecies of Yirmiyahu Hanavi - that the exile would end, and that the Beit Hamikdash would be rebuilt did not seem to be happening. Sadly, the Jews wondered if they would ever return to Yerushalaim, and their homes in the Holy Land.



King Achashveirosh made a huge feast. He miscalculated the 70 years and thought that the Jews would never be able to return to Eretz Yisroel. He invited representatives from every country in the world. He wanted everyone to like him and honor him.

For a half a year (180 days) the feast went on! Finally, at the very end, the people of Shushan were invited. The Jews were also expected to attend.

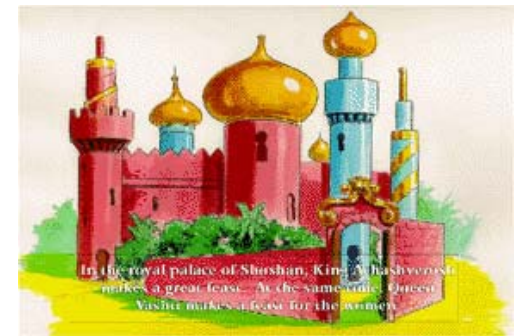
That put them in a difficult situation. They didn't really want to go to Achashveirosh's Feast. They were afraid the food wouldn't be kosher. How would they be able to sit there and smile when Achashveirosh put on the garments of the Kohen Gadol (the High Priest), and displayed the vessels which had been stolen from their own Temple in Yerushalaim.





Mordechai, the leader of the Jews, warned them not to go. But most of the people were too afraid of Achashveirosh to listen.

What would you have done? Would you have listened to Mordechai? Unfortunately, many Jews from Shushan did not have so much courage. They went to the Feast. It was not good. And in Heaven, Hashem was not pleased!



On Shabbos, at least, all the Jews went home. The party went on without them. As the Jews made kiddush for their families, everyone at Achashveirosh' party drank and drank and drank. Finally Achashveirosh himself got so drunk, that he ordered his wife, Vashti, to appear before him and all the other guests, so that everyone could see how beautiful she was.



Vashti, the granddaughter of the cruel Nebuchadnezzar refused to come. “Am I the servant of the king?” she said angrily.

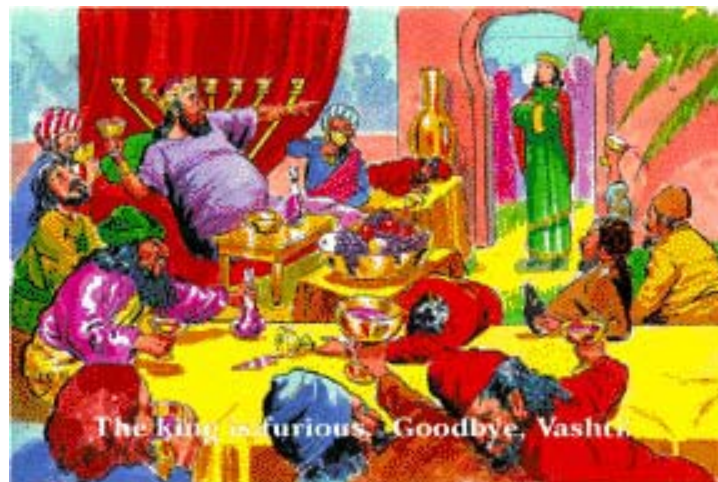
Some say she did not come because she had pimples. Some say she grew a tail! This was Hashem's way of punishing her. You see, Vashti was very mean. She particularly enjoyed making little Jewish girls work on Shabbos. That is why the punishment happened to her on Shabbos.

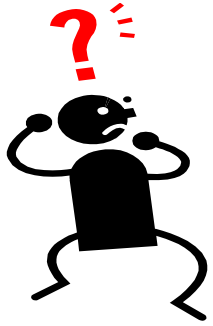


Vashti's words offended Achashveirosh. He was furious. She had insulted him in front of everyone. He looked around in confusion. What should he do now? All his advisors were afraid to say a word.

"Have her killed!" hissed one lowly advisor. "If you let her live, all the women in the realm will think it is cool and hip not to listen to their husbands!"

That advisor was the wicked Haman. In his drunken stupor, Achashveirosh listened to Haman's words, and Vashti was put to Death – Goodbye Vashti, we won't miss you!





פרק א'



Questions & Answers

Q1: How many years were the Jewish people supposed to be exiled in Babylon? _____

Q2: Who was the King & Queen of Persia at the beginning of the Purim story?

