



*A Family Friendly Guide to the
Celebration of Purim!*

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Letter from Manna



If you're not careful, when you first begin to study and keep the Feasts (and even sometimes when you've been doing it for years!) it can be easy to get caught up in the "do's and don'ts" so much that we miss the beauty of the festival & they become a burden!

Purim is definitely not excluded from its share of arguments...its not listed in Leviticus 23 (neither is Hanukkah) as one of the official Festivals of Yahweh. Therefore the validity of this day is questioned as is it's status as a "chag"/feast! Yet we will touch on this more later and allow you to decide for you and your household.

The festivals were to be the highlight of our year! There are many traditions that surround each one because they each have thousands of years of history! But if we get so caught up in trying to "keep the traditions", we can miss the entire point of the feast itself!

First and foremost, this is a Divine Appointment with Yahweh! It's all about Him! Secondly, these festivals were to be a joyous time and they were family oriented! This "guide" is to help explain the basics of the festival and also give you and your family ideas to help make it your own.

It's our family history, it's our future, & it's our story!

Introduction



Esther 9:26 – “Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them”

Purim פורים is established in the book of Esther. It's entire story, reason, and history is found here. It is celebrated every year on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Adar. The book and the festival based off of it share intertwined fates. Though wholly accepted within the Jewish community (yet perhaps the meaning has been glossed over and “carnivalized” to where it begins to lose the lessons), the fate of Esther and Purim are not quite as grounded among the rest of the “believing” community (Hebrew Roots).

There is no other canonized book or Festival reviled more than that of Esther and the festival of Purim. It begs the question why? When looking at the significance of Purim, perhaps it is a mirror that is difficult to look into. Purim is a reminder that we too are in exile...we too have made decisions (or followed in the steps of forefathers) who have caused us to be in a foreign land, outside of Covenant, looking more like the nations we have assimilated into rather than Israel – His People! What is the mask we wear?

Further, the most common argument used is that both Esther and Purim simply bear no mention of the Name of YHVH in the text and therefore, have no place among the ‘legitimate’ texts or festivals found in Leviticus 23.

It is interesting that the very arguments against this book and festival reveal the very theme and message of what it is! Purim is the festival of hiding – yes Yahweh’s Name is hidden...the nation of Israel itself is hidden within the vestiges of Exile, Hadassah’s true identity is cloaked within the identity of the Persian Esther, and the schemes of Haman are hidden for a time. And today we find the arguments that surround its legitimacy as well serve to hide perhaps deeper sentiments – our own unwillingness to change our garments and reveal who we truly are if it brings detriment to our way of life?

Could it be that the whole lesson and purpose of Esther and Purim is concerning the hidden things that in due time will be revealed?

Secrets of Purim



Esther is not a stand-alone book – in fact when placed on the timeline, she’s a contemporary with Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Joel, & Jeremiah! Further, the Scriptures clearly state that both Daniel and Nehemiah spent time at Shushan while in exile, the same city where Esther is found (Neh. 1:1 & Dan. 8:2)! Could it be that the hidden nature of Yahweh in the book of Esther

ties in perfectly with the role of Daniel in “sealing up the books” till the end?

Daniel 12:4 – “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end...”

Is the story of Esther actually living out what the prophets were foretelling – a physical picture of the very prophesies being given? Interesting points for sure!

The theme of Esther and Purim is that of the Bride being hidden until a future time of great upheaval – another encounter with Haman, the Anti-Messiah. Yet masked further underneath, is the revelation that the language of Torah, the Hebrew tongue, was also to be hidden until this final encounter, where the Bride and her kindred and her people will be revealed. Esther is the story of the exiles, hidden among the nations – their lineage masked by their exile identities, yet a time will come when they must shed that and reveal that they are in fact Israel – Yashar-El, those who stand upright and walk in Covenant with the Great I AM! And as their (OUR) identity is restored, with it comes the language, the Scripture once again reveals the hidden treasures within, and a new understanding is given to those with ears to hear. This revelation becomes the very means by which they are able to stand against the Enemy, and the LIVING WORD of Yahweh becomes a refuge in the days of trouble.

