

The Susa Purim

Only in **Susa** did the fighting last for two days. For that reason **Jews in Susa** celebrated **on the fifteenth day of the twelfth month of Adar** (after the slaughter on the **thirteenth and fourteenth**), whereas the villages celebrated **on the fourteenth day of Adar** (after the slaughter on the **thirteenth**). This special observance of **Purim in Susa** is based upon **Esther 9:18**. On the one hand, it is forbidden to fast or give a funeral address on this special **Susa Purim**; but on the other hand, it is expected to make a feast and rejoice. It is permissible to marry on **the fifteenth day of Adar**, but not **the fourteenth day** because, according to Jewish custom, two joys should not be intermixed.

The rabbis teach that cities that were surrounded by a wall in the days of **Joshua** observe **Susa Purim**, meaning they observe **Purim on the fifteenth day of Adar** based upon **Esther 9:18**. Because Jerusalem was clearly a city surrounded by a wall that is when they observe it. For many cities, there are some doubts as to whether or not they had a wall around them in the days of **Joshua**, so these cities observe it both on **the fourteenth and the fifteenth day**. In Israel today these cities include Joppa, Akko, Gaza, Lod, Tiberious, Shechem, Hebron Safed and Haifa. But the unwalled towns or villages observe it on **the fourteenth day of Adar** in keeping with **Esther 9:19**.¹³⁰