Q3: How many days did the first party last for? _____

Q4: How many days did the second party last for? _____

Q5: Why was Vashti punished on Shabbat? _____

פרק ב'

CHAPTER 2 -- ESTHER BECOMES THE QUEEN

1. Across the Persian Empire, officials are appointed to find beautiful candidates to succeed Vashti as queen.
2. A Jewish girl, Esther, the niece of Mordechai, is brought to the capital of Persia as one of the candidates.
3. Mordechai tells Esther to hide her identity.
4. Esther is chosen to be the queen.
5. Mordechai learns of a plot to overthrow the king. Mordechai informs Esther, Esther tells the king, and the plotters are hanged.

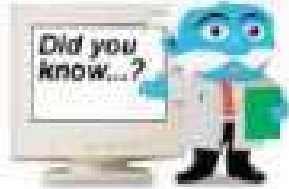


Achashverosh now needed a new queen and he wanted someone even more beautiful than Vashti. His men went from house to house in all of Persia, taking the young girls away to Shushan where they were kept as hostages until they were brought before the king.

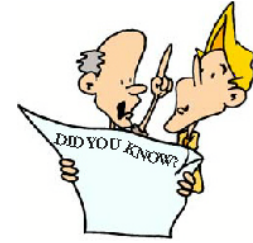
In Shushan, a Jewish orphan by the name of Hadassah lived with her uncle Mordechai. When the king's men came to her house, Mordechai said, *"Don't be afraid. Go with them. Do not tell them you are a Jewess. Tell them your Persian name -- Esther. God will watch over you!"*

Esther was kind and gentle and very beautiful. As soon as the king saw her, he chose her as his new queen. Esther appointed seven maidservants, one for each day of the week, so that she would always remember which day was the Sabbath. Her meals were cooked with kosher foods. And all the while, she kept her secret. No one knew she was a Jew. Everyday, Mordechai sat outside the palace gate to wait for news from Esther.





Did You Know!

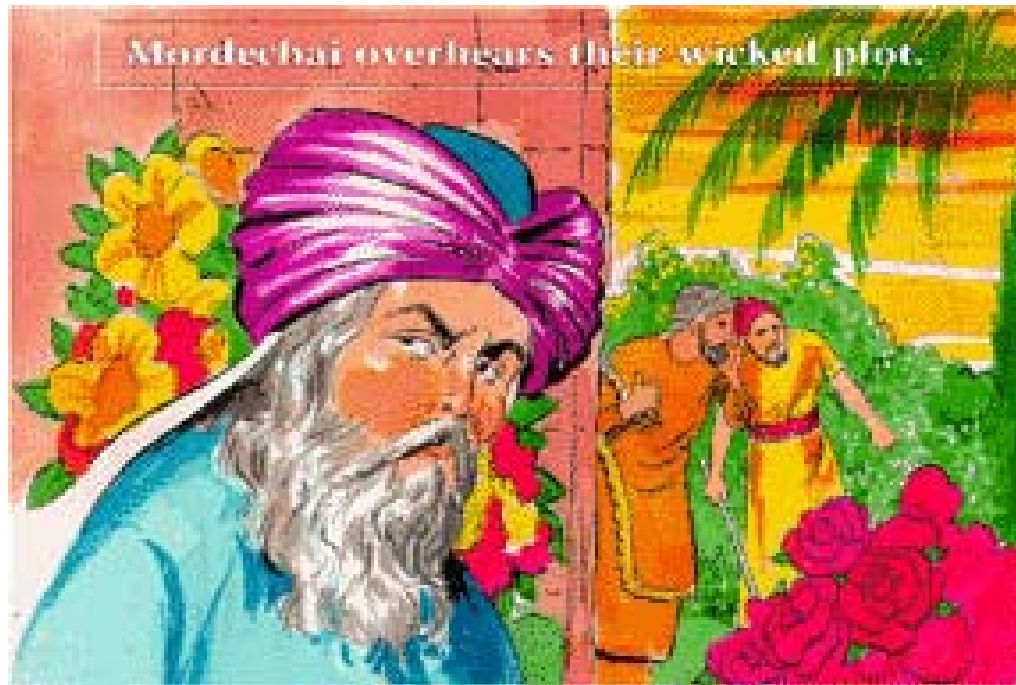


- Mordechai was related to Shaul Hamelech (both came from Shevet Binyamin). Shaul did not kill Agag the king of Amalek and Haman was eventually born – Mordechai came along and finished the job of Shaul.
- Esther's Hebrew name was "*Hadassa*" – some say she was called this for she had a green complexion like a "*Haddas*" – myrtle leaf



One day (not too long after Esther became queen) Bigtan and Teresh two of the king's officers plan to poison King Achashverosh.

