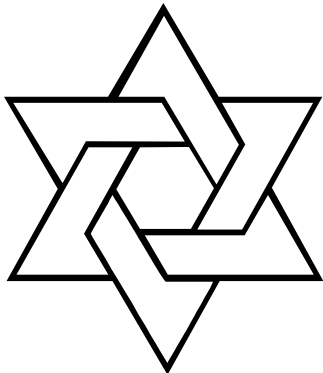
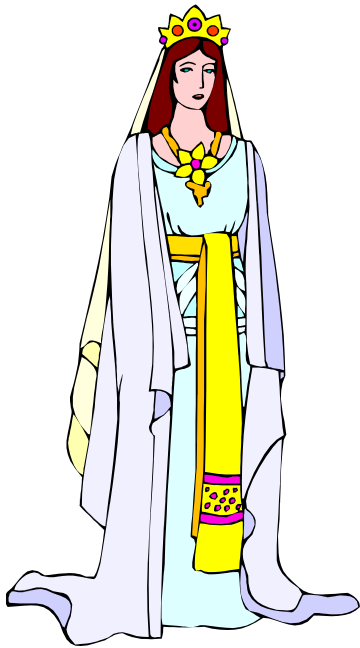


# MESSIANIC MINUTES

Volume I, Issue 3



## PURIM

BY TED SIMON

The story is simple: Twenty-five hundred years ago a Jewish orphan, Esther, married the King of Persia (modern-day Iran). The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, watching over His Word to perform it, allowed this Jewish Queen and her Uncle Mordechai to thwart the plot by the King's Prime Minister Haman. Haman was supernaturally intent on destroying all the Jewish people, taking all their goods and thereby showing that the God of the Hebrews, the God of the Bible, couldn't or wouldn't keep His Word concerning Israel.

The Biblical account of this historical event is found in The Book of Esther!

The defeat of the evil Haman, and the subsequent return of the Jewish people to The Land promised to Abraham, showed once again that God is Faithful and His rule is intertwined with the destiny of the Jewish people. There is a theme of God's and the Jewish people's ultimate victory



Rabbi Simon entertains a group of costumed children with the Purim story

over injustice and evil. The archenemy Haman was a descendant physically and spiritually from the Amelikitites. Many students of medieval history claim that Germany and its ruler Hitler evolved from Edom and the Amelikitites.

The absence of any reference to God is a most striking feature of the Book of Esther. Yet God's hand is clearly at work, and it is His Will that is done.

Today we celebrate the victory of God and His

Chosen people over Amelik and the forces of evil. We remember that it was during Purim that Sadaam Hussein fired scud missiles at Israel. We remember that the rise of anti-Semitism in today's Europe is a manifestation of evil. That we war not against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities. And even though we fight against unimaginably horrible threats, through our God we shall do valiantly – for it is He who trends down the enemy.

(Continued on page 2)

## THE FEAST OF PURIM

BY JEFFERY D. MILLER

The Book of Esther is one of the easiest to read books of the entire Bible . . . I strongly suggest you read it. It is a relatively short, quick moving story about the events leading up to the **Feast of Purim**, celebrated March 18th this year.

The Hebrew word *Purim* means lots, as in the casting of lots. It is so named because the villain in the story,

an evil man named Haman, cast lots to determine when he should execute his plan to essentially eliminate the Jewish people from the face of the earth. As you read this wonderful true story, you will see how the efforts of Satan over the millennia were revealed as Anti-Semitism (hatred of the Jews). The devil's constant desire is to wreck God's plans for us. Now

if Satan could rid the earth of the Jews, then he would thwart God's plan.

Surely Hitler was following Satan when he carried out his Holocaust. And there have been many other efforts such as the Spanish Inquisition with the same basic goal. Look at Esther 3:8 to see the root of

(Continued on page 3)

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## PURIM

*(Continued from page 1)*

Today we celebrate Purim predominantly in the synagogue. We celebrate it in community, because it was the entire Jewish community that was threatened and the entire Jewish community that was saved.

The book of Esther is read aloud. The whole book! And the kids love it! Why? Because every time the wicked name of Hamen is mentioned (which is quite a lot - 54 times!) all the children get to scream, hiss and boo. They are even given special noisemakers to create a cacophony of sound, in order to blot out the name of Hamen.

When Esther or Mordechai's name is

mentioned in the telling of the story, the children all get to cheer.

Also, before the reading begins a collection is taken up for the poor. Jewish people are always looking for ways to bless the least of their brethren. Gift-giving reminds the community of brotherly love and unity. The sending of gifts is a Biblically based - see Esther 9:19 and 9:22. In fact, Purim - even more than Hanukkah - was the traditional time of Jewish gift giving!

