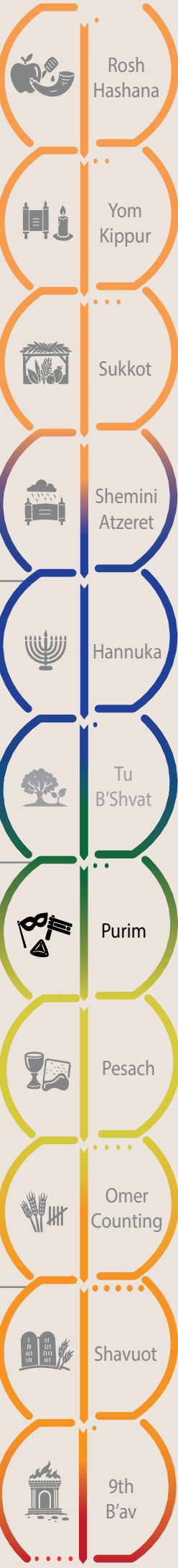


Late Summer/Autumn

Winter

Spring

Summer



Harvest

Pray for Rain

Soil preparation / planting

Pray for Dew

First Fruits / Harvest

# What is Purim?

A festival that celebrates the salvation from a plot to kill all Jews in ancient Persia.

Purim comes from the word "Pur", or a lot that the evil Haman cast to determine the day to kill the Jews.



Ancient Assyrian Pur

A young Jewish woman, Esther, was chosen as the wife of the Persian King Ahasuerus. At an important moment, she revealed her hidden identity as a Jewess and, in doing so, helped save the Jewish people from Haman's evil plot.



A stone relief of King Ahasuerus behind his father, Darius, found in the royal palace at Persepolis, Persia, in modern-day Iran.



## Central Themes of the Day: Hidden Miracles and Reversals



**Reversal** - "v'nahafoch hu," It turned around: where a time of great fear was suddenly turned into a time of great joy and victory.



**Hiddenness:** We dress in costumes to reflect **Esther hiding her Jewish identity** from the Palace. Also, **God's name doesn't appear in the Book of Esther**, showing His guiding hand behind the scenes.



# PURIM פורים

13 Adar: **Fast of Esther**

14 Adar/י"ד באדר: **Purim**

15/ט"ו באדר Adar: **Shushan Purim:** Only Celebrated in Jerusalem (according to the rule of walled cities in ancient times)

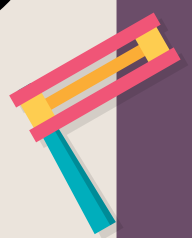
## Purim in Jewish Texts

**The Book of Esther**, or in Hebrew "Megillat Esther" - the Scroll of Esther.



One of the oldest Megillat Esther scrolls - 15th Century

**2 Maccabees 15:36**  
 "... celebrated each year on the eve of **Mordecai's Day**, which is the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, called Adar in Aramaic."





## Why Purim Matters

Purim teaches us to:



Have **faith during difficult times**.



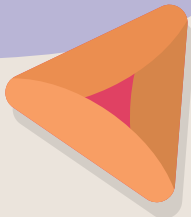
**Take care of our friends** and those less fortunate.



**Stand up for what is right** and take risks to protect the rights and safety of others.



**Acknowledge God** for the miracles He does.



## Key Rituals – then and now

**1 Reading Megillat Esther:** from a scroll written by a Torah Scribe, in the synagogue.

**2 Mishloach Manot:** sending food baskets to friends and family.

**3 Matanot L'evyonim:** giving charity to at least two people in need so that everyone can afford a holiday meal.

**4 Seudah:** a celebratory meal with delicious food and wine.



Esther used her position to help others in a time of need. How can you use your unique talents to help someone in your community?

...and don't forget to dress in a costume!

## The Holiday in Ancient Israel

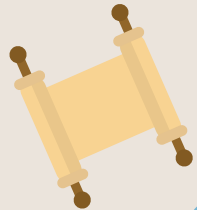
The Jewish-Greek version of the Book of Esther, written in Hasmonean Jerusalem around **78 BCE**, mentions **Purim in Jerusalem and Alexandria**.

**2 Maccabees 15:36:** the Jews keep the Fast of Esther or "Mordecai's Day" around **100 BCE**

**Preparing for Pilgrimage:** In Temple Times, the Sanhedrin sent out workers on the 15th of Adar to clear the roads to Jerusalem and open the rain cisterns for the upcoming pilgrimages.



Cistern (rain storage) at a site in Israel



For more information on Purim