Not only is the book of Esther a clue into what is taking place during this time frame of history (the hiding of the language of Hebrew and many truths of the Torah as the people of Israel are scattered into exile), but it also becomes a foreshadowing of how in the end days the Bride would rise up and reveal their identity and by doing so gain access to the very means of their deliverance!

Further delving into this concept, let’s take a look at the name of Esther! Esther is translated as meaning “star” but yet it can also mean “hidden” – coincidence? We don’t think so! But her name has much further reaching connections than just this!

Deuteronomy 31:18 – “And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.”

וְאֶנֶכִּי הַסְתֵּר אֶסְתִּיר פָּנַי בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא עַל כָּל־הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה כִּי פָנָה אֶל־אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים:

The phrase in Hebrew for “Surely Hide My Face” is “Hastir ‘Astir Panai” it is shortened and commonly referred to as “Hester Panim” – the concealed face of God! The name Esther is directly connected to this phrase! It would seem then that the very name of the book and the main character reveals that yes the face of Yahweh will be hidden. And we see that carried out within the text with His Name not being mentioned even once!

It is easy to take this to mean that we should question the validity of this book, but when put into context with this verse from Deuteronomy it unveils what’s really happening here! Israel, while in exile in Persia, had turned unto other gods! They were Persian – they dressed, acted, spoke, and identified as Persians, therefore Yahweh hides His face from them (His Name is absent). This becomes a foreshadowing of how this same NAME and identity would be hidden from exiled Israel – the believing community as a whole lost the meaning and significance of His NAME. It has only been within this generation that we have seen and been a part of a wide spread restoration and unveiling of our very identity and the Name of our King!



Amalek Connections

More interesting secrets and connections can be found here! In the Book of Esther, Haman is referred to as an Agagite, a descendant of Agag, King of Amalek. Moshe is told that YHVH will blot out the name of Amalek in Exodus.

Exodus 17:14 – “And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”

But the connections go deeper than this! Not only was Haman an Agagite, but we are also told in the Book of Esther that Mordecai was from the tribe of Benjamin and a descendant of Kish.

King Saul was also a Benjamite, and his father's name was Kish. It is Saul who fails to destroy the King of Amalek – Agag. Can you see that the enmity between Mordecai and Haman was the dramatic climax of a battle that had lasted almost one thousand years?

But it doesn't end here! King Herod who attempts to destroy Yahshua is also most likely from Amalek! Josephus, the Jewish historian, states that the descendants of Esau, specifically Amalek, inhabited the region of Idumea, and that King Herod was an Idumean.

The story of Purim is indeed far reaching, revealing a long standing hatred concerning the People of Yahweh, and another nation willing to allow the enemy to use them to funnel that very hatred in an attempt to annihilate the very means of redemption – the Messiah!

Is it any wonder then that the Messiah Himself kept this feast?

Many argue that Yahshua didn't sanction either the minor festival of Chanukah or Purim. However, John 10: 22 makes the Feast of Dedication – Chanukah part of the itinerary of Yahshua, while John 5:1, 9 give interesting details that cannot be refuted from any scholarly position. #1. There was a 'minor' feast of the Jews and #2. It fell on a Sabbath, #3. Yahshua was in attendance.

According to biblical scholar Lambert Dolphin chronologically the only festival that John could be referring to here is Purim, since it is declared to have occurred on a Shabbat. The only festival determined to have occurred on a Sabbath between 25-35 CE was Purim (28 CE) [Faulstich 1986] <http://www.ldolphin.org/jpurim.html>

It is here in John 5:18 that Yahshua reveals His true identity publicly as the Son of YHVH and the Son of Man! He follows the Esther pattern on Purim!



Purim Characters



Esther – “Star” or “Hidden”, the Persian name of Hadassah, lends her name to the Book of Esther as well.

Hadassah – “Myrtle”, the Hebrew name of Esther, an interesting connection is found in the myrtle flower itself. Before it will release its fragrance, it must be crushed or bruised. The myrtle tree is also connected with righteousness.

Mordecai – “Little Man”, but the Hebrew Sages teach that his name is from the phrase mere dachya or “Pure Myrrh”.