Mordechai overhears their wicked plot and runs to tell Esther. Esther in turn warns the king and saves his life. The king writes down in his royal diary that Mordechai saved his life but forgets to reward him.



פרק ב'

True or False



- Q1: Mordechai and Esther were brother and sister? T / F
- Q2: Esther's life dream was to become Queen of Persia? T / F
- Q3: Esther kept her identity secret? T / F
- Q4: Mordechai came from Shevet Yehudah? T / F
- Q5: Bigtan and littleton tried to kill Achashverosh? T / F
- Q6: Achashversoh forgot to reward Mordechai for saving his life? T / F

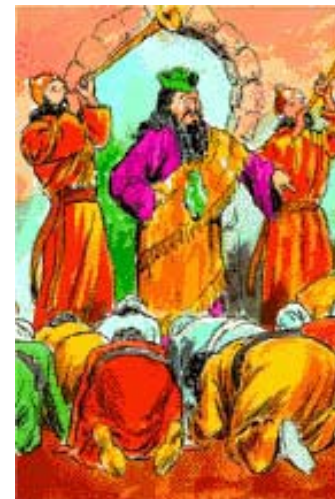
פרק ג'

CHAPTER 3 -- THE RISE OF HAMAN

1. Achashverosh appoints Haman to be his prime minister. Everyone has to bow to worship Haman.
2. Mordechai consistently refuses to bow to Haman.
3. An furious Haman vows to kill all the Jews of Persia.
4. Haman prevails upon Achashverosh to destroy the Jews.
5. A royal decree is spread throughout Persia. The 13th of Adar is chosen as the date to destroy all the Jews and steal their possessions.



Now the story turns to Haman. Since he had advised Achashveirosh to kill Vashti, he now became the king's closest advisor. Achashveirosh made Haman the Prime Minister of all Persia, and he became very rich and powerful. Wherever he went, Haman wore an image of his idol around his neck. Everyone had to bow down before him...



Everyone except for Mordechai, the Jew! Mordechai knew that a Jew must never bow down or even bend his knee before an idol.

Haman was very angry!

"You're going to get us all into trouble,"
the Jews said to Mordechai.
But still Mordechai would not bow down!



There is a story behind this. Many years earlier, it so happened that Haman and Mordechai had needed to travel through the desert together. It was very hot. Foolishly Haman drank up all his water, but Mordechai drank only a little at a time. Eventually Haman begged him for water to save his life.

"You are my enemy," said Mordechai. "Why should I save your life?"

"Please," Haman begged. "If only you will give me water, I will be your slave."

"Write it down," Mordechai ordered.

"I can't write it down," Haman whined. "I have no paper. But you can trust me."

"You don't need paper," Mordechai replied. "You can write it on the sole of my shoe."

So Haman wrote on Mordechai's shoe, that he sold himself as a slave in return for water.

Mordechai never asked Haman to serve him, but when Haman passed by and demanded that everyone bow down, Mordechai just tapped his foot, to remind Haman that he was really still his slave.



Haman was fuming, boiling mad. He couldn't wait to get even with Mordechai, and kill all the Jews while he was at it! And so he made his plan.

A few days before Pesach, Haman cast the lots. He wanted to know which month would be the best to take revenge on the Jews. He cast lots – “*pur*” -- to choose the day.



Aha! There was his answer! ... Adar!

Haman was delighted. An excellent month! Adar was the month that Moshe, the first leader of the Jews, had died. People said that Mordechai was like Moshe. "He will suffer the same fate!" Haman laughed.

But Haman forgot that Adar was also the month in which Moshe had been born. No month could have been better for the Jews!



Then Haman went to Achashveirosh. "Your Highness," he said, "There is one nation," he said, "scattered throughout your kingdom, which is different from all other nations. They don't eat our food, drink our wine, or marry our daughters! They don't keep the king's laws and they don't work! Every seventh day they rest and they are always celebrating holidays. If you give me permission, I will destroy them for you. I will even pay for any expenses from my own money!"

Achashverosh gave Haman his royal ring, to seal the orders and decrees. Haman sent out letters, sealed with the king's royal ring, to each of the 127 regions in the kingdom.

And so it was decreed that in Adar of the coming year, on the 13th day of the month, all the Jews were to be killed, in every province and every nation of the land. There would be no place to run, and no place to hide.



HA HA HA HA!

HO HO HO HO!

**DEATH TO THOSE
JEEEEWS**



פרק ג'

Multiple Choice

Q1: This person became the king's best buddy?

