

# The Stories of the Feast of Purim and the Passion of the Messiah— Are there *similarities*?

A. In the story of Purim, God *intervened* on behalf of His people. He did so by **sending**, and **strategically placing** individuals (namely **Mordechai** and **Esther**), and by *coordinating* events that would **accomplish His purpose** of saving His people.

→The Passion of the Messiah is the glorious story of how **God *intervened*** on behalf of a **doomed humanity**, *sending forth* a *promised Redeemer* to save His people.

And his (John) 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**:  
(Luke 1:67-71)

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“For **God** so *loved* the **world**, that He gave  
His **only begotten Son**, that whoever **believes** in Him  
shall not perish, but have eternal life.

For **God** did *not send* the **Son** into the world to **judge** the **world**,  
but that the **world** might be saved through Him. (John 3:16-17)

B. Purim is a story of **uncompromising faith** and **courage**  
in the **face** of **severe adversity**, and a **sentence** of death.

→The Passion of the Messiah is the story of *perfect faith* and  
obedience in the **face** of **severe persecution** and a **painful death**.

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

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.”  
(Luke 22:39, 41b-42)

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Have this **attitude** in yourselves which was also in **Messiah Jesus**, who,..  
**emptied Himself**, taking the **form** of a **bond-servant**,  
and being made in the **likeness of men**.

Being found in **appearance** as a **man**,  
**He humbled Himself** by becoming **obedient** to the **point of death**,  
even **death** on a **cross**. (Philippians 2:5-6a, 7-8)

C. **Purim** tells **story** about the **salvation** of the **Jewish people** from  
a **powerful, wicked adversary** who sought their **annihilation**.

→The **Passion of the Messiah** is the **story** of how **God through**  
**His Son** has **destroyed** the **works of Satan**, and has **saved us**  
from the **condemnation of sin** and **death**.

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)

D) **Purim** is the **story of great victory** and **joy** for the **people of God**.

→The **Passion of the Messiah** is a **joyous story** of **great victory**  
over **man's greatest enemy—death**.

But when this **perishable** will have **put on** the **imperishable**,  
and this **mortal** (us) 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: 54-57)

Closing Comments