



## A Present & Future Purim Story

*This would commemorate a time when the Jews gained relief from their enemies, when their sorrow was turned into gladness and their mourning into joy. Esther 9:22b*

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Yah Has a Calendar:** We're invited to participate (Festival Overview sheet)
1. We're invited to go on a journey through these next three months leading us up to Shavuot
- B. Recurring Thematic Reminders:** By our participation in the festival of Purim (and also the other biblical festivals) we have a consistent, yearly reminder of the themes that God is stressing during each season.
- C. Connection with Israel:** We as God's redeemed are intricately connected to His people Israel (Romans 11). As we participate in the festivals and other biblical practices, we are conscious of a practical connection with Israel as well as causing Israel to be jealous as we endeavor to "hit the heart" of what these festivals are about.
1. Antisemitism is rising, will be a Ten Boom or a complicitor now and in the days ahead?

### II. STORY OVERVIEW

*(Purim Timeline provides a thorough overview of the story)*

#### A. Initial Thoughts on the Story of Purim

1. *Last Biblical Festival:* The story of Purim is the last Biblical festival of the year and the story occurs over the course of almost a complete year and going through all of the festivals.
2. *God's Name:* This is the only book in the Bible where God's name does not appear directly although it does appear in acrostic form in Esther 5:4 as the first letter of each of four successive words – yod, hay, vav, hay, YHWH. God was, however, obviously present and in charge behind the scenes.
3. *Festival's (and Esther's) Name:* *Purim* or the *Feast of Lots* comes from the fact that the day was chosen for the Jews to die by a lottery. The word *pur* is Persian and it is the only festival that does not have a Hebrew name. Also, Esther's name (and the name of this biblical book) is named after a pagan goddess.
4. *Culmination of a Year Long Story:* Though we celebrate Purim for one day each year, the main part of the story in Esther happened over a twelve month period.
5. *Greatest Fulfilment at the End of the Age:* In the years directly preceding Yeshua's return will come the greatest fulfilment of the Esther story with the Antichrist, the praying church, and Yeshua coming to rescue His people.

### III. PRESENT STORY

- A. Present Moment:** We find ourselves living in a Purim moment right now where the Jewish people are fighting against those who would want to annihilate her. These "Purim moments" will increase until all the nations surround Jerusalem to fight against her (Zechariah 14:2) and Yeshua returns to rescue His people from Israel's greatest crisis.
1. *Demonic Source:* the source of this hatred is demonic
  2. *Global Leaders Against YHWH:* The nations and leaders will be against YHWH (Psalm 2) and His people (both Jews & Christians)
- B. Blessings & Cursings:** YHWH promises to not only bless those who bless Israel but also to curse those who disdain her. There is a lag time to these blessings and cursings. Often we attribute indifference to God because of this delay.
- 1The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:1-3*

#### IV. WARNINGS FOR HATRED OF THE JEWS

Sections A & B below taken directly from Mike Bickle's *The Forerunner Message in Isaiah 34 & 35*

