

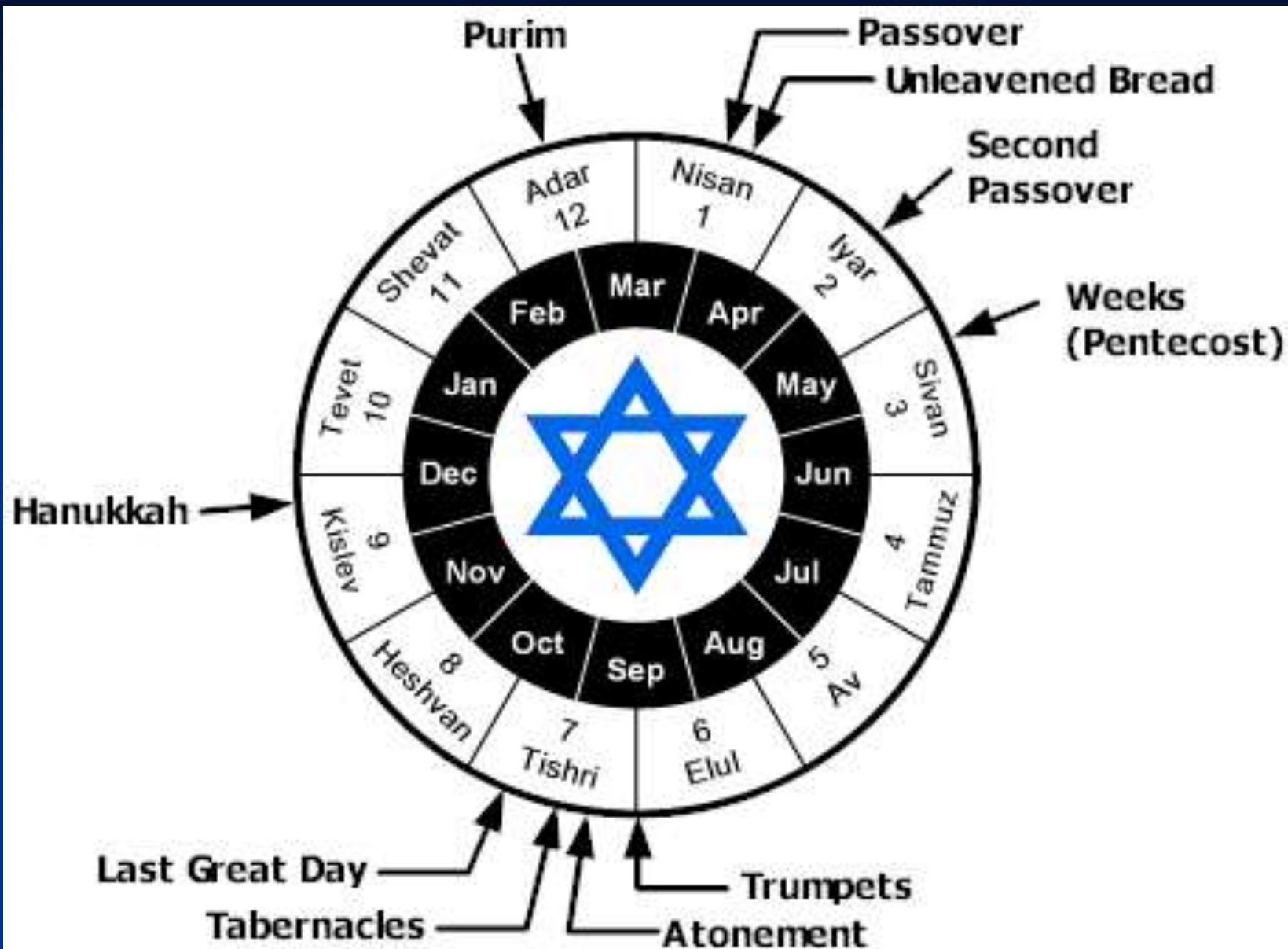
‘IF I PERISH - I PERISH’

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THE FESTIVAL OF PURIM

- Purim is a festive Jewish holiday that celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from their enemies in the biblical Book of Esther. Purim is to be a *'day of feasting and gladness'* for the Jewish people, celebrated on the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Adar. The term Purim derived from the villain of the story, Haman, cast the "pur" (the lot) against the Jews yet failed to destroy them.





