

# The Feast of *Purim* and the *Passion* of the Messiah— Stories of Deliverance

A. The story of *Purim* is a *story* of how **God intervened** on behalf of the **Jewish people**, saving and delivering them from certain **annihilation** at the *hand* of their **enemies**.

Now in the **twelfth month** (that is, the month **Adar**),... on the day when the **enemies** of the **Jews** hoped to gain the **mastery** over them, it was turned to the **contrary** so that the **Jews themselves** gained the **mastery** over those who **hated them**. (Esther 9:1)

→The *Passion* of the Messiah is also a **glorious story** of how **God intervened** and brought salvation, not only to the **Jewish people**, but to a **humanity condemned** because of **sin**.

And his (**John's**) father **Zacharias**...prophesied, saying:  
"Blessed be the **Lord God of Israel**,  
for **He** has **visited us** and accomplished **redemption** for His people,  
and has raised up a **horn of salvation** for us  
in the house of **David His servant**—

as **He spoke** by the mouth of **His holy prophets** from of old—  
**Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES,**  
and FROM THE **HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US**::..

And you, **child (John)**, will... give to **His people**  
the **knowledge of salvation** by the **forgiveness** of their **sins**,  
(Luke 1:67-71, 76-77)

The next day **he (John)** saw **Jesus** coming to him and said,  
"Behold, the **Lamb of God** who **takes away** the **sin** of the **world!** (John 1:29)

B. *Purim* is a *story* about the deliverance of the **Jewish people** from a **wicked adversary** who sought their **destruction**.

When **Haman** saw that **Mordecai** *neither bowed down*  
*nor paid homage* to him, **Haman** was filled with **rage**.

But he disdained to **lay hands** on **Mordecai** alone, for they had told him *who* the **people of Mordecai** *were*; therefore **Haman** sought to **destroy all the Jews**, the **people of Mordecai**, who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. (Esther 3:5-6)

→The *Passion of the Messiah* is the *story* of how *we* were delivered from an **evil adversary** who has sought to “**devour**” and **destroy us**.

Be of **sober *spirit***, be on the **alert**. Your **adversary**, the **devil**, prowls around like a **roaring lion**, seeking someone to **devour**. (I Peter 5:8)

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Since then the **children** share in **flesh** and **blood**, **He Himself (Messiah)** likewise also **partook** of the same, so that **through death** He might render **powerless him** who had the **power of death**, that is, the **devil**, and might **free those** who through **fear of death** were *subject* to **slavery** all their lives. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

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...for the **devil** has **sinned** from the **beginning**. The **Son of God** appeared for this **purpose**, to **destroy** the **works** of the **devil**.  
(I John 3:8)

C. *Purim* is the *story* of how the **Jewish people** were **saved** from a **decree** that was **issued** that **condemned them to death**.

Then **Haman** said to **King Ahasuerus**,  
“There is a **certain people** scattered and dispersed among the **peoples** in all the provinces of your **kingdom**;

**their laws** are **different** from *those* of **all other people** and they **do not observe** the **king’s laws**, so it is not in the king’s interest to let them **remain**.

If it is **pleasing** to the **king**, let it be **decreed** that they **be destroyed**,...  
(Esther 3:8-9)

→ In the *story* of the *Passion of the Messiah*, **believers** also have had **decrees** that were “**hostile**” and **against us**, that have now been **canceled**.

When you were **dead** in your **transgressions** and the **uncircumcision** of your **flesh**, **He (Messiah)** made you **alive together with Him**, having **forgiven us all** our **transgressions**, having **canceled out** the **certificate of debt** consisting of **decrees against us**,

which was **hostile** to **us**; and **He** has taken it **out** of the **way**, having **nailed it** to the **cross**. (Colossians 2:13-14)

D. *Purim* is a *story* of **uncompromising faith** and **courage**, by both **Mordechai** and **Esther** who, in the face of **severe adversity**, risked their **lives** to **save** their **people**.

All the king's servants who were at the king's gate **bowed down** and **paid homage** to **Haman**; for so the **king** had **commanded** concerning him.

But **Mordecai** **neither bowed down nor paid homage**. (Esther 3:2)

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Then **Esther** told *them* to reply to **Mordecai**,  
“**Go, assemble** all the **Jews** who are found in **Susa**, and **fast for me**;  
do not **eat** or **drink** for **three days**, night or day...

And thus **I will go in to the king**, which is **not** according to the **law**;  
and **if I perish, I perish**.” (Esther 4:15-16)

→ The **Passion of the Messiah** is the story of **perfect faith** and **obedience**, in the face of the **worst adversity** and **death**.

And **He (Jesus)** came out and proceeded as was **His custom** to the **Mount of Olives**; and the **disciples** followed Him...

And **He withdrew** from them about a stone's throw,  
and **He knelt down** and *began* to **pray**, saying,  
“**Father**, if **You are willing**, remove **this cup** from **Me**;  
yet **not My will**, but **Yours be done**.”

Now an **angel** from heaven **appeared to Him**, **strengthening Him**.  
And being in **agony** **He** was **praying very fervently**; and **His sweat** became  
like **drops of blood**, falling down upon the **ground**.  
(Luke 22:39, 41-44)

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Being found in **appearance** as a **man**,  
**He (Jesus)** **humiliated Himself** by becoming **obedient** to the point of **death**,  
even **death on a cross**. (Philippians 2:8)

E. **Purim** is the **story** of **great victory**—resulting in **abundant joy**,  
and a **permanent celebration** among the **Jewish people**.

Then **Mordecai** recorded **these events**, and he sent **letters**  
to all the **Jews** who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus,  
both near and far, **obliging them** to **celebrate** the **fourteenth day**  
of the month **Adar**, and the **fifteenth day** of the same month, **annually**,

because on **those days** the **Jews rid themselves** of their **enemies**,  
and *it was a month* which was **turned** for them  
from **sorrow** into **gladness** and from **mourning** into a **holiday**;  
that they should make them **days** of **feasting** and **rejoicing**  
and sending portions of **food** to one another and **gifts** to the **poor**.  
(Esther 9:20-22)

→The *Passion of the Messiah* is the *story* of **great victory** for **believers**, having been **delivered** (ultimately) from **man's greatest enemy—death**.

Behold, I tell you a *mystery*: we will **not** all sleep,  
but we will **all** be changed,

in a **moment**, in the **twinkling** of an **eye**, at the *last trumpet*;  
for the **trumpet** will sound, and the **dead will be raised**  
***imperishable***, and we will be ***changed***...

But when this *perishable* will have put on the *imperishable*,  
and this *mortal* will have put on *immortality*,  
then will come about the saying that is **written**,

**“DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**  
**O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?**  
**O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”**

The *sting* of death is **sin**,  
and the *power* of **sin** is the **law**;

but **thanks** be to **God**, who **gives us** the **victory**  
*through* our **Lord Jesus the Messiah**.  
(I Corinthians 15:51-52, 54-57)

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The **last enemy** that will be **abolished** is **death**.  
(I Corinthians 15:26)

## Closing Comments