- A. God's Warning Against Edom:** God's end-time judgment against Edom (34:5-7): Edom here is a representative example of the judgment that will fall on all nations that stand against the Lord and Israel in the end times. The people shall become a "sacrifice" and the land filled with burning pitch and brimstone.
- <sup>5</sup>"For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment." <sup>6</sup>The sword of the LORD is filled with blood; it is made overflowing with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. <sup>7</sup>The wild oxen shall come down with them, and the young bulls with the mighty bulls; their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust saturated with fatness. (Isa. 34:5-7)
1. Edom's Perpetual Hatred: Amos referred to Edom's perpetual hatred of Israel and anti-Semitism (Amos 1:11; cf. Gen. 33:4-16; Num. 20:14-21; 24:18; Jer. 49:7-22; Ezek. 35:1-15; Obad. 10-14; Mal. 1:2-5).
- <sup>11</sup>"...I will not turn away its [Edom's] punishment, because he pursued his brother [Israel] ...and cast off all pity; his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever."  
(Amos 1:11)
- <sup>10</sup>"For violence against your brothers Jacob...you shall be cut off forever...<sup>11</sup>When foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem—even you were as one of them. <sup>12</sup>But you should not have...rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction...<sup>13</sup>You should not have entered the gate of My people...you should not have... laid hands on their substance...<sup>14</sup>You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped, nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained in the day of distress." (Obad. 10-14)
- <sup>12</sup>"Because of what Edom did against the house of Judah by taking vengeance...avenging itself on them,"  
<sup>13</sup>therefore thus says the Lord God: "I will also stretch out My hand against Edom, cut off man and beast from it, and make it desolate from Teman; Dedan shall fall by the sword. <sup>14</sup>I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel..." (Ezek. 25:12-14)
- a. *warning to others with this hatred:* Edom has this perpetual, long history of anger towards Israel. Other nations do too, but Edom leads the host. Edom is at the front of the line of long-term enemies. Look what it says in Amos: they have perpetual forever animosity. It did, and we know that now it is found in context to various sects of Islam. Not all of Islam, but part of Islam has this animosity. They have this absolute hatred to drive Israel into the sea. The LORD is saying that anybody who lines up with that narrative and that rhetoric are going to get the same results that Edom or the city of Bozrah is going to get. God is saying, "Nations of the world, do not line up with the animosity that Edom represents."
- b. *college campus rhetoric:* So, I look at what is going on regarding the nation of Israel today, even around the American campuses and the campuses around the Western world where they are saying, like, "Let's cast off Israel and let's do this and let's do that."
2. Israel is Imperfect: It's not that Israel can do no wrong. Israel does a lot of wrong. The LORD is disciplining Israel. Israel has a tough road ahead, but they have a glorious road after that. We are not to look at Israel through rose-colored glasses and say they can do no wrong. No, but we need to line up with what God says about that land, about that ancient people and about their future and about Jerusalem being the city of the Great King.
3. The Injured Spirit of Esau: "There is rage against the holy covenant in the injured spirit of Esau. That spirit is lodged in the neighboring Arab nations, and in the Palestinians in particular. This calls for a closer study of Edom and Esau in scripture and prophecy. The humanistic world, ignorant of God's covenant Word, is being drawn into the conflict as their sympathetic identification with the Palestinian struggle is causing them to pick up Esau's offense at God's prerogative "to choose as He will choose." In their biblical illiteracy, and disregard for an ancient covenant concerning a literal land and people, the nations (and most of Christendom) are naively advancing and facilitating the final expression of Esau's everlasting hatred that will show no mercy. Reggie Kelly

4. Escapes the Antichrist's Hand: Edom, Moab, and Ammon were three small nations in the ancient world comprising what is modern-day Jordan. Some of them will escape the rage and heavy demands of the Antichrist. There is something going on between them and the Antichrist that they escape his heavy, heavy demands and heavy rage coming against them.

<sup>41</sup>He [Antichrist] shall enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. (Dan. 11:41)

- B. Edom's Eternal Punishment:** The day-of-the-LORD vengeance on Edom (34:8-10) has an eternal dimension to it. It is very rare for God's judgment on a nation to be eternal in duration. The land of Edom will be desolate forever (34:8-12) and a home for unclean animals (34:13-17).

<sup>8</sup>For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. <sup>9</sup>Its streams shall be turned into pitch, and its dust into brimstone; its land shall become burning pitch. <sup>10</sup>It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever. (Isa. 34:8-10)

1. Its streams shall be turned into pitch: Pitch is a hot, tar-like substance comparable to asphalt. The streams that once flowed with water will be filled with pitch. Streams of burning pitch will move slowly through Edom like lava, filling it with flames and smoke. Tar seeping up from the ground exists on a small scale in Los Angeles in the *La Brea Tar Pits*.
  - a. pitch comes to the surface: Fire, brimstone, pitch, lava, and sulfur come to the surface, possibly from an earthquake and/or a volcanic eruption.
  - b. high shale deposits: Jordan has significant oil shale deposits (rock from which oil can be extracted) in 26 known localities. It has 8th largest oil shale resource in the world. Geological surveys show existing deposits underlie more than 60% of Jordan's territory. It is estimated at 40-70 billion tons of oil shale. It has a sulfur content.
2. Dust turned to brimstone: The soil will be turned to a combustible powdered brimstone or sulfur. The dirt shall be saturated with blood and combustible brimstone which will keep the fire burning in the pitch.
  - a. burning stone: Brimstone is a yellow mineral substance or stone that is closely identified with sulfur. Brimstone means, "burning stone." When powdered brimstone is exposed to fire, it will burn like a liquid. The mineral substance will melt and even drip like wax as it gives off poisonous and harmful fumes that can kill people.
  - b. appears in lava: Brimstone starts out in molten rock under the earth's surface and comes to the surface in the lava from volcanoes or in hot springs.
  - c. converts to sulfuric acid: Brimstone/sulfur can be converted to sulfuric acid which is used in many things such as fertilizer, batteries, chemicals, tires, detergents, explosives, matches, drugs, etc.
  - d. scriptural context: Brimstone is mentioned 14 times in the Scripture in various contexts—Sodom (Gen. 19:24; Lk. 17:29), the judgment of the Antichrist's armies (Isa. 30:33; 34:9; Ezek. 38:22), describing certain demonic beings (Rev. 9:17-18), and punishment in the lake of fire (Rev. 14:10; 19:20; 20:10; 21:8).
3. Its smoke shall ascend forever: The burning pitch and brimstone will send up columns of smoke that will ascend forever from Edom. This is comparable to the smoke ascending forever from the lake of fire (Rev. 14:11) and from Babylon (Rev 18:9, 18:19:2-3).

