



## **Pictures and Shadows of Purim (Feast of Lots)**

**Esther** – A picture of the true Church: obedient, (2:20) faithful, willing to lose her life, respectful of authority, courageous, beautiful, walking in humility, fasting and praying, seeking God. In covenant with the Jewish people but this relationship is not generally known by most others. Carries the full authority of the King and His signet ring to issue decrees that cannot be revoked. (Esther 8:8) Anointed with oil of myrrh (symbolic of suffering) as well as beautifying preparations and perfumes (Esther 2:12) The suffering we go through purifies and beautifies us.

**Vashti** – A picture of the false (apostate) Church: lives in the King's house (Palace) but occupied with her own agenda (party); too concerned with her own self-seeking activities to obey the summons from the King. (1:12) Beauty is only superficial – looks good on the outside but rotten inside. Rebellious towards authority (Husband, pastor, Holy Spirit) A type of Jezebel. (Rev. 2:20) Encourages contempt for authority in others – her rebellion is contagious. Will be banished from the Kingdom in shame due to her rebellion and disobedience, pride. Her royal position will be given to another who is better than she.” (Esther 1:19)

**Mordechai** – A picture of the Holy Spirit – He adopts and raises the church in God's ways (Esther 2:7); instructs, teaches, leads and guides into all truth; instructs when to speak and when to remain silent; (2:10; 4:14) faithfully watches over the Bride of the King – stands outside the gate; hovers over us to keep tabs on us (2:11) protective; privy to all secret information (the plot against the king). Intercedes for God's people with groanings. (Esther 4:1) (Romans 8:26) Gives direction to the church and convicts of sin (Do not remain silent....) Will not bow down to the enemy. Will not be moved. Partners with Esther (the church) to carry out the authority of the King.

**Haman** – A picture of the anti-Christ – the same spirit of Amalek that as in Pharaoh and in Hitler and today operates in Islam that wants full subjugation of all God's people to the powers of darkness. The pride of his heart has deceived him (Obadiah 1:3) (Hamas today = violence)

## Lessons from the book of Esther:

1. God is always at work behind the scenes (God's name not mentioned in book of Esther)
2. It's not over till it's over – Haman thought his evil plan was as good as done!
3. We have been called to royal position for such a time as this (1 Pet 2:9) – the moral responsibility of the Church to intercede for the lives and souls of people
4. Whatever evil people do to us will return upon their own heads – trust God to bring justice in His way and His timing & to intervene to prevent evil schemes from coming to pass against His people.
5. Obedience will cost us and will cost others – because Mordechai refused to bow to Haman, all the Jewish people were in danger of destruction.

## Thanksgiving:

- That God has made us to be a Royal Kingdom of priests (cohanim) 1 Peter 2:9
- That we have been born for such a time as this (Esther 4:14)
- That we have a voice and can speak up for those being led to the slaughter (If you remain silent.... (watchmen on the walls do not keep silent until... Isa. 62:6)
- That we can trust God is working behind the scenes to bring salvation & deliverance
- That we are all members of the commonwealth of Israel and equal heirs, One new man in Messiah; partakers of the covenants of promise, (Eph. 2:11-18)
- That the King has given us full authority to write out our own decree in His name and seal it with His signet ring (Esther 8:8)
- That the battle is the Lord's – deliverance and salvation is from Him (Psalm 44:4-7)

## Petitioning the King:

- Boldly: **“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”** (Hebrews 4:16)
- With confidence that our prayers will be answered (John 16:23)
- Desperately and passionately: **“For how can I bear to see the evil/destruction that will come upon my people?”** (Esther 8:6)

**Requests:** As Esther pleaded with the King for mercy for the Jewish people.

- That Yehovah Tz'vaot (God of heavenly armies) will come to the aid and defense of the Jewish people who have been left in the diaspora and those presently in Israel from all anti-Semites and forces of destruction.
- That every evil plan and scheme of the enemy against God's people will be frustrated, brought to nothing, annulled, made of no effect, returned upon their own heads. Ps 83
- That the Jewish people will turn back to God with a spirit of grace and supplication, with weeping and lamentation and put their trust in Him and recognize His Son, Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah. **“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they**

**pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (Zech. 12:10)**

- That they will not only be saved physically but also spiritually for eternity.
- That the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) and Jews of every city in the Diaspora (outside Israel) will gather together to protect themselves from anti-Semitism; to rise up in the spirit of David to **“destroy, kill, and completely wipe out the armies of any nation or state who attacks them. (Esther 8:11) “In that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” (Zech. 12:9)**
- That the feeblest among them will be like the mighty King David
- **“In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David...**
- That God, in His mercy, will raise up the true Esther Church and open her eyes to the revelation of His heart for Israel and the Jewish people. She will stand with Israel like Ruth with Naomi, an ‘unto death’ commitment borne out of love.
- That the fear of the Lord will come upon the enemies of Israel (even potential Islamic suicide bombers) so that they will join our side. (Esther 8:17)
- “Thus says the Lord of Hosts: In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” (Zech 8:23)
- That even the spoil of the enemy will come into the hands of God’s people (Esther 8:11)
- That the angel Michael, one of the chief princes, will come to help defeat the Prince of Persia. (Daniel 10:13)
- That God in heaven would reveal any secret plots of the wicked to His people (Daniel 2:19,28)
- That God’s people would have the courage not to bow to anything or anyone other than God. (Daniel 3:12)

May these decrees be written in the name above all names, Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus the Messiah) and sealed with the signet ring of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

## **Purim Customs, Traditions and Recipes**

Traditionally, on Purim, Jewish people bake triangular shaped cookies called Hamantaschen, also called Oznei Haman in Hebrew, meaning the ears of Haman. These are sent, along with other treats, in little gift baskets to family and friends as well as to the poor and needy as commanded. **“...that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.” (Esther 9:22)**

This is called Shalach Manot. Remembering the poor is extremely important in God’s sight and is specifically mentioned in several scriptures: **“He who has mercy on the poor, happy (in Hebrew Ashrei – blessed, rich) is he....He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.” (Proverbs 14:21, 31).**

It honors God to have mercy on the poor and needy; He richly repays those who heed this command. Perhaps a family could bake some hamantaschen and take a batch to elderly Jewish people in a local nursing home?

### Hamentashen Cookie Dough

3 eggs	½ c. water
1 c. oil	½ c. orange juice
1 c. sugar	1/8 tsp. salt
2 tsp baking powder	4 c. flour (approximately)

Combine ingredients in order given, using enough flour to make a soft dough which is not sticky. Let stand 15 minutes. Divide into 4 parts. Roll to ¼" thickness on a floured board. Cut into 4" circles. Place a spoonful of desired filling in the centre of each circle. Form triangles by folding sides in towards the middle. Brush with beaten egg. Bake on a lightly greased baking sheet at 350 for 30 minutes, until golden brown. Yield: about 5 dozen.

### Prune filling

1 lb. prunes, stewed, pitted& chopped	½ lemon, juice and rind
1 c. raisings, shopped	¼ c. bread crumbs
¼ c. chopped nuts	½ c. sugar
	1 tbsp. honey

Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly

### Poppy seed filling

½ lb. poppy seed	2 tbsp. sugar
4 tbsp. honey	juice of ½ lemon

Soak the poppy seed in boiling water overnight. Drain, dry and grind through food chopper, using finest blade. Add remaining ingredients and mix well.

Note: Any kind of jam or alternate filling may also be used. Our children love to use nutella, a chocolate and nut based spread in their hamentashen. Be sure to let the children help make these!

### Purim crafts

#### Home made grogger (noisemaker)

Put a handful of popping corn into a large, empty juice can (with only 2 holes at the top that were used for pouring). Trace the base of the can onto a cardboard. Cut the cardboard and trim the circle so it fits snugly onto the side of the can. Decorate the can by covering it with felt and gluing it on with household cement to also cover the holds so corn can't escape. Add decorations and coloring with felts. Use groggers to drown out the name of the villain, Haman, and by stamping, yelling, and general ra'ash (noise). A stop and go sign can be used by the leader to help control the bedlam and continue the reading of the megilla (book of Esther).

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