- (a) Esther b) Haman (c) Mr. Monopoly

Q2: Mordechai didn't bow to Haman because ...

- (a) His knees hurt him (b) Idol around Haman's neck

Q3: The famous word for 'lottery' is

- (a) Shushan (b) Adar (c) Pur

Q4: The Jews were all decreed to killed in the _____ of Adar?

- (a) 13th (b) 14th (c) 15th

Q5: Achashversoh gave Haman his....

- (a) Porsche (b) Signet ring (c) Throne

פרק ד'

CHAPTER 4 -- ESTHER'S MISSION BECOMES CLEAR

1. Mordechai tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of public mourning.
2. Mordechai sends a copy of the decree to Esther and asks her to intercede with the king.
3. Esther replies that to approach the king without being summoned is to risk death. Mordechai tells her that she has no choice.
4. Esther tells Mordechai to ask the Jews to fast and pray for three days before she will approach the king.

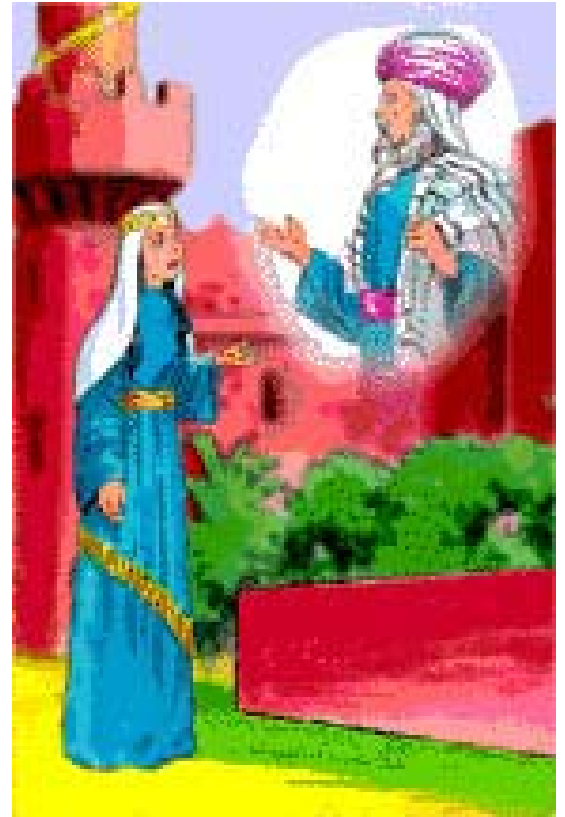


This is where our brave Queen Esther comes into the picture. When Mordechai heard of the decree, he ripped his clothing and put ashes on his head as a sign of mourning. He sent Esther a message. He let her know that she was the only one who could go to see the King.

"How can I go?" she replied. "Haman has worked against me too. No one can go to see Achashveirosh without being called by him. It is thirty days now that I have not been called -- not even once."

"Still you must go," Mordechai said. "Who knows if you have not been put in the palace for this very purpose? If you are silent now, help will come to the Jews from some other place -- and you will perish!"

"Alright," said Esther. "If I die, so be it. But first, I will prepare. I will fast for three days. Let the Jewish people also fast and pray along with me."

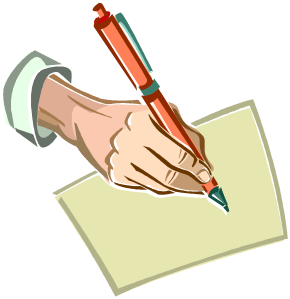




Mordechai and all the Jews fast and cry out to Hashem to save them from Haman's evil plan.

Mordechai had called to all the Jewish children to join him, and they came -- 22,000 of them. Together they all learned Torah and prayed to Hashem, crying out to Heaven that Haman's awful decree be torn up.





פרק ד'

Essay

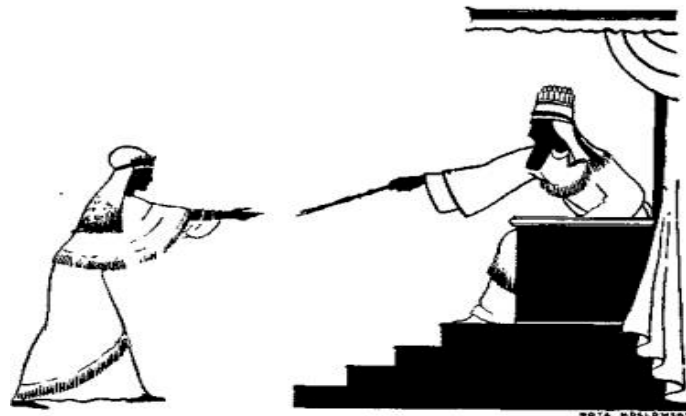


In your own words, please describe the entire conversation sent by messenger between Mordechai and Esther:

פרק ה'

CHAPTER 5 -- ESTHER'S STRATEGY, HAMAN'S FURY

1. King Achashverosh receives Esther and grants her virtually any request.
2. Esther's request: that the king and Haman join her at a banquet.
3. After the banquet, Haman sees Mordechai who once again refuses to bow.
4. When Zeresh, Haman's wife, suggests that Mordechai be hung, the gallows are prepared.



