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ESTHER – PART 6  
THE CELEBRATION OF PURIM

The celebratory feast of Purim was held in the provinces on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Adar. In Shushan, along with some walled cities, it was held on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Today only Jerusalem and a few cities celebrate on both the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> while others celebrate on the 14<sup>th</sup> which is exactly one month before Passover. Interestingly, both Purim and Passover commemorate a miraculous delivery.

How is Purim celebrated today? It is a jubilant occasion with partying, drinking, and wearing of masks. The Jews give gifts of Food to the poor called “mishloach manot.” This is done on Purim night after sundown.

On the full day of Purim, they read the book of Esther. They call the book “the megilloth.” The reading of it is called the “megillah reading” and is usually done as they gather in the synagogue.

They also celebrate at home with a meal called “Seudat Purim.” A special feature of the meal is a triangular yeast cake filled with either a mixture of poppy seed and honey or with a prune paste. It is called “hamantasch,” or the “hamantaschen.” It is a compound word for “Haman” plus “tasch” (pocket). Esther got into Haman’s pocket in that the king gave her all his possessions. She “cleaned his pockets.”

After the meal they say grace (thanksgiving) and then do recitations of the megillah with people taking turns speaking the parts of various individuals in the Book of Esther (the megilloth). They also send out gifts.

Celebrations of history like Purim and Hanukkah along with the seven feasts of the LORD are what have kept the proud identity as Jews for over three thousand years. This is despite the fact that most of that time they were scattered across the world with no homeland of their own. This shows how God will preserve His chosen people. This also includes all of us who have accepted Jesus, Yeshuah Ha Mashiach, as our Savior. We have also been chosen by God to be his people.

In the end times we will be spared the demonic fury unleashed on the earth as seen in Revelation. That does not mean that we will not escape persecution to which we will surely be subjected. Some will even be martyred. Our protection is from the entities released from hell to torment all who do not have the mark of Christ. Those “scorpions” cannot “sting” us. The remnant will be protected just as the Jews have been preserved unto this time.