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These Days of Purim Should Never Cease to be Celebrated by the Jews
9: 26b-28

These days of Purim should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews DIG: *Purim* is a most revered Jewish festival, celebrated to this day. Why? How was it first established? How did it get its name? Why is *Purim* celebrated for two days (see **verse 27**)**? What customs make *Purim* different from all the other Jewish festivals? In recounting the story, why do you suppose the Holy Spirit chose to start with Haman's plot, instead of "at the beginning," with Esther's rise to prominence?**

REFLECT: How is the feast of Purim a message of hope to you? What does it say to you, and what should it say to the world, that the feast of Purim has indeed been celebrated without fail from the days of King Ahasuerus until now?



The letter did no more than reinforce and regulate what **Jewish people** everywhere had begun spontaneously to practice **(9:19)**. As a result of the deliverance of **the Jews** from Haman and his followers they made a commitment to remember this event forever. **They** had almost been destroyed as **a people**. **They** could not take **their** existence for granted any longer. The feast would be celebrated annually. **Verses 24** to **28** give a brief summary of the whole episode.

The story, as it were, is telescoped.

Therefore, because of everything written in this letter (9:20-22) and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them by being attacked, **they** were more than ready to remember **Purim every year (9:26b). Their personal experience of being saved by Mordecai's counter-decree** (**to see link click Bi – Now Write a Counter-Decree in the King's Name on Behalf of the Jews**)**, made them all the more willing to accept Purim as a permanent feast. To the oppressed it brings a message of hope.**

The Jews of that generation who had been delivered **took it on themselves to establish the custom** for **themselves and their descendants.** The celebration of **Purim** seems to be regarded by the author as a community decision. **And** not only for **the Jews**, but for **all who join them**, literally, *all the ones attaching themselves on them* (in other words, proselytes to **the Jewish faith**) **should without fail observe these two days every year.** Meaning Gentile converts to **Judaism** would also be bound to keep this **feast**.

In the way prescribed and at the time appointed (9:27). Mordecai's letter had instructed **them** to observe **the feast of Purim** on **the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar (9:21)**. **In addition to the feasting and gladness, sending of food and gifts to the poor, which are prescribed in *the Megillah*, the following observances are obligatory on Purim: the reading of *the Megillah*, evening and morning, with its accompanying blessings and hymns (women are obligated to attend the reading, since it was through a woman that the deliverance was accomplished), and one festive meal towards the evening of the fourteenth *(Se'udath Purim)*. *The Megillah* is read with a traditional chant that is distinct from that used in reading the Pentateuch or the *Haphtarah*. In the course of the centuries, as well, many more observances became customary** (see **Bv – The Feast of Purim in Judaism**)**.**

These days should be remembered by reading *the Megillah*, and according to the famous Rabbi Rashi, observed with feasts, gladness, food and gifts in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city (9:28a). Purim is still celebrated by **the Jews** on **the fourteenth day of Adar**, which on our calendar varies from February to March. In some places that were walled cities in the days of **Joshua** they celebrate on the fifteenth **day of Adar**, called **Susa Purim** (see **By – The Susa Purim**). The thirteenth **day of Adar**

is the fast of **Esther** (see **Bw – The Fast of Esther**).

And these two **days of Purim should never fail to be celebrated by the Jews – nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants (9:28b). The rabbis teach that even if all the seven of the festivals of Isra'el should be annulled, Purim will never be annulled (Midrash).** All those who love the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob everywhere should remember it continually.

The threat that had been intended to annihilate **the Jewish** race in **Persia** became an occasion for unifying it. And the occasion that unified them was **Purim**. When they were scattered all over the world, the children of Abraham participated in the festival of **Purim** and have maintained their distinctiveness from March 8-9, 473 BC until now.

*Dear wonderful and kind Heavenly Father, Praise You for your deliverance of the Jews in the days of **Esther** and praise be to God for all eternity for your great love, rich in mercy that delivered both **Jews** and **Gentiles** from sin's punishment. **But God was rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us. Even when we were dead in our trespasses, He made us alive together with Messiah. By grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5)!** Thank You for your wonderful **gift**! **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves – it is the gift of God. It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).***

Words cannot express the deep appreciation for Your love that sent Messiah Yeshua **to reconcile both [Jew and Gentile] to God in one body through the cross—by which He put the hostility to death. And He came and proclaimed *shalom* to you who were far away and *shalom* to those who were near — for through Him we both have access to the Father by the same *Ruach (Ephesians 2:16-18).***

How fantastic your indwelling of those who love you. (John 14:16-17, 23). I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and

established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:16-19a NIV). *Love You much our Mighty Sovereign Loving Heavenly Father, Ruach Ha'Kodesh and Messiah Yeshua. In Yeshua's holy name and power of His resurrection. Amen*