Then at last Esther went uninvited to the king. Before she entered the throne room, Esther was filled with fear. There was Achashveirosh. All the power in the world was in his hands. From the bottom of her heart, she prayed to Hashem for herself, for her people, and for the Temple to be rebuilt. She knew that any second she might be killed.

Achashveirosh was shocked. What was Esther doing here? She looked so weak, so frail. Why had she come without being called? He gnashed his teeth angrily. He had killed his first queen, Vashti. Was he going to have to kill Esther now too? Despite her having fasted for three days, she looked astonishingly beautiful.

The guards raised their swords to strike. Haman grinned wickedly. Then, suddenly, almost without thinking, Achashveirosh lifted his hand, held out his scepter to his queen, and spared her life.

"What is it you wish?" he asked, "up to half my kingdom, I will give it to you." If you had been there, what do you think you would have done? Would you have told the King that you were a Jew?



Esther did not. It would have been too sudden. She had a different plan. Instead, she invited King Achashveirosh and Haman to join her at a feast that she wanted to make for them that night. At the feast, Achashveirosh asks again, "What is your wish, Queen Esther?" Esther lays a trap for Haman. She invites Haman and the king to another feast the next day.

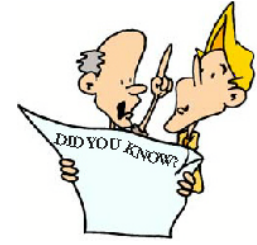
On his way out of the palace, he passed Mordechai at the gate. His delight turned to hate. "I am important enough to be invited to the queen's private banquets together with the king -- and that Jew refuses to bow down to me?!" He wanted to kill Mordechai then and there, without waiting for the 13th of Adar!

"Do it!" advised his evil wife Zeresh. So Haman built a gallows, 50 cubits high, in his own courtyard. He would hang Mordechai at the first opportunity!

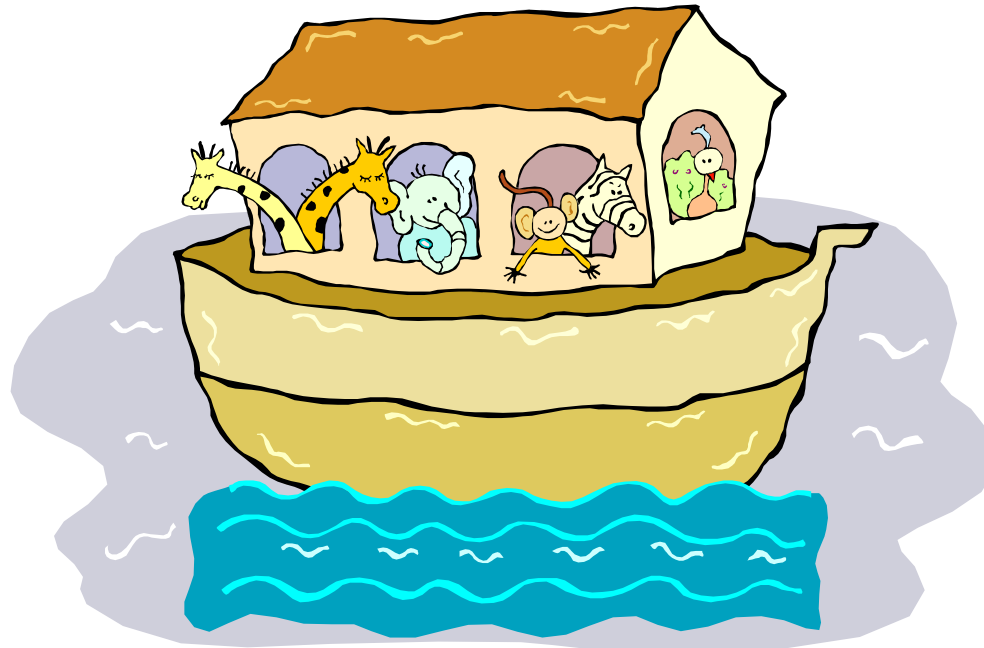




Did You Know!