KEEPING THE SHABBAT IS THE MARK OF YAH UPON US

- Esther's secret Jewish life in the palace is exemplary. She maintains kashrut by claiming special dietary needs for her health. She keeps Shabbat, in addition to the rest of the mitzvot. The Midrash (Rabbinical writing) tells us that, while in captivity as a Persian queen, when Esther prays for Jewish redemption she reminds Yahweh that she has kept the Torah, and particularly the Jewish woman's mitzvot of family purity; Shabbat candle lighting and challah baking.

THE TORAH IN YOUR HEART

- Esther faces a difficult challenge being surrounded by the amenities of palace life, while maintaining her Jewish faith. As queen, she has access to the riches of an entire kingdom and can choose to give up her identity for the sake of luxury. Instead she keeps Torah in secret and, ultimately, risks her life in order to save her people.





DISCERNING YAHWEH'S TIMING

- Esther risks her life to maintain her Judaism. She ultimately triumphs, because she knows when to speak out and when to remain silent. Thus she is praised for keeping quiet - for hiding what is precious to her until it is to her and her people's benefit to reveal the truth. Esther sent out an edict to the Jews to fast and pray for three days for their redemption. Because Esther had the ability to discern Yahweh's perfect timing, she was able to obtain the King's favour and save her people.
- The very fact that Esther behaves with such honor - especially under life threatening circumstances - paves the way for her role as heroine.



The Unbroken Lineage: Esther to Yahshua

- Yahweh boldly gave the people of Israel the plan by which Messiah would appear, and He even gave the precise timetable! In Daniel 9:24-27, which Yahweh gave to Daniel approximately 553 BC, Yahweh foretold that, from the going forth of the Decree to rebuild Jerusalem, to the coming of Messiah, was to be 69 Jewish Weeks of Years, or 483 Jewish years. Since the Decree of Artaxerxes was issued in 456 BC, anyone could have counted forward to see when Yahshua would be declared as the Jewish Messiah and when He would die.
- This period of 483 Jewish years is 173,880 days. Counting forward from the Decree of Artaxerxes, we come to Palm Sunday, 33 A.D., when the multitude declared that Yahshua was the Jewish Messiah. Just 5 days later, Yahshua was unjustly tried and crucified, in complete and absolute fulfilment of Daniel 9:24-27. Now you know why Yahshua said, on several occasions during His ministry, "My time is not yet come" [John 7:6, 8, 30; 2

THE MESSIANIC LINE OF YAHSHUA

- If Yahweh gave His precise timetable to the people of Israel, through the Prophet Daniel, in 553 BC, you can guarantee that HaSatan was determined to prevent Yahshua from appearing on this time schedule. Yahweh foretold that Messiah would come directly from King David. [Isaiah 9:2-7; Jeremiah 33:15-17, 20-22; Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-27; Hosea 3:5; Amos 9:11; Zechariah 12:6-10].
- Therefore, you could expect that HaSatan would try to attack the Davidic lineage in the intervening 483 years. HaSatan did just exactly that, with his greatest attack coming during the reign of Queen Esther. If Queen Esther and her people had perished at that time, the Davidic lineage to Yahshua would have been broken.

QUEEN ESTHER -- PRESERVING THE LINE OF MESSIAH

THE CRUCIAL TIME LINE

- 4001 BC Messianic promise in Garden of Eden [Genesis 3:15]
- 3874 BC Seth, Head of the Messianic Line
- 3382 BC Enoch, Gentile, Raptured @ 365 years of age.
- 2948 BC Noah and the Great Global Flood
- 2446 BC Shem, Noah's Eldest Son, direct line to Yahshua
- 1996 BC Abraham, declared to be the head of the Messianic nation, Israel
- 1896 BC Isaac, heir to the Messianic Promise
- 1836 BC Jacob, Father of Israel and the 12 Tribes
- 1740 circa Judah born, head of the tribe from which Yahshua will come
- 1055 BC King David assumes position of King of Israel. Yahweh promises David that Messiah will come from his family line.

- **606 BC Israel destroyed in Judgment. Jews taken captive by Babylon**
- **536-516 BC A few Jews return to Jerusalem. Most stay in their new Pagan homes**
- **478 BC Jewish Esther becomes Queen of Persia**
- **473 BC Queen Esther saves Jewish nation. Messianic line preserved**
- **445 BC Artaxerxes issues decree to rebuild Jerusalem, starting Messianic Countdown to Palm Sunday and Yahshua's crucifixion**
- **430 BC End of the Old Testament Era (Malachi)**
- **396 BC Nehemiah oversees rebuilding effort. Project completed in 49 years, just as the first portion of the 70 Weeks of Years requires**

