

Purim Adventure

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2. First Name
3. Location
4. Animal
5. Noun
6. Event
7. Proper Noun Plural
8. Noun
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13. First Name
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18. Verb
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20. Location
21. Verb
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- 24. Animal Plural
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Purim Adventure

by Yaffa Ganz

Over _____Number_____ years ago, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonian king
_____First name_____. The Jewish people were sent away from the Land of _____Location_____ and were forced to live
in Babylonia.

Fifty years later, Babylonia was defeated by Persia. Achashverosh was the second Persian king. He ruled 127
_____Animal_____ from Hodu (India) to Kush (Africa) the largest, strongest kingdom in the world.

A new king needs a new _____Noun_____ so Achashverosh chose the city of Shushan. To celebrate, he made a
tremendous _____Event_____ for all the important people in the kingdom. It lasted for 180 days. Then he made a
second feast just for Shushan. Everyone in the city was invited, even the _____Proper noun plural_____.

Mordechai, the leader of the Jews, warned his people not to go to the feast, but they were afraid to disobey the king. And to tell the truth, they were honored and pleased to have been invited. For seven days they ate and _____Noun_____ to their heart's content. Only one thing troubled them. Achashverosh brought the gold and silver vessels from the Holy _____Animal_____ in Jerusalem and used them for his wild celebration...

The _____Adjective_____ king began to brag that his queen Vashti was the most beautiful woman in the kingdom.

On the last day of the feast, he commanded her to come and _____Verb_____ before the crowd. But Vashti was the proud granddaughter of the cruel Nebuchadnezzar and she refused to appear. "Am I a servant to the king?"; she asked. In a fit of anger, the king had her killed.

Achashverosh now needed a new queen and he wanted someone even more beautiful than Vashti. His men went from

house to house in all of Persia, taking the young girls away to Shushan where they were kept as _____ Noun _____ until they were brought before the king.

In Shushan, a Jewish orphan by the name of _____ First name _____ lived with her uncle Mordechai. When the king's men came to her house, Mordechai said, "Don't be afraid. Go with them. Do not tell them you are a _____ Proper noun _____. Tell them your Persian name -- Esther. God will watch over you!";

Esther was kind and gentle and very beautiful. As soon as the king saw her, he chose her as his new queen.

Esther appointed seven maidservants, one for each day of the week, so that she would always remember which day was the _____ Event _____. Her meals were cooked with kosher foods. And all the while, she kept her secret. No one knew she was a Jew. Everyday, Mordechai sat outside the palace gate to wait for news from Esther.

One day outside the palace, Mordechai happened to hear two men plotting to kill the king. He warned Esther and the

two men were caught and killed. Although it was recorded in the Royal Book that Mordechai the Jew had saved the king, the matter was soon forgotten.

Soon after, Achashverosh appointed Haman -- the Noun man in the kingdom -- as his new prime minister. All the king's subjects were ordered to honor Haman and Verb down to him. Everyone did, except Mordechai. It was permissible to honor Haman and Verb to him as the prime minister, but Haman wore a large medallion, engraved with the picture of an idol, on his chest. Mordechai said people might think he was bowing to the idol too, and a Jew is forbidden to worship or honor Animal plural.

Haman was furious. He went straight to the king to complain. "There is one Location; he said, "scattered throughout your kingdom, which is different from all other nations. They don't eat our food, drink our wine, or marry our daughters! They don't keep the king's laws and they don't work! Every seventh day they rest and they are always celebrating holidays. If you give me permission, I will Verb them for you. I will even pay for any

expenses from my own money!";

Achashverosh gave Haman his royal ring, to seal the orders and decrees. Anxious to do a perfect job, Haman wanted to execute his plan on the right day, a Adjective day blessed by his gods and the stars. He cast lots -- purim in Hebrew -- to choose the day. Then he sent out letters, sealed with the king's royal ring, to each of the Number provinces in the kingdom.

"On the 13th day of the month of Adar,"; the decree said "you are to destroy, kill and slaughter all Animal plural young and old, women and children, all in one day. Their money and property will then belong to you.";

When Mordechai heard of the Event he ripped his clothing and put ashes on his head as a sign of mourning. He told Esther she must go to the king to try and save the Jews. Esther was afraid, for it was forbidden

to come _____^{Noun} the king without being invited. But Mordechai said, "Who knows if you have not been put in the palace for this very purpose? If you are silent now, help will come to the Jews from some other place -- and you will perish!";

Esther asked that the Jews in Shushan fast and pray for her for three days. Mordechai gathered all the Jewish children in Shushan and told them to pray, too.