- Haman could not find wood to build gallows the height of 50 *amot*, so his son (Parshandasa) sent a beam from Noah's ark which was exactly 50 *amot* in length.



פרק ה'



Think Think Think



Q1: Why do you think the king killed anyone who entered his chambers unannounced?

Q2: Do you think Achashveirosh wanted to raise his scepter to Esther or that Hashem made him to it at the last second?

Q3: Why do you think Esther invited Haman to the banquet?

Q4: What kind of food did Esther serve at the banquet?

Q5: Who do you think was worse, Vashti or Zeresh?

פרק ו'

CHAPTER 6 -- THE REVERSAL BEGINS

1. The king can't sleep and asks to hear the royal chronicles. For the first time, the king learns of the murder plot that Mordechai had discovered.
2. That same night, Haman comes to see the king about hanging Mordechai.
3. Before Haman can speak, the king tells Haman to honor Mordechai by dressing him in royal garments, to place him on a royal stallion and to personally lead him through the streets of Shushan, capital of Persia.





This is when the story gets exciting 😊

That night, following the first banquet, the King is unable to sleep. So Achashveirosh orders a servant to read from the royal diary.

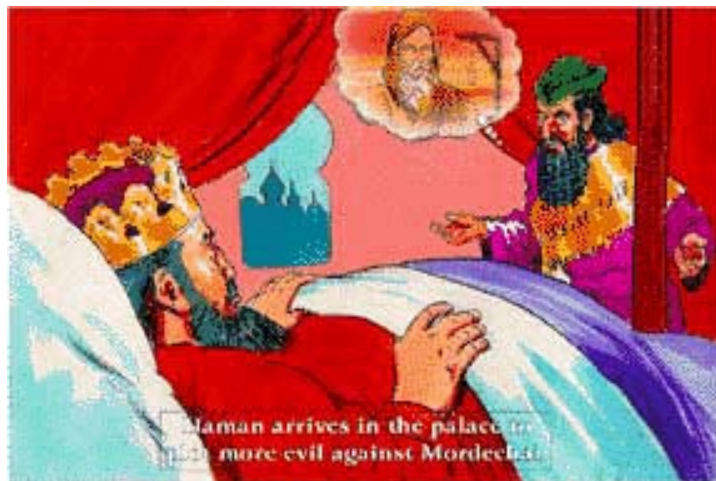
The diary recounts how Mordechai saved the king's life. "What has been done to reward the man?"

"Nothing, sire," says the servant.

At that moment, Haman comes by to get permission from the king to hang Mordechai. But before he can speak, the king asks Haman: "What should I do in order to give someone great honor?"

Assuming the king means him, Haman suggests an detailed ceremony: dress the person up in royal clothes, put him on a white horse, and have someone else lead him in a parade throughout the city.

Achashveirosh says: "Terrific idea! OK, Haman, put Mordechai on the horse and you lead him through the city! In a flash, Haman's vision of Mordechai being hanged faded into the night



In perhaps the most famous scene of the entire Megillah, Mordechai is paraded on horseback through the streets of Shushan, wearing the royal robes -- with Haman leading the way.

Haman leads him through the streets of Shushan, calling...

"Thus does the king do to the one he wishes to honor."





After this incident, Haman returns home "with his head covered". The Midrash explains the meaning of this phrase: When the parade route passed by Haman's house, his daughter saw them coming and had a great idea: She would take a toilet bowl up to the second floor window, and pour its contents on Mordechai's head! The only problem is that the girl assumed it was her wonderful father being honored on horseback, with that lowly Jew Mordechai pulling him along. So when the parade passed by, she timed it perfectly and -- splash! The one pulling the horse got it right in the face.

The Midrash says that when the girl saw how she'd dumped toilet waste all over her father, she was so despondent that she jumped out of the window to her death. And Haman returned home... "with his head covered."

To make matters worse, Haman found little support at home. His wife Zeresh tells him: "If this is how things are going, you're going to lose your fight against the Jewish people!"