- **Yahshua is born, according to the lineage of King David, and right on time with prophecy. " But when the fullness of the time was come, Yahweh sent forth his Son ..." [Galatians 4:4]**
- **33 A.D. Yahshua declared to be Messiah on Palm Sunday, crucified 5 days later, precisely on time. First 69 Weeks of Years has been completed perfectly, and on time. 70th Week is Great Tribulation Period.**
- **70 A.D. Jewish Temple totally destroyed -- Fulfilment of Yahshua's prophecy in Matthew 24:1-21**
- **35 A.D. Jewish worldwide dispersion begins, all in fulfilment of Yahweh's warnings starting in Deuteronomy 28:15-68, but especially verses 58-68**
- **1948 A.D. Israel reborn in one day, as Yahweh had prophesied. End of the Age begins and Times of the Gentiles comes to a close.**

HE IS SOVERIEGN

- This story of Queen Esther has great implications for us today. Yahweh is Sovereign, and HaSatan is no match for HIM. Even in the most dismal of circumstances, you can rest assured that you are more than conquerors through Him! As we approach the End of the Age, many people will stand against Israel and its people but Yahweh has told us that if he is for us, no man can stand against us. And if we keep his mitzvots (commandments) and seek his guidance he will protect us from our enemies as he did for Queen Esther and his people in 473 BC.
- Finally, we can rest assured that Yahweh's same power which foiled Haman's plan will work to ultimately foil the plan of the Anti-messiah. Read and know the prophecies of the Book of Revelation, and of the Minor and Major Prophets, as they are all going to come to pass.

SECRETS OF SUCCESS FROM THE LIFE OF QUEEN ESTHER

- In the life of Queen Esther we find that Yahweh had placed people in her path to help her and show her favour. When she was a helpless orphan girl she had an uncle Mordecai who came forward to adopt her. When she was in the palace she had favour in the eyes of Hegai who was in charge of the arrangements. Finally she had favour in the eyes of the king who chose her to be the next queen and again once more when she pleaded with the king to save her people. To be successful we need favour in the eyes of Yahweh and man. We need supporters who will stand with us and help us to fight against those who persecute Israel and the Jewish people. We will now look at the ways in which Esther's attributes helped her to gain favour throughout her life.

SUBMISSION

- Esther was an obedient and submissive person. She obeyed the instructions of Mordecai not to reveal her Jewish identity. This was not an isolated incident but her way of life. She was always obedient to Mordecai when she lived in his house. Even when she was about to be presented before the king she allowed Hegai to decide what she had to wear. She respected the superior wisdom and experience of Hegai. We need such a submissive and teachable spirit in order to be successful in life.

SUPPLICATION

- Esther fasted for three days and called on her people to join her in the fast before she undertook her mission to save her people from destruction. She did not rush into action in pride and enthusiasm thinking she could do everything in her own strength. We need such humility and supplication to seek God 's favour before we undertake tasks and endeavours in our lives.

SACRIFICE

- Esther took a risk to save her people. She went to the presence of the king without being summoned which meant death. Without this willingness on her part to even sacrifice her life to save her people she would not have succeeded in her mission. We need such a willingness to sacrifice in order to be successful in our lives.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Purim reminds us that in every generation, there are those who rise up to destroy us, but Yahweh saves us from their hand. In the time of the Book of Esther, Haman was the one who tried to destroy us. In modern times, there have been two significant figures who have threatened the Jewish people, and there are echoes of Purim in their stories.
- Many have noted the echoes of Purim in the Nuremberg war crime trials. In the Book of Esther, Haman's ten sons were hanged (Esther 9:13); in 1946, ten of Hitler's top associates were put to death by hanging for their war crimes (including the crime of murdering 6 million Jews). An 11th associate of Hitler, Hermann Göring, committed suicide the night before the execution, a parallel to the suicide of Haman's daughter recorded in the Talmud (Megillah 16a).
- Another echo of Purim is found in the Soviet Union a few years later. In early 1953, Stalin was planning to deport most of the Jews in the Soviet Union to Siberia, but just before his plans came to fruition, he suffered a stroke and died a few days later. He suffered that stroke on the night of March 1, 1953: the night after Purim (note: Jewish days end at sunset; you will see March 1 on the calendar as Purim). The plan to deport Jews was not carried out.

*Pray for the peace
of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls..."*
(Psalm 122:6-7 NIV)

WE STAND



WITH ISRAEL

"I will bless those who bless you,
and I will curse him who curses you.

In you will all of the families
of the earth be blessed."

Genesis 12:3

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