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THE FESTIVAL OF PURIM

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Date in Hebrew Calendar: 14th and 15th of Adar March 19-20
Scriptural references: Esther 9:20-22.

The story of Purim is related in the Book of Esther. Haman, the evil Prime Minister of Persia, tried to destroy the Jewish people living in the empire. Through the great courage of the Jewish Queen Esther, and the wisdom of her uncle Mordechai, the scheme came to naught and the Jewish people were delivered from destruction - one of many miraculous deliverances.

A two-day holiday was instituted to commemorate this event.

Even though God is not mentioned in this book, His hand can be clearly seen in the many miraculous twists of the story and prophetic insights.

Today, Purim is celebrated in Jewish and Christian homes. Special foods are shared. The Book of Esther is read and re-enacted. It is a joyous and light-hearted event, but it recalls great danger, great deliverance and the great faithfulness of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob toward those who trust in Him.