Haman – “Magnificent”, villain of our tale, descendant of Agag the Amalekite, had 10 sons

Ahasuerus – “I Will Be Silent & Poor”, also known as Xerxes. King of Persia

Vashti – “Beautiful”, first wife of Ahasuerus, removed due to disobeying his commands

Purim – “Lots”, lots were cast by Haman to determine the date on which he would carry out his scheme...interesting connection is found here to another Feast – Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement. It is actually written as Yom HaKippurim and the term Kippurim could break down to mean “Like Purim”...lots are also cast on this Feast!

Megillah – Word meaning scroll and specifically describes the Scroll of Esther read at Purim. There are actually 5 megillah included in the Scriptures: Song of Songs (Shir HaShirim), Ruth, Lamentations (Eicha), Ecclesiastes (Kohelet), and Esther.

Shushan – “Lily”, the capital of Persia and setting of our tale.

Hatach – “Verily”, a eunuch in the court, appointed to tend to Esther, many scholars believe this was in fact the prophet Daniel!

Zeresh – “Gold”, wife of Haman, responsible for the idea to build the gallows to hang Mordecai, but instead Haman was hung.



Purim Timeline

To truly understand the significance of Esther's tale and the feast of Purim, one must know where it fits in the timeline of Israel's history! We've already stated that Esther was a contemporary of Daniel, Nehemiah, Ezra, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Jeremiah, and Joel. But now let's take a moment to lay out the timeline a little better!

Israel was sent into Babylonian exile under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar. According to the prophet Jeremiah, their exile would last for 70 years (Jeremiah 29:10). However, Jeremiah did not specify when the 70-year calculation would begin exactly. In fact 2 monarchs miscalculated and brought disaster upon themselves!

After a reign of 45 years, Nebuchadnezzar died and was succeeded by his son Merodach who ruled 23 years and was succeeded by his son Belshazzar. Belshazzar assumed by his calculations that the 70 years was up, and yet Israel had not been delivered! He decides to throw a lavish feast and uses the Holy Temple vessels that had been plundered by Nebuchadnezzar. It is at this feast that the strange incident of the Hand writing on the wall takes place – Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin. On this very night, Belshazzar dies and the Babylonian Empire falls to the Persians.

Darius I arises to power as the King of the Persian Empire and we have Daniel thrown in the lion's den. Darius's successor is King Cyrus the Great who allows the Jews to return to Israel and begin construction of the Second Temple.

King Ahaseurus, the King of our tale, is next in line. He halts the construction of the Temple, and miscalculates Jeremiah's prophecy as well! He follows in the footsteps of Belshazzar and throws his famous feast written of in Esther and uses the Temple vessels as well. It is at this feast that Vashti is sent for, declines, and therefore is removed. In a twist of events that only Yahweh could orchestrate, Esther is chosen as queen and the rest is history – or the story of Purim!

The tale of Purim actually unfolds over a 14-year span! It also has a very interesting connection to Passover, because the 3 days that Esther and the whole nation of Israel fast were Nissan 14, 15, & 16 (coinciding with the Spring Festival of Passover and the first days of Unleavened Bread)...also coinciding with the 3 days the Messiah would have been in the grave!

After Ahaseurus, Darius II ascends to the throne. He is believed to be the son of Queen Esther. It is under his reign that the building of the Temple once again resumes (that was started under Cyrus). This work was resumed exactly 70 years after the destruction of the first Temple, revealing the true interpretation of Jeremiah's prophecy.

Purim by Numbers

0

Times the name of Yahweh is mentioned in Esther

2

Parties Esther invites Haman & Ahaseurus to place on the 14th of Adar

3

Days of Fasting

14

Purim takes place on the 14th of Adar

127

Provinces ruled over by King Ahaseurus

180

Days of the party hosted by King Ahaseurus



Other Historical Purim Events:

The tale of Purim is definitely one of a divine intervention...yet one that is not as readily seen or recognized perhaps as Israel's deliverance out of Egypt. Instead, it's a hidden hand that produces the miracle. It is interesting to note that other times on this same day, the day of Purim, the Hidden Hand can be seen at work as well!

