



Purim Timeline



Date	Occurrence
Prologue: What goes before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queen Vashti demoted after refusing to come at King Ahasueras (Xerxes') drunken command after 187 consecutive days of partying (Esther 1) [3rd year of king's reign] Hadassah (Esther) taken and initiated into a year long preparation for a beauty queen-replacement pageant; Esther (an orphan jewess) wins the pageant and is made queen in Vashti's place (2:1-20) [7th year of reign] Mordecai (a Benjamite and Esther's guardian cousin) successfully exposes a coup against the king which is recorded in the King's records (2:21-23) [one day] Haman (Agagite) promoted to prime minister and develops an animosity against Mordecai who as a faithful Jew doesn't bow down to Haman as the others do (3:1-6) [some time later]
Nisan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haman has lots (<i>purim</i>) cast to find out the best day to take action against the Jews and Adar 13 is chosen. He presents his request to kill the Jews on this day to the king who agrees (3:7-11) [12th year of reign]
Nisan 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters sent in the king's name to people to destroy, kill, and annihilate all Jewish people on Adar 13; and then to confiscate their property (3:12) Mordecai learns of the decree and mourns and weeps bitterly (4:1) Mordecai communicates with Esther her need to take action to attempt to save her people (4:13-14) Esther asks that Mordecai assemble the Jews of Susa to fast and pray for her for three days before she goes in to talk with the king (4:16)
Nisan 14	Day 1 of a 3 day food and water fast
Nisan 15	Day 2 of a 3 day food and water fast [PASSOVER]
Nisan 16	Day 3 of a 3 day food and water fast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esther goes in to the king uninvited. She is accepted by the king and asks him and Haman to join her for a private banquet (5:1) Esther has the first banquet with Haman and the king and requests another one the next day (5:4) Haman erects gallows upon which he intends to hang Mordecai the next day (5:14)
Nisan 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King can't sleep and reads of Mordecai's previous good deed and decides to reward him (6:1-3) Mordecai elevated and paraded by Haman in honor through the streets (6:10-11) Esther has the second banquet with Haman and the king and exposes Haman (6:14) Haman hanged on gallows; Haman's house given to Esther; Esther tells the king how she is related to Mordecai and Mordecai takes Haman's place as prime minister; Esther confers Mordecai over the house of Haman (7:10-8:2)
~ 2 month interval	Esther once more appears before the king to plead for a revocation of the earlier decree (8:3-7)
Sivan 23	New decree written by Mordecai allowing the Jews to unite and defend themselves against any aggressors and to plunder their spoil on the 13th of Adar (8:11)
~9 month interval	Many of the peoples of the land became Jews, for they feared what the Jews might do to them (8:17)
Adar 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jews assembled to gain mastery over their enemies; officials aided them because of Mordecai (9:2-3) 500 men killed in Susa and 75,000 killed in the king's provinces; no plunder taken (9:6,16) Esther asks for one more day for the Jews of Susa to carry out the edict and for Haman's sons to be hung on the gallows (9:13)
Adar 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jews in Susa again assemble and kill 300 more men and again take no plunder (9:14) Jews in the king's provinces rested and made it a feast of rejoicing; sending portions of food to each other (9:17)
Adar 15	Jews in Susa rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing (9:18)
Epilogue: What follows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mordecai recorded the events and obliged the Jews to celebrate on the fourteenth and fifteenth of Adar annually; to celebrate by feasting and rejoicing; sending portions of food to each other and giving gifts to the poor (9:20) This to be a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for all those who became Jews (9:27) These days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants (9:28) Mordecai was one who sought the good of his people and one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation (10:3)