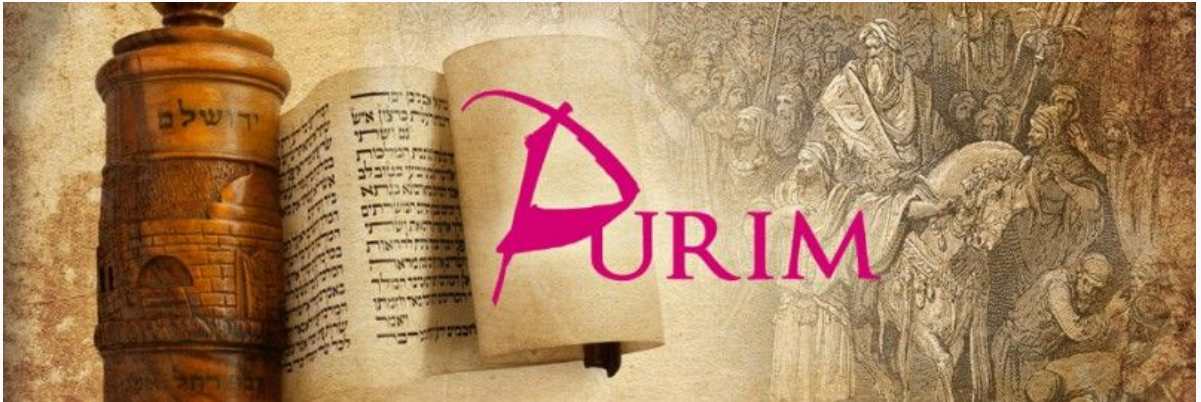


The festival of Purim begins in less than two weeks



*I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

## Purim Thoughts

As we get ready for the festival of Purim in just under two weeks, here are a few thoughts on my mind related to this time.

**1. Esther's challenging foundations:** Esther had definitely experienced some pain. Esther's father and mother had died early in her childhood and she was raised by her cousin Mordecai. She was also a foreigner in exile in a strange country. Instead of becoming bitter and sullen Esther made the best of her circumstances and rose to a place of prominence. From this place she was used by God to help save Israel in a time of great peril.

**2. God comes through...at the last minute:** Another thing that stuck out was that until the end of the story it appeared that God was nowhere to be seen. In fact the book of Esther is the only book in the Bible where God's name is not explicitly mentioned at all. He appeared to have abandoned His people but at the last minute He saved His people and showed that He was actively working behind the scenes.

**3. Prayer turns the tide:** When in time of greatest need, Esther called her

fellow Israelites to join her in praying and fasting to petition YHWH for help. People praying and fasting was the point where the story began to shift.

Tomorrow we'll discuss more about preparing for this upcoming festival.