In the early 1950's, Joseph Stalin had bloody plans for dealing with the U.S.S.R.'s "Jewish problem". But just as things were reaching a crisis point, in 1953 Stalin died...on Purim!

In 1990 Saddam Hussein of Iraq began firing SCUD missiles into Israel. After US led-forces attacked Iraq, they were quickly victorious and the hostilities ended...on Purim!





Purim Blessings:

There are three traditional blessings recited before reading the Scroll (Megillah) of Esther.

- Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam, asher kideshanu bemitsvotav, Vitzivanu 'al mikra megillah.

Blessed art thou, LORD our God, King of the universe, who sanctified us with His Commandments and commanded us regarding the reading of the Megillah. Amen.

- Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam, she-'asah nissim la-avoteinu ba-yamim ha-hem, bazeman ha-zeh.

Blessed art thou, LORD our God, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our fathers in those days at this time. Amen.

- Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam, shehecheyanu vekiyemanu vehigi'anu lazeman ha-zeh.

Blessed art thou, LORD our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive and has sustained us, and brought us to this season. Amen.



Purim Customs

There are several traditions and customs that make Purim a fun family friendly day!

- Reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther) – of course you can just read the story straight from the Scriptures, or many choose to adapt the story depending on age range and audience interest. It's a fun way to make it come alive by having a play and music to accompany!
- It is also customary to dress up in Biblical costumes to celebrate at your Purim Party!
- Giving money, gifts, or food to the poor – what a wonderful way to remember to be a blessing to others! Make a special fruit basket, or perhaps bake some nice Purim treats and bless the elderly, the widows, or the families in need and let them know that Yahweh cares!
- Of course what kind of feast is it without having a special FEAST! Make special Purim foods, or your favorite dinner. Decorate and have fun as we remember the miracles Yahweh has done for us!
- A traditional food often made and eaten at Purim is Hamantaschen, three cornered-pastries with filling...make them savory or sweet. (*Recipes to come)
- Throughout the reading of the Megillah, it is customary to “Boo!” and make noise every time Haman is mentioned and to shout “Yay!” and make noise every time Esther or Mordecai are mentioned. It is also a tradition to have noisemakers or groggers to use! You can buy some fancy groggers for your party, or create another fun tradition by making your own! (*Check the Crafts for details)
- As joyous as Purim is, perhaps consider fasting prior to Purim and being in prayer, contemplating different areas you personally are looking for Yahweh to deliver you or come to your aid.
- Within all the fun and festivities, remember it is about the Hand of Yahweh delivering His People – Give Him PRAISE!

Our Favorite Memory



One year our household chose to take Purim as an opportunity to bless the widows and orphans within our congregation. We made up specialty fruit gift bags, special Purim cards, and homemade hamantaschen with several fillings. We then split into two cars to deliver the goodies to our list of friends. We were able to spend a little time visiting with each person as we delivered their goodies, reminding them that we care and appreciate them as a family and ministry! It is a special memory that we hold dear, and such a little simple act that is easy to get overlooked by all the other ministry work and needs. Perhaps this will inspire

you as well to celebrate and honor Purim in a similar fashion!



Purim Recipes

Although nowadays you can find *hamantaschen* filled with practically any type of filling (sweet or savory), the classic *hamantash* was always filled with poppy seeds. Indeed, the very word “*haman*” can either refer to the wicked Haman or poppy seeds (*mohn*), and the Yiddish word “*tash*” means pocket. Thus, “*hamantaschen*” means “poppy-seed-filled pockets.”

It’s also interesting to note that “*Tash*” in Hebrew means “weaken.” Thus, the *hamantash* celebrates the weakening of Haman and our wish that God always save us by weakening our enemies.

Traditional poppy seed filling for hamantaschen

Ingredients

- 8 oz whole unground poppy seeds (1 1/2 cups)
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup milk
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 large eggs, beaten

Instructions

1. Grind the poppy seeds in a coffee grinder in batches for about 15-20 seconds per batch, until they are ground soft and powdery.
2. Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in the milk, sugar, honey and salt. Bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally, till the sugar dissolves and the honey melts.
3. Pour about 1 cup of the hot liquid into a cup.
4. Immediately but gradually begin drizzling the hot liquid into the beaten eggs. Whisk briskly and constantly till all of the hot liquid is integrated into the eggs. Do not pour too quickly, or you'll scramble your eggs. It should take about a minute to drizzle all of the liquid.