The Jews finally realized they should not have gone to the king's feast; they should not have eaten at the royal banquet nor drunk the wine, nor used the vessels from the Holy _____^{Location}. They understood that this was their punishment for fearing the king more than they feared God.

When the three days of prayers and _____^{Verb ending in ing} were over, Esther went to the king. "What is your request, my queen?"; he asked. "Half of my kingdom is yours for the asking!";

But Esther asked only that the king and Haman come to a private _____^{Noun} she was making. At the banquet, Achashverosh asked again, "What is your wish? Whatever you want is yours!"; But Esther only invited the king and Haman to a second party. "How strange,"; thought the king. But Haman was delighted. On his way out of the palace, he passed Mordechai at the gate. His delight turned to hate. "I am important enough to be invited to the queen's private banquets together with the king -- and that Jew refuses to bow down to me?!"; He wanted to kill Mordechai then and there, without waiting for the 13th of Adar!

"Do it!"; advised his evil wife Zeresh. So Haman built a gallows, 50 cubits high, in his own courtyard. He would hang Mordechai at the first opportunity!

That night, the king could not fall _____.^{Noun} He tossed and turned and finally called for his servant to bring out

the Royal Book and read him to sleep. The heavy book fell open to the story of how Mordechai the Jew had warned of the plot against the king and saved the king's life.

"What reward did the Jew receive?"; asked the king.

"None, sir,"; was the reply.

"He saved my life and received no reward?!"; stormed the king.

Just then, someone knocked. It was Haman, coming for permission to hang Mordechai the Jew. He was in such a hurry he couldn't even wait for the morning!

"Haman!"; thundered the king. "Tell me, what shall be done for a man the king Animal to honor?";

"He must be referring to me,"; thought Haman gleefully. "I know just the thing,"; he said. "Let him wear the king's royal robes. Place the king's royal crown upon his head. Let him ride the king's royal horse. And let a servant walk Preposition the horse and cry out: Thus shall be done to the man whom the king wishes to honor!";

"Wonderful idea!"; cried the Achashverosh. "I shall leave it all to you. Find Mordechai the Jew and do exactly as you described, down to the last detail!";

Haman did as he was commanded, and Mordechai was led with royal honor through the streets of Shushan.

Haman returned home, a bitter, broken man. But he had no time to brood. He had to be at the royal palace in time for the Queen's second banquet. Once again, the king asked, "What is it you desire, Esther? Why have you invited us here? Speak and it shall be done!";

This time, Esther spoke. "Spare my life,"; she cried, "and the lives of my people. We have been sentenced to death!";

"Death? Your people? By whom?"; asked the surprised king.

"By an evil and wicked man -- by your minister Haman!";

The king was so astounded that he marched out of the room to regain his composure.

Trembling and fearful, Haman threw himself on the queen to beg for mercy. At that very moment, Achashverosh returned.

"What?"; he cried. "Do you dare to attack the Queen in my palace? Take him away and hang him!"; he shouted.

In the end, Haman was hung on the gallows he himself had built for Mordechai. And Mordechai became the king's new prime minister in place of Haman!

According to Persian law, it was impossible to change a _____^{Noun} stamped with the royal seal, so the king could not cancel the decree against the Jews. But Mordechai was given the royal signet ring to issue whatever new decrees he could think of to help save the Jews.

Now it was Mordechai's turn to send out a royal letter. It said: On the 13th of Adar, all the Jews in the kingdom would organize to defend themselves. The Persians were more than happy to listen to Haman and kill Jews, but if the Jews were going to arm themselves and fight back under royal protection, well then, that was another story !

On the 13th of Adar, Jews across the kingdom assembled and defended themselves. Thousands of their enemies were killed, including Haman's 10 evil sons who were hanged from a tree. Unlike the Persians who planned to take

money and property, the Jews took no loot at all. On the 14th of Adar, they gave thanks to God and celebrated.

But in the walled capital city of Shushan, the Jews continued to fight an additional day. On the 15th of Adar the Jews of Shushan celebrated their victory.