The reading also includes a special mention of Kharvonah, the servant who alerted the King that the gallows were already erected, and Hamen and his family could immediately receive judgment and justice. Kharvonah is a righteous gentile. Jewish people have always been blessed by gentiles who hear the voice of

God and come alongside to help the Jewish people.

Sometimes instead of a straight reading of the Purim Story (the *Megillah*) a play is performed. Sometimes these plays are Biblical accounts of the story, and sometimes they are modern day, often humorous, analogies.

After the reading of the story it's time to eat. One traditional food is a special (and very yummy) triangle-shaped pastry. Each pastry is filled with a fruit or poppy seed filling. The triangular shape reminds us of Hamen's hat - or some say Hamen's ears!

Sometimes carnivals are held at Purim to celebrate God's promises to the Jewish people. Costumes are worn and games played. The games and costumes usually have a Biblical theme.

The Bible teaches us to taste and see that the Lord is Good. By celebrating Purim in a manner that is fun and biblically based, the truths of God's Word are taught to the youngsters and enjoyed by all in the congregation.



Delicious Hamentashen!

## A HIGHER LEVEL

BY TED SIMON

God's Truths are in His Word! Neither God nor His Word ever changes! He is unchangeable and His Love endures forever!

Yet, while there is no shadow of turning in Him and His Word is established, new insights and revelations have become part of the awareness, the consciousness of the followers of Messiah, ever since he began discipling some Jewish fishermen two-thousand years ago.

Each generation has walked and acted in a partial

knowledge and vision—as through a glass darkly. There have been times when previous insights have been lost, forgotten or abandoned—or simply ignored! Darkness covered the earth, the pulpits and the hearts of those hoping to follow the Savior: had it not been for a few Irish missionary scribes the Dark Ages would have swallowed the Light.

Truths that were buried by prejudice or expediency were uncovered, brushed off, and now shine as statements of God's Faithfulness. Certainly

the Truth about Israel and the Jewish People has become clearer, more in-focus, as the Church rediscovers her very Jewish roots, and Believers everywhere gain deeper appreciation of Torah and Hebraic thought. Talk radio and TV shows are abuzz with Bible-based reasons why we should bless Israel and the Jewish people. There is a real rediscovery that those who bless Abraham will be blessed, while those who curse him and his descendants, the children of Israel, will be cursed.

Christian Zionists, once considered fringe and strange, are now decidedly mainstream. The truths from

the Bible that they've held to—often through storms of scorn and derision—have recently become very acceptable in Church and on Christian radio and TV. The mystery of the Church and the Jewish people is a little less cloudy, a tad less mysterious.

That the Church should support Israel and bless the Jewish people has led evangelicals to the forefront of benevolent relationships. Christians, especially evangelicals, have become Israel's best friends, and at times her only allies.

Christians have given tens of millions of dollars to Coalitions and Fellowships of Christians and Jews in order to help bring Jewish people back to the

# The Feast of Purim

(Continued from page 1)

this. Haman is convincing the Persian King (the king of what was then the greatest empire on earth) that he should get rid of the Jews because, "They are a people different from us who serve another set of laws. Therefore it is not fitting to let them remain." He was really saying the Jews worshiped El Elyon, the Most High God, and so didn't fit in his pagan world. He was specifically upset that, though he was the king's right-hand man in this great empire, one Jewish man named Mordecai refused to bow down to him. But Haman's plot was

foiled because God had placed Esther, a Jewish woman, to be the King's favorite Queen. The Feast of Purim celebrates the victory of God's chosen over the forces of evil represented by Haman, despite almost impossible circumstances.

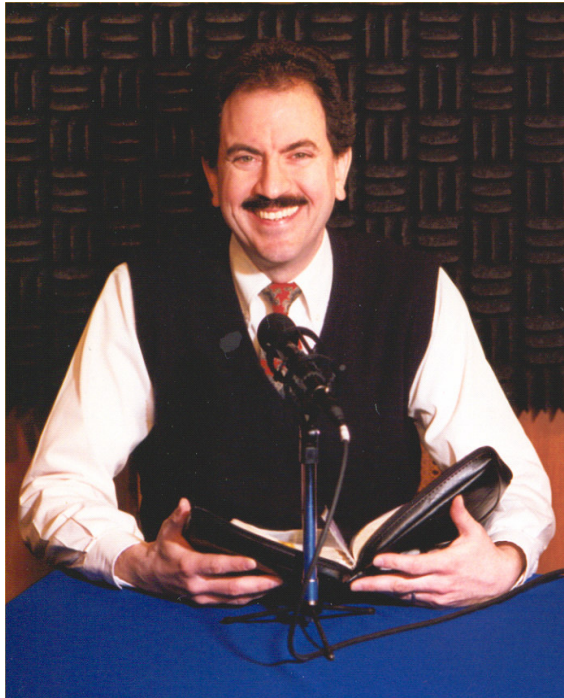
God warned us

through the Book of Esther of those who would be motivated to come against His chosen for reasons which border on insanity. Yet, amazingly, many of those who have followed in Haman's footsteps have

today's radical Muslim terrorists, it's still the same: hate and destroy God's Israel.