5. Slowly pour the heated, tempered egg mixture back into the hot liquid in the saucepan, whisking constantly.
6. Continue to whisk and cook for 3-5 more minutes over medium heat till the mixture thickens and turns light yellow. It is ready when it thickly coats the back of a spoon.
7. Remove the saucepan from heat. Whisk the ground poppy seeds into the buttery liquid and stir well to blend all ingredients.
8. Allow filling to cool to room temperature before using. Store in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator for 4-5 days.

Recipe from Toriavey.com



Samantaschen Dough Recipe:

Ingredients:

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
¾ teaspoon kosher salt
4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for surface
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
1 cup sugar
3 large eggs

Instructions:

Whisk baking powder, salt, and 4 cups of flour in medium bowl. Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter and sugar in a large bowl until pale and fluffy (about 5 minutes). Add 2 eggs one at a time, beating to combine after each addition and scraping down sides of bowl.

Reduce speed to low and gradually add dry ingredients; mix until dough comes together. Divide dough in half and form into two ¾" -thick disks. Cover and chill at least 2 hours.

Place racks in lower and upper thirds of oven, preheat to 350 degrees. Let 1 disk of dough sit at room temperature until softened slightly (about 30 minutes).

Roll out dough on a very lightly floured surface to about ¼" thick, dusting with flour as needed (use as little as possible). Cut out 3 ½" rounds with cutter. Transfer to parchment lined baking sheets.

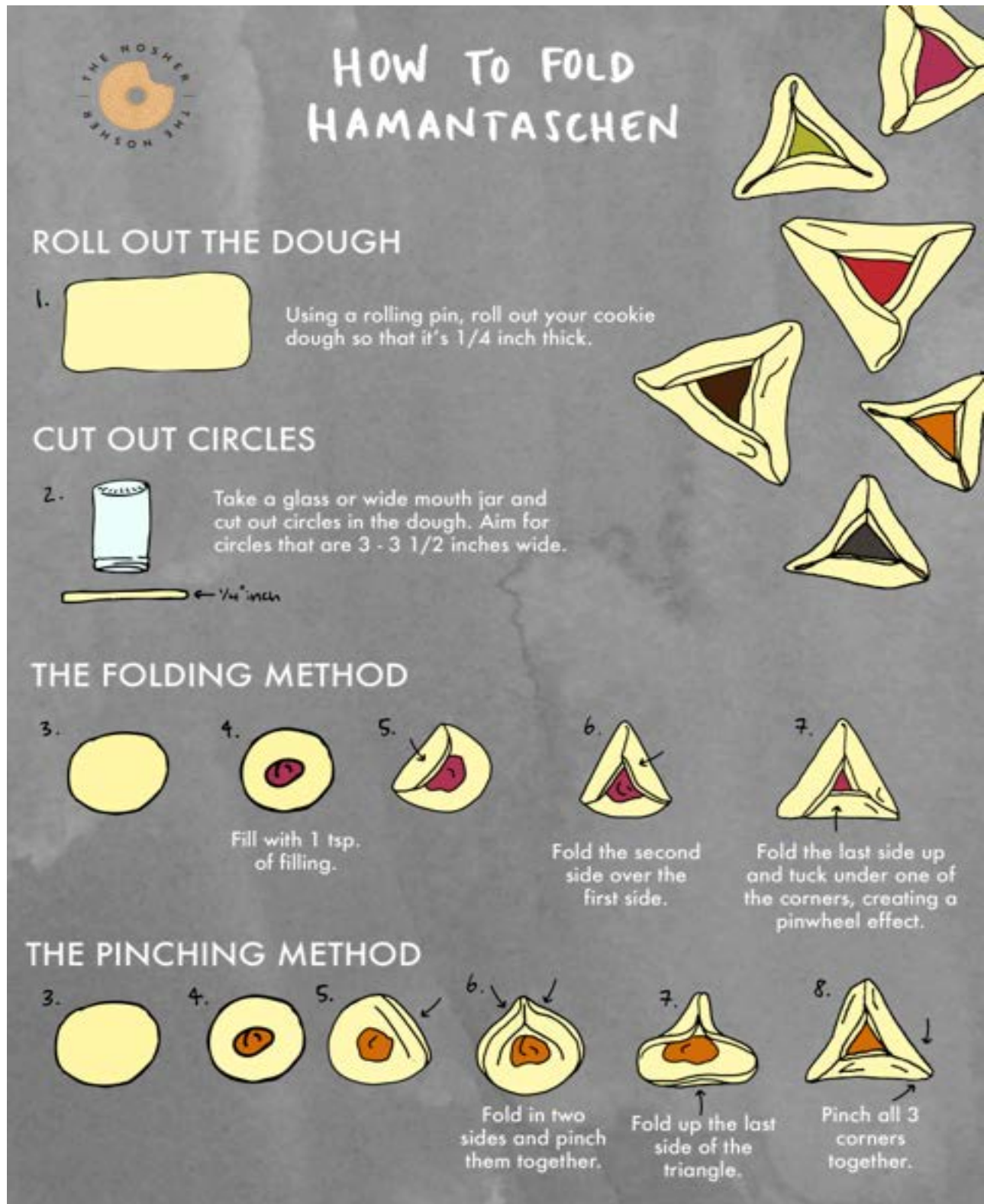
Lightly beat remaining egg in a small bowl to blend. Working a few at a time, brush edge of rounds with egg, then place ½ tsp. of filling in center. Fold sides up to make a triangle, pinching points gently to seal and leaving about 1" surface of filling exposed.