פרק ו'

Who's Talking - Yak Yak



Q1: "Oy, I can't sleep!" _____

Q2: "Nothing Sire" _____

Q3: "Thus does the king do to the man whom he wishes to honor" _____

Q4: "oh no Aaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh (plop)" _____

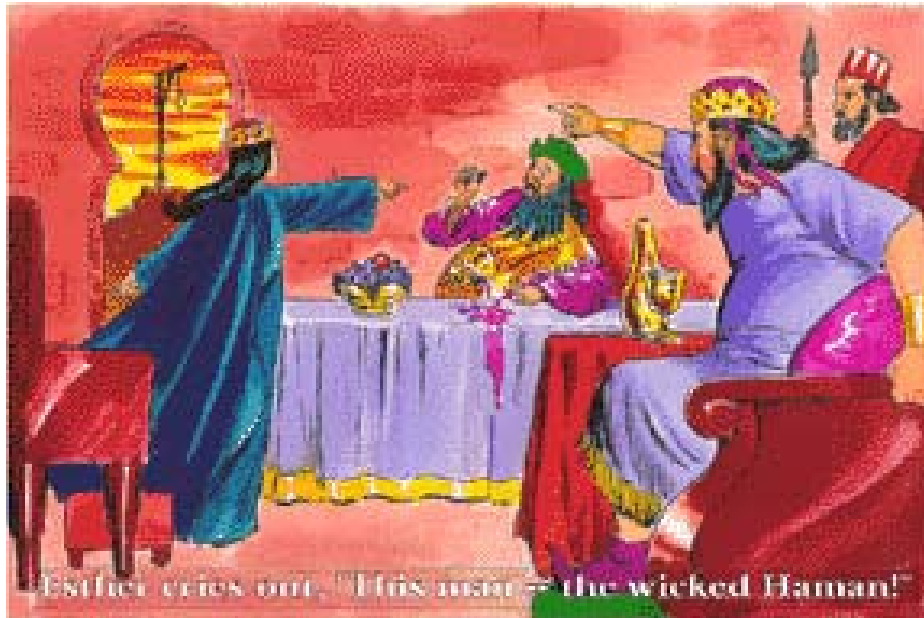
Q5: "Give it up Haman, you're gonna loose" _____

פרק ז'

CHAPTER 7 -- REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

1. At the second banquet, Esther reveals her identity and announces that she and her people are about to be murdered.
2. Esther identifies Haman as her arch enemy.
3. The king has Haman hung on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordechai.





At this second banquet the king is feeling jolly and asks Esther, "What is your request? It shall be granted to you".

This time, Esther spoke. "Spare my life," she cried, "and the lives of my people. We have been sentenced to death!"

"Death? Your people? By whom?" asked the surprised king.
"By an evil and wicked man -- by your minister Haman!"

The king was furious. He arose in anger and left the wine feast and went to the palace garden.



Trembling and fearful, Haman threw himself on the queen to beg for mercy. At that very moment, Achashveirosh returned. "What?" he cried. "Do you dare to attack the Queen in my palace? Take him away and hang him!" he shouted. Immediately he calls for the executioner.

As soon as these words left the king's mouth the face of Haman was covered. Then Charvonah, one of the servants that attended the king, said, "In addition, there is the gallows that Haman built for Mordechai, who spoke for the King's good, standing at Haman's house, fifty amot high! Hang him upon it!" said the king.



With poetic justice, Haman is hanged on
the same gallows he'd prepared for
Mordechai

פרק ז'

Picture Time



Draw a picture of something that happens in this chapter

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a picture related to the chapter.

פרק ח'

CHAPTER 8 -- THE REVERSAL IS COMPLETE

1. Mordechai is named prime minister to replace Haman.
2. A second royal edict is spread allowing the Jews to fight and kill anyone who would try to harm them



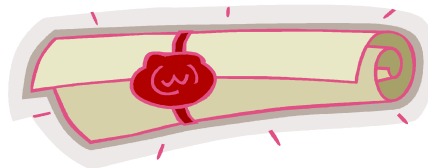


Achashveirosh appoints Mordechai (who now told the King that he was Esther's relative) to replace Haman -- and gives over his special signet ring to Mordechai.

Though Haman was now dead, the Jewish people were still in great danger. The decrees had already been sent out and on the 13th of Adar there was still going to be a terrible tragedy even without Haman. Esther once again went to see Achashveirosh. She explained to the king that though Haman was now dead his decree was still in effect. She asked if the king could nullify the decree.

Achashveirosh explained how he was unable to do so, since it was the law in Persia that once a decree was issued with the royal seal, it could not be stopped. However he suggested that Mordechai (who had the royal seal) could instead issue his own decree.

Now it was Mordechai's turn to send out a royal letter. It said: On the 13th of Adar, all the Jews in the kingdom would organize to defend themselves. The Persians were more than happy to listen to Haman and kill Jews, but if the Jews were going to arm themselves and fight back under royal protection, well then, that was another story!