Jewish people need to know the reason God saved them from complete destruction. It was to preserve the heritage necessary to bring the Messiah Yeshua to the earth. It was to hold true to the covenant promise He had made with Abraham.

And that covenant is still in effect today. Just as the Hand of God rescued the Jews time and time again in the Tenach (Hebrew Scriptures), so did Jesus come to rescue the Jews once for all time. So Purim is really a holiday that suggests God's salvation for His Jewish people. . . Yeshua, Jesus!



Jeffrey D. Miller

claimed a biblical basis for their acts of evil.

You see, thousands of years ago Satan's plan was still the same: destroy Israel. From those days, to the Spanish Inquisition, to the Holocaust, to

Land of Israel from Russia and Ethiopia. Tens of millions more have been donated by Christians to feed and house immigrants, plant trees in the Land, bless the government, and show their love and concern. Much money has been given in the hopes that some restitution for the atrocities of the past could be made!

Christians have prayed for the Jewish People and the enemies of the Jewish people. They have prayed for the peace of Jerusalem.

All this good work has been the result of Bible Truths re-entering the Church and individual believers. These truths find fertile soil of com-

passion and Berian-like searching out of the Word, and lead to many churches and individuals acting in harmony with the Scriptures.

Christians have blessed Israel. They've blessed the Jewish people. They've blessed the rabbis and Yeshiva students. Christians have blessed the Knesset and the forests, the immigrants and the charitable outreaches. They've blessed programs to help drug abusers and the destitute in Israel. Christians have blessed Israel's industry and crops, its borders, streams, and mountains.

Christians over the

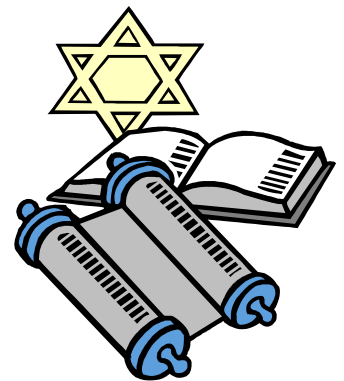
past years have given hundreds of millions to Jewish causes. But there's a higher level!

For years it was fine to walk in the revelation that blessing anything Jewish was a *mitzvah*. But today there is a deeper revelation. There is a new wind! And it's leading sincere Christians to begin targeting their prayers: blessings and giving to Jewish people who Love Messiah and are sharing their trust and faith in Him with others. Christians are waking up, as a person does out of a dreamy sleep, that Now is The Time to Favor Zion. They are rubbing their eyes and seeing that the Messianic Believers are the rightful recipients of

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*The Feast of Purim celebrates the victory of God's chosen over the forces of evil... despite almost impossible circumstances.*

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their blessings, prayers and financial gifts.

It's no longer good enough to bless Rabbi Saul and just anything Jewish. Now is the time to bless the Apostle Paul and the work of the Spirit in the hearts of Jewish people around the world, but most especially in Israel.

## Messianic Minutes

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*Messianic Minutes is a five minute daily radio program (with seasonal half-hour specials) aimed at bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people through Bible believing Christian listeners. The good news is that the Kingdom is available to you now! The program is hosted by Jeffrey D. Miller and Rabbi Ted Simon, two Jewish men who love Yeshua (Jesus), the Jewish Messiah.*



## RABBI SIMON WRITES A BOOK



Rabbi Ted Simon

Rabbi Ted Simon has just completed the last chapter of a new book! Begun in August, this work deals with bringing the Church to the next level of understanding regarding the mystery of Jewish people coming to faith in Messiah and the times in which we live. Totally based in Scripture and drawing on years of preaching and studying Jewish and Church history, the ten-chapter work will help Believers better target their prayers and their giving to coincide with what God is doing today in Israel and around the world.

The book, which is still untitled, is now being edited. The next step will be securing a publisher who is willing to take a stand for righteousness, and boldly market this work that will bring increased revelation to The Body of Messiah.