Brush sides of folded dough with egg. Bake cookies, rotating baking sheets halfway through, until bottoms are golden brown (18-22 minutes).



How to Fold Hamantaschen:

Here's a helpful illustration we find by Aly Miller!





*First Cut
your circles
and fill!*

*Fold
&
Bake!*



How Many Ways Can You Hamantaschen?

There are almost countless ways to make and fill Hamantaschen! From savory, to sweet, from traditional, to anything but – what will be your family's favorite?

We decided not to include countless recipes (that's what cookbooks are for!) but instead we've compiled a list of all the different types of Hamantaschen we've come across...take your pick, or maybe be inspired by it and create your own unique treat!

- Traditional Poppy Seed
- Apricot
- Apple Pie
- Chocolate Covered Strawberry
- Pumpkin Pie
- Oreo
- Lemon
- Matcha
- Savory Herb & Cheese
- Nutella/Chocolate
- Lemon Lavender
- Eggroll
- Cheddar Biscuit
- Pizza
- BBQ Chicken
- Corndog
- Taco
- Strawberry Cheesecake
- Mint Chocolate
- Red Velvet
- Brownie & Peanut Butter
- Date & Almond
- Pita & Hummus
- Pecan Pie
- Caramelized Onion & Goat Cheese
- Gingerbread
- Key Lime
- Raspberry
- Chocolate Chip
- Edamame
- Savory Spinach & Feta
- Smoked Salmon & Horseradish
- Jalapeno Popper
- Rosemary & Fig
- Steak & Mushroom
- Sweet Potato

Purim Crafts

Since Purim is about making noise, a great craft for kids is to make noisemakers or groggers to use while the story of Esther is read! Check out this grogger craft below from Creative Jewish Mom!

You'll Need:

- Plastic cups, any size, clear works well too! Another option is thick paper plates
- Electrical Tape (my favorite new crafting supply)
- Beans to fill the cup or any other noise maker filler
- Gold stickers
- A popsicle stick (you can make these without the handle too)
- Hot glue gun or other tacky glue

How-To:

1. Fill one of the cups about 1/4 full with dried beans or anything else you have on hand that will make noise when shaken.
2. Attach the popsicle stick to one cup with hot glue, and then join two cups together with hot glue. My new hot glue gun is so hot it melted the cup the first go around, so use the hot glue sparingly.
3. Decorate the cups with electrical tape and stickers
4. Enjoy making lots of noise on Purim!