<sup>9</sup>...If anyone worships the beast...<sup>10</sup>he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night... (Rev. 14:9-11)
4. No one shall pass through it forever: No humans will ever pass through that area forever. Edom's original hostility was expressed in not allowing Israel to pass through their land to Canaan. The Lord will repay them in a similar way by seeing to it that no traveler shall ever pass through Edom.
5. Judgment Compared to Sodom: Isaiah compared the judgment on Edom to the judgment of Sodom (34:9-10; Gen. 19:24-28). Ancient Edom was close to where Sodom had been geographically, and its future judgment with smoke and brimstone is similar to Sodom's judgment.

<sup>17</sup>“Edom also shall be an astonishment; everyone who goes by it will be astonished and will hiss at all its plagues. <sup>18</sup>As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah...” says the LORD, “No one shall remain there, nor shall a son of man dwell in it.” (Jer. 49:17-18)

6. Fire & Brimstone from Heaven: Edom and Babylon are described with a similar judgment comparable to Sodom—with fire and brimstone coming from heaven (Gen. 19:24, 28; cf. Jer. 49:17-18; Isa. 34:9; Jer. 50:40; Isa. 13:19-22), that burns with smoke arising forever (Rev. 19:3; cf. Isa. 34:10) and resulting in such destruction that humans cannot live there (Jer. 49:13, 18, 20; 50:9-40; 51:43; cf. Isa. 13:20; 34:10; Ezek. 35:9, 14-15; Mal. 1:3-4) but only creatures of the desert (Isa. 13:20-22; 34:11-15).

<sup>19</sup>And Babylon...will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. <sup>20</sup>It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation... <sup>21</sup>But wild beasts of the desert...owls; ostriches...and wild goats will caper there. (Isa. 13:19-22)

7. Millennial Corpses: In the Millennium, those going to Jerusalem to worship will look on corpses (Isa. 66:23). Isaiah did not identify where these corpses will be—Edom is a good possibility. John used the language about Edom from 34:10 adding that the people will be tormented in the “presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10)—whose throne will be in Jerusalem about 75 miles from Edom.

<sup>23</sup>“And it shall come to pass that...all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD. <sup>24</sup>“And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched.” (Isa. 66:23-24)

- a. All flesh: Many Gentiles and Jewish believers coming to Jerusalem will stop to look at corpses suffering eternal judgment. Those surviving the Great Tribulation will worship Jesus in Jerusalem during the Millennium (Isa. 25-26; Zech. 14:16-21).
- b. Look upon corpses: Viewing these unburied corpses will be a testimony or witness to the people in the millennial earth warning them about the lake of fire and not to embrace the rebellion at the end of the Millennium

**C. Israel: A Litmus Test for the Unsaved Survivors of the Tribulation** (Matthew 25:31-46): The Scriptures are clear that one of the dividing lines of judgement at the end of the tribulation for those who survive will be how they treated Yeshua’s brethren (His Jewish brothers and sisters). Often this passage is used to enlist support to a social gospel of compassionate kindness to those in need. This is indeed an important Christian virtue but this passage would not be an explicit one to support that. The context here is a specific one.

<sup>31</sup>“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left... <sup>40</sup>“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you were doing it to me!’ (Matthew 25:31-33, 40)

1. When the Son of Man Comes: These Scriptures are when Yeshua returns with His holy angels and is ruling from His throne in Jerusalem.
2. Unsaved Survivors: This coming story is not about Believers. The Believers will have been raptured at Yeshua’s return with resurrected bodies (1 Thes 4:15-17). This narrative is about the survivors from the nations who will be alive at His return.
3. Life & Death Issue: The difference between who lives or dies in this context is if those being judged had exhibited a practical compassion to the Jewish people in their time of need.

