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The Names of the Feast



There are three basic names for this feast. The most common name by far today is **Purim**. This is the biblical name according to **Esther 9:26**. It is the plural form of the singular word *pur,* meaning *lot.* Therefore, **Purim** means *lots,* or *the Feast of Lots*. The reason this name was used is given in **Esther 9:24**, because **Haman had cast the *pur* (that is the lot)** to determine the day to destroy **the Jews**.

A second name is **Mordecai's Day**. This is a name given to the feast in early **Jewish** writings between the TaNaKh and the B'rit Chadashah and is found in one of the apocryphal books, Second Maccabees 15:36. It was given this name because it was actually **Mordecai** who inaugurated the feast **(Esther 9:20-21)**.

The third name is ***Id El Sukar***. This is Arabic, meaning *the sweet festival.* The Arabs of Jerusalem gave this name during the Turkish period (1517 to 1917). It became **the Jewish** custom in Jerusalem to give sugar candies to Moslem authorities on this day, thus, the Arabs began calling this feast the Sweet Festival.[113]