

Purim – Divine Reversal

“8Now write in the king’s name on behalf of the Jews what seems good to you and seal it with the king’s signet ring. For a decree that is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, cannot be revoked...11The king granted the right for Jews in every city to assemble themselves and to protect themselves – to destroy, kill and annihilate any army of any people or province that might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder their possessions” (Esther 8:8,11).

Purim (which means *lots* in Persian) is the Biblical Holiday that celebrates how the Jewish people were saved from annihilation in ancient Persia as told in the Biblical Book of *Esther*. On *Purim*, Jewish People celebrate the great *reversal of fortune* of the Children of Israel in Persia and how the day that was originally set for their destruction transformed into one of great joy and celebration. The Hillel International website states: *Purim celebrates a profound reversal of fortune — the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia from persecution*. Rescued by heroic intervention from Queen *Esther* and her cousin *Mordecai*, the Jewish people were saved from the diabolical plot of the evil *Haman* (*a descendant of Amalek*). The story of *Purim* is laced with the all too real themes of concealing one’s identity and overcoming the baseless hatred of anti-Semitism.

The story, of *Purim* and of our lives, can be read in two ways and each of us can choose how to interpret the story. Are we a conglomeration of *happenstance*, or do we see *Adonai’s* hand in every facet of our lives? In my January 15, 2022, Message (among many others over the years) entitled *Maftir to Maftir* I elucidated that *Amalek* is the *false notion* that everything that happens in our lives is *happenstance*. The article *Purim in the 21st Century* in *Chabad.org* states:

1. *Purim is a story of happenstance*: It just happened that *Vashti* refused to listen to her drunken husband’s wishes. It just happened that *Esther* was chosen as the new queen. It just happened that *Mordecai* saved the life of the king. It just happened that *Haman* was plotting to annihilate the Jews while *Esther* was queen. It just happened that *Esther* made a good party and beseeched the king to save the Jews. It just happened that *Haman* hung from the gallows he had prepared for *Mordechai*. {*All of this is random?*}
2. *Purim is Adonai’s story*: The Jews had drifted away from their core, and *Adonai* chose to bring them back to themselves and to Him. He used *Haman* as a tool. He had planned the salvation before the crisis. *Esther* was chosen as queen so that when the Jews repented, they’d immediately be saved and *witness a complete reversal of their situation*.

In chapter 6 of her 2021 book entitled *Declarations for Breakthrough* Jane Hamon (who with her husband Tom are the Sr. leaders of Vision Church in Santa Rosa, Florida – a fellow Floridian) elucidates on *Divine Reversals*. She states among other things that: *“the Lord said He was causing divine reversals in physical conditions of deterioration and turning them around.”* In Jewish literature, *Purim* is called the *holiday that celebrates a divine reversal*. Jane said she was studying the Book of *Esther* when she first heard from the Lord about this Biblical concept. We find divine reversal in the Torah: *“6But Adonai your God refused to listen to Balaam, and Adonai your God turned (vayahafoch) the curse into a blessing for you because He loves you” (Deut. 23:6)*. The DavkaWriter dictionary translates the Hebrew word rendered *turned* in the TLV to Adonai will *reverse in the future*. Jane continues: *“In the Book of Esther it is used in the sense of reversing a decree of death and destruction and releasing a new decree of authority, life and peace.”*

The following steps of action were given in the remainder of chapter 6 of her book: (1) Take Up the Call to Intercede, (2) Spend Your Favor, (3) Write a New Decree in the Irrevocable Authority of *Yeshua*, (4) Fight Back, (5) Receive Divine Reversals, and (6) Release Sounds of Joy (Release *Kol Simcha*). She concludes with the following decree: *“This is my time of divine reversal. Whatever the enemy has meant against me for evil is being turned for my good. Whatever schemes the enemy has formed in secret will be uncovered & boomerang back on his own head. I will spend my favor and expect to see open doors of opportunity*

so I can advance the Kingdom of Adonai and my destiny. I will write new decrees and join them with my prayers of intercession to see breakthrough happen. Adonai will turn my mourning into dancing, my sorrow into joy, my sickness into health, my lack of abundance & doubt into faith. Adonai is indeed turning things around for me!"

This year we celebrate Purim on the evening of Thursday, March 13, 2025 (on the eve of the 14th day of the 12th month in the Hebrew Calendar). There is a Blood Moon tonight ~2:30am and Next year at Purim. What will we do? In the Jewish Unpacked website, we read: *"Purim is an extremely festive and joyous occasion that is celebrated with the community. A few of the ways Purim is typically celebrated include:"*

- Reading the *Megillah* or scroll (i.e., the Book of Esther) at night and in the morning ✓
- Making noise with groggers (*noisemaker*) when *Haman's* name is mentioned in the *Megillah* reading ✓
- Dressing up in costumes ✓
- Having a festive holiday meal ✓
- Merrymaking ✓
- Eating 3-cornered filled pastries called *hamantaschen* ✓
- Putting on a humorous play in costumes known as a Purim *shpiel* (this means "play" in Yiddish) ✓
- Giving gifts of pastries and other food (*mishloach manot*) to friends and neighbors ✓
- Giving gifts of money, food or drinks to the poor (*matanot l'evyonim*) ✓

Did you know that *Mordecai* (*Umm!*) was a son of *Jair* (English Jairus, see my February 24, 2018, message entitled *Lord I believe! Help my unbelief!*) and his name means *a son of light*. We are also sons of light and *Yeshua* is our light source, our enlightener. *Esther* (*Ooh Ahh!*) was raised for her role as a *Lady for Such a Time as This*, and so are our ladies here in *Kol Simcha* (See my February 23, 2021, message entitled *Ladies for Such a Time as This*). This continues to be our time! Our Divine Reversal is on its way. Today I close with the story of Purim in a rhyme from Chabad.org. *Shabbat Shalom!*

A royal party like you've never seen. But *Vashti* refuses to be the dancing queen.
A drunken king orders her killed. Leaving a position to be filled

The great beauty pageant begins. And a nice Jewish girl wins.
While the Jewish community kvelled. Her religious identity, *Esther* withheld.

Meanwhile *Mordechai* is the talk of the town. To *Haman*, the wicked, he won't bow down.
Too bad *Haman* has a short fuse. And decides to kill all of the Jews.

Esther is asked to intercede with the king. But who knows what that could bring?
What mood will he be in when she arrives? This guy has no qualms about killing his wives.

So, the Jews fast and pray. And *Esther* prepares a royal buffet.
Mordechai is hopeful and is not scared. As *Haman* is having his gallows prepared.

A reversal of fortunes, a twist of fate. Leaves *Haman* a bit irate.
God's plan is put into gear. *Haman's* end is very near.

Esther proves to be a queen. Of great spirit and grace.
And Haman is hanged in *Mordechai's* place.

The king turns over a new leaf. *Mordechai's* the new chief.
The Jews are empowered to fight for their lives. Justice triumphs and Judaism survives.

The thirteenth day of Adar comes. And the Persian army succumbs.
Gone was the threat of annihilation. Purim became a day of celebration.
So, grab a *Megillah* and read and let the spirit of *Adonai* guide you therein.