## V. COMING AMERICAN ASSIGNMENT?

**A. Who is Israel and who is a Jew?** This can be a complicated question. The 10 northern tribes of Israel were scattered into the nations after the Assyrian conquest of Israel in 722 BC. It is conservatively speculated by Rabbi Harry Rosenberg that at least 500 million people of Israeli descent are scattered among the nations (the fascinating video interview with him and Dr. Michael Brown is linked below). Jewish people are technically attributed to the tribe of Judah that were dispersed from Israel after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. But the term Jew has also become somewhat of a catchphrase for all of Israel.

1. Jewish Population Statistics: According to Wikipedia, there are an estimated 15.7 million core Jewish population in the world with 7.2 million in Israel and 6.3 million Jews living in the United States. The next most populous Jewish country is France with roughly 450,000 Jews living there with Canada close behind with 400,000 Jewish people.

**B. God's Calling His Covenant People Back to Israel:** God's prophetic call is for His people to return to their covenant homeland.

*And say to them, 'This is what the Lord YHWH says: "Behold, I am going to take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; Ezekiel 37:21*

1. What will it take for American Jewry to make aliyah and return to Israel? Without upheaval and significant challenges most Jews will not want to leave America to go to Israel. I believe this upheaval is coming. Especially in this coming time, it is important for us to stand with the Jews and support them. I believe Christians will have a role in helping the Jews return to Israel.
2. Called to Stand with Israel: We are called to stand with Israel. There will most likely be suffering associated with that identification. This identification and support is biblical and important to God.

**C. Standing with Israel and the Jewish People**

1. Repentance and Humility: We as Believers in Yeshua are called to walk in humility in our attitude towards the Jewish people. I have had growing conviction in my heart of my consistent need for repentance related to my wrong attitudes towards the Jewish people.

*<sup>17</sup>But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup>do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. <sup>19</sup>You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup>Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; <sup>21</sup>for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. <sup>22</sup>See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off. Romans 11:17-22*

2. Prayer: Prayer is the most important foundational practice that we can have as a means of standing with Israel.

*<sup>6</sup>On your walls, Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who profess YHWH, take no rest for yourselves; <sup>7</sup>And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem an object of praise on the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7*

- a. a 100 year prayer meeting: The Ten Boom family conducted a once a week nearly 100-year prayer meeting for Israel starting in 1844 that was the seedbed for producing in their family the spiritual fortitude to stand with the Jews in their time of need.

In 1841 Willem ten Boom married Geertruida van Gogh, and three years later something unusual happened at the Beje—as the ten Boom residence came to be known. The local Dutch Reformed minister, Dominee Witteveen, called on Willem one day with a peculiar plea: "You know the Scriptures tell us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and the blessing of the Jews." It was an odd request at the time—few Dutch Christians had heard of praying for Israel—but Willem agreed. "I have always loved God's ancient people," he told Witteveen; "they gave us our Bible and our Savior."...With this simple encouragement, Willem began inviting friends over to pray for Jerusalem and the Jews. It was a legacy he would pass on to his children and grandchildren (Loftis, 9)

- b. Could we do the same? I believe a once a week one hour commitment to pray for Israel and the Jewish people is a great starting place to stand with Israel. There are a number of ministries that have a commitment to pray for Israel that we can join with. We presently pray on a Thursday evening Zoom call from 6-7pm for Israel.

3. Loving Israel Unconditionally: the majority of the Jewish people will not respond to the Gospel until Yeshua returns. They will be the human priests and the leader nation on the earth in the Millennial kingdom. We are not to be compassionate and kind to them primarily as an evangelistic project. We bless

the Jewish people because they are God's covenant people by birthright and we have a heart for what God has a heart for. On the flipside we are not ashamed of the Gospel and willing to share it sensitively and appropriately with all people (including the Jews).

4. *Connect with Others*: we need to continue to connect with like-minded others who are working to actively bless Israel and the Jewish people.
5. *Educate Ourselves*: we need to continue to access resources that will help us grow in our understanding of and practical love for Israel
6. *Small Acts with Great Love*: we need to look for consistent opportunities to stand with and bless Israel and the Jewish people and then to step out to take action as the opportunities appear.

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