פרק ח'

Rewrite the Royal Decree



פרק ט'

CHAPTER 9 -- THE HOLIDAY OF PURIM

1. On the 13th of Adar, a day that had been designated for Jewish destruction, the Jews are victorious over their enemies.
2. The 10 sons of Haman are hung.
3. The 14th and 15th of Adar are chosen to celebrate the salvation. These are the days of Purim.
4. Mordechai initiates the Purim practices -- consisting of a festive meal, the exchange of gifts of food, and the giving of monetary gifts to the poor.



A full 11 months later, the fateful day of Adar 13 comes around. In one corner are Haman's men with their decree; in the other corner are the Jews with theirs. The result: The Jews in the 127 countries killed 75,000 of their enemies while the Jews in Shushan kill 500 men, including Haman's 10 sons -- who, like their father before them, are hung on the gallows.

Throughout the kingdom, it takes the Jews only one day to defeat their enemies. In Shushan, the fighting takes an extra day, carrying over into Adar 14.



Mordechai records these events in the Megilla. Esther decrees that the reading of the Megilla be made a Mitzvah forever.

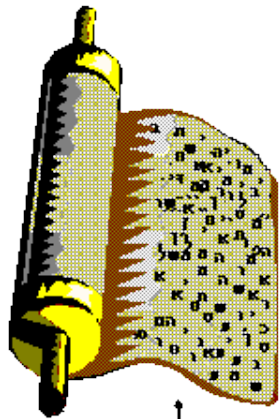


They also set forth four special Mitzvot for this special day.
They are ...

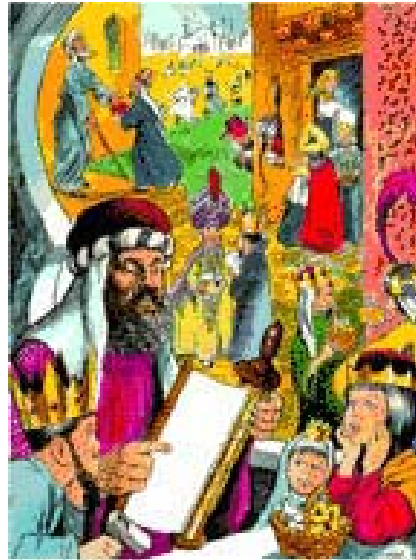
מקרא מגילה

Hearing the Megilah

We read the story of Purim in the evening and the next day. And whenever Haman is mentioned, we make as much noise as possible to blot out his name and his memory!

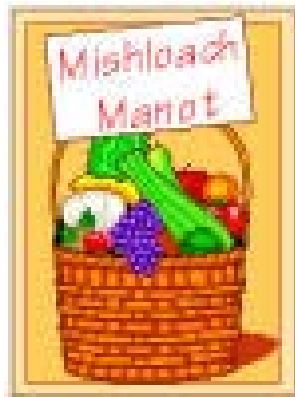


מגילת אסתר



משלוח מנות

Sending a gift of at least two foods to at least one friend or relative,
because Purim is a time of love and friendship between Jews



מתנות לאביונים

Giving charity to at least two or more people. because Purim is a time of sharing and caring and helping.



משתה

Special Purim festive meal.



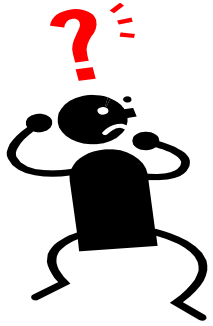
AND DON'T FORGET, PURIM IS COSTUME-TIME!

We celebrate how everything can turn upside-down and into something else, and nothing is exactly what it seems to be.

So start thinking about who you want to be on Purim!

A joyous Purim to all of you! May Purim - and all other days in the year!-- be full of light and gladness, honor and joy, just as it was for the Jewish people in the time of Esther and Mordechai so many years ago.





פרקן ט'



Because, Because, Because

Q1: We hear the Megilah, because ...

Q2: We give Mishloach Manot, because ...

Q3: We give Matonot Laevyonim, because ...

Q4: We dress in costumes, because ...

פרק י'

CHAPTER 10 -- MORDECHAI AND PERSIA

1. Persia, with Mordechai as prime minister, flourishes.
2. The role of Mordechai in the history of the Persian empire is recorded in the king's chronicles.

Shortly after these events, Esther's son, King Darius, gave permission for the Jews to return to the Land of Israel and rebuild the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) in Yerushalaim.





May the Miracle of Purim be re-enacted in all of our lives... with the imminent arrival of Moshiach and a better world of all humankind.

Tomb of Mordechai & Esther