A Purim Word Hunt

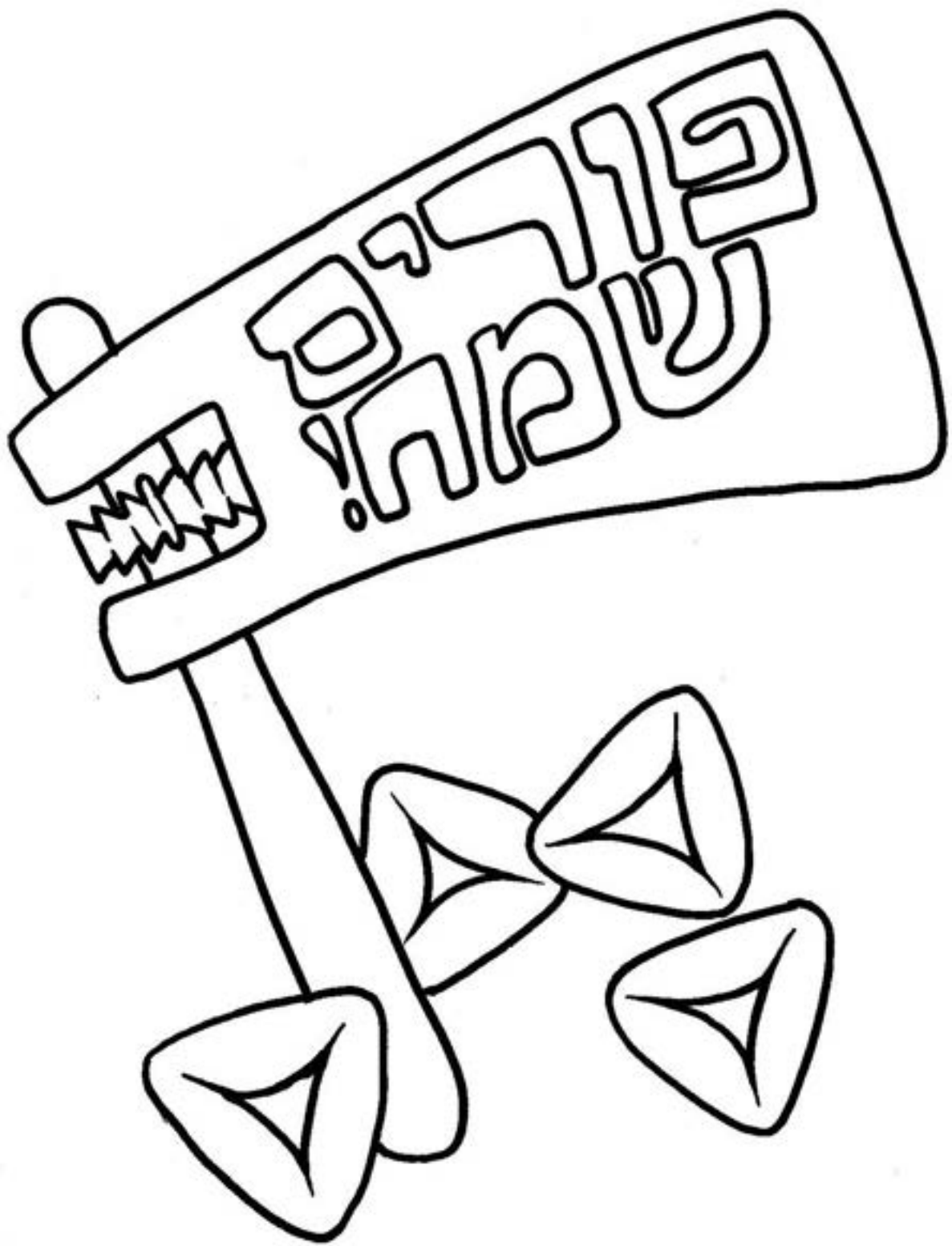
Find the words listed below hidden in the grid of letters.
(One example is done for you). Words appear horizontally, vertically
and diagonally. The leftover letters spell out a sentence.

Adar-	festival	mishloach
Ahasuerus	gallows	manot
banquet	gragger	Mordecai
bow	Haman	Persia
charity	Hamantaschen	plot
costume	Jew	Purim
decree	king	queen
drinking	lots	Shushan
Esther	mask	spiel
feast	Megillah	Vashti



H	A	H	A	M	A	N	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L
M	B	F	E	A	S	T	A	N	H	T	A	S	E	C
H	A	M	A	N	T	A	S	C	H	E	N	Q	S	H
C	N	H	M	H	B	E	A	N	S	M	A	U	T	A
G	Q	R	A	E	K	O	D	E	H	O	V	E	H	R
R	U	L	S	S	L	I	W	I	U	R	A	E	E	I
A	E	S	K	H	U	W	N	I	S	D	S	N	R	T
G	T	P	S	D	E	E	P	G	H	E	H	I	L	Y
G	O	I	P	J	E	E	R	E	A	C	T	G	O	U
E	M	E	U	M	R	C	M	U	N	A	I	A	T	S
R	F	L	R	S	A	U	R	R	S	I	E	L	S	S
P	A	H	I	B	T	N	M	E	G	I	L	L	A	H
L	D	A	M	S	A	K	O	E	E	D	W	O	I	T
O	A	H	O	L	O	V	E	T	F	O	R	W	P	U
T	R	C	R	D	R	I	N	K	I	N	G	S	I	M





Mask Making Party & Other Ideas

Since Purim is a festival of hidden miracles and hidden messages, another interesting way to celebrate this feast that's family friendly is to have your own mask making party! Gather an assortment of feathers, sequins, jewels, fabric paints, glitter, buttons, and plastic jewels...whatever you want to use! Or even your own crown making party for little girls or the ladies in your group.

Buy pre-made blank masks or cut your own out of felt or cardboard! Take pictures of all your different artistic masks when finished!

Another great party idea for Purim is to host a party where you make Mishloach Manot or Purim baskets (this phrase literally means "sending of portions") to gift to other people as a blessing! Purim baskets can be as simple as a little bag of homemade hamantaschen to gift to others, or elaborate as a large fruit basket with all kinds of goodies!

Buy brown paper goodie bags and decorate each one uniquely to fill with special goodies to gift on Purim! This is just one way to have a fun time on Purim, and yet the focus is on being a blessing to others! Especially perhaps a family in need, widows, or the elderly in your circle!

Our Personal Favorite Purim Meal:

Our personal favorite meal to celebrate Purim after a long day of crafting, teaching, and fellowshiping is Turkey Meatball gyros!

HINT: For super easy meal prep – Costco for the win! Large bag of turkey meatballs, pita bread, and all the toppings: cherry tomatoes, red onions, olives, geta cheese, cucumbers, hummus, and homemade tzatziki sauce!



Whatever way you choose to celebrate it, it should be a special season, teaching the family the power of our mighty Elohim who remembers His people, no matter where we are! And a season of giving praise unto Him as we expectantly look and wait for Him to once again honor this same covenant on our behalf!



Chag Sameach!

We pray that you each have a wonderful Purim celebration, however elaborate or small it may be! Though all of the crafts, special foods, and party ideas help us to make this day special, don't forget the true meaning of this day!

So often, we have a tendency to get caught up in the every day mundane activities and we miss the Hand of Yahweh working in our lives. Purim is a reminder that even when we may not see Him moving, it doesn't mean that He's stopped working on our behalf. It is a call to all of us, wherever we may be, whatever we may be going through, to pay attention and search for the One whose face we should be seeking! And if we'll seek Him out, He's made us a promise that He will be found.

As we close out this short little study to perhaps aid you in your celebrating, we call your attention to one final theme. This entire festival is definitely one full of symbolism. One of the messages that can be gleaned is that in the face of opposition and evil, it was unity among Israel that caused Yahweh to move on their behalf. Mordechai on his own was unable to defeat Haman. He petitioned Esther, the Queen herself, yet she was not willing to tackle the task alone. All of Israel would have to fast and pray alongside her to see their deliverance.

What a powerful message to you and I today. Purim is a reminder that there is something special that takes place when we as a people choose to fast and pray and seek the face of Yahweh in unity. It causes our King who has hid His face from us, due to our own pulling away, to be moved to compassion and then we find that the miraculous can take place!

For such a time as this....

