

### AMAZING PURIM SECRETS FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER

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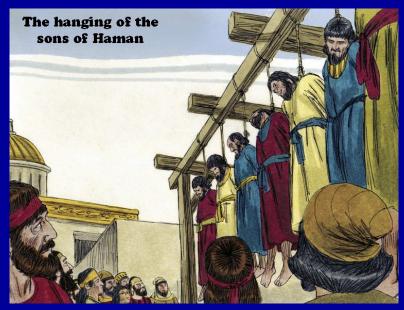
Stephen Spykerman – 14th February 2018

Most of us will be familiar with the Purim story from the biblical book of Esther, in which the evil Haman planned genocide against the Jewish citizens of the Persian Empire, which stretched across 127 Provinces from India to Ethiopia and from Turkey to Arabia. Haman planned an empire wide attack, which had it been successful, would have annihilated the entire Jewish race in one fell swoop and in one single day! His evil plan was:

"And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions."

(Esther 3:13, NKJV)

Of course, we know that Haman's plans were thwarted and that the terrible edict was rescinded. The Jews were then, through an incredible set of miraculous circumstances, to turn the tables on Haman and their enemies, culminating in the hanging of the evil Haman on his own gallows, as well as the subsequent hanging of his ten sons.



This makes Purim one of the most relevant and up to date Festivals of Judaism. However, I intend to demonstrate that it is also MOST RELEVANT for those countless Israelites across the world, from the Lost House of Israel, as well as for the Jews and also for the rest of mankind.

What few people realise is that the book of Esther has both an overt and a covert message. The overt literal meaning of the Purim Story is one of a Divinely Orchestrated Deliverance. Yet, the below the surface meaning of this festival has been cleverly hidden. The literal account of the Purim story makes the meaning clear in the most colourful way. Yet, what is hidden from plain sight is that the story has a most powerful allegorical undertone. Once we understand the secrets and the deep symbolism of the characters, as well as the events described in the Purim Story, we will have our eyes opened to an astounding revelation.

My purpose in this article is to cover some of the aspects of the Feast of Purim that prophetically are bound to have enormous and increasing relevance for the world in the days ahead. This message contains astounding, pertinent and most relevant revelation! We will cover how this Feast of Purim and indeed the whole story of the Book of Esther relate to the final restoration of the entire 12tribed house of Israel. The message of Purim hints at the prophetically promised '*End Time*' re-identification of the Lost Ten

## Tribes of Israel, and it particularly connects with the return of the Lost House of Israel.

Purim is sometimes criticized as being a "Jewish Halloween or Carnival." This is because, it is a tradition that people; especially the children in Jewish families dress up in costumes and wear masks for this joyful Festival. Additionally, this is the season when Jewish men are encouraged to liberally consume alcoholic drinks. However, they are forbidden to drink to the point at which they may lose the ability to discern good from evil. I intend to show ample evidence that those criticisms of the Purim Festival are wholly unfounded.



Children and Adults celebrating Purim

Haman's defeat is still celebrated in the joyous festival of Purim. Passover celebrates the deliverance of the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt. Chanukah celebrates the miraculous deliverance of the Jewish nation from the Hellenist Empire. The feast of Purim too is about a miraculous deliverance.

The heroine of the story is Esther, chosen by king Ahasuerus to replace Queen Vashti. Ahasuerus has been identified by historians as Xerxes I, who reigned in Persia from 485 – 465 B.C.E.

For the purpose of this study, king Ahasuerus will symbolically represent Yehovah; as he (king Ahasuerus) was king over the "*world*" of his day. Any Law or decree that he made could not be rescinded and so it is also with the Torah. Furthermore, no-one was permitted to enter into his inner court without his permission, on pain of death, and likewise not even Moses was permitted to see the face of Yehovah, the Holy One of Israel. We read in Exodus 33:20: "But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me and live." The Cohen Gadol, the High Priest, too was only permitted to enter the Holy of Holies but once a year on the solemn day of Yom Kippur, and then only when ACCOMPANIED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SACRIFICE. We too cannot enter into the presence of YHVH, the King of the Universe, without being covered in the blood of the Lamb!"

The king ruled over 127 'provinces.' Sarah, the wife of Abraham, lived for a 127 years. (Genesis 23:1) The word for 'province' is "*M'dinah*," which means "*boundary, judgment* or *right ruling*," and it also means "*that which is young and beautiful, and vibrant*." This word "*M'dinah*" describes Sarah quite well, as she was exceptionally beautiful and her name means "*princess*," coming from the root verb "*SAR*" meaning "*to rule, judge, or deliver*." Titles such as CeaSAR, KeiSER and TSAR, are derived from this same root. The first two letters of Sarah's name were included in the name Israel, showing that Israelites will "*Rule with God*," and be "*Ruled by God*." Sarah was ruled by God, and therefore merited being one of the matriarchs of Israel, (*this means she was the matriarch not just of the Jews but of all the Twelve Tribes of Israel*).

In order to set the context, let us read the first few verses of the Book of Esther:

"Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia), in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan, the citadel, that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants – the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him – when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendour of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all. And when these days were completed, the king made a feast lasting seven days for all days for all the people who were presenting Shushan the citadel from great to small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. There were white and blue linen curtains fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble."

(Esther 1:1-6, NKJV)

**The citadel of Shushan** here is a <u>symbolic type</u> of **Jerusalem**, **as the future Millennial capital of the world to come**. The name **Shushan** itself speaks of **lilies**, **a reference to Solomon**. There are 13 references to **lilies** in the Bible, and 12 of these apply directly to Solomon, whilst the 13th applies to Israel (Hosea 14:5). The **colour white** of the linen curtains portrays **Righteousness**, being in harmony. The feast lasted for **180 days**, which is six months! The number 18 means (*Chai*), or '*LIFE*.' <u>The feast was</u> <u>in the 'third' year of his reign; – six months + 3 years = 3.5 years</u>. **3.5 years is one Torah cycle**, (one reading of the Torah), during the time when the Temple is standing, or for God's people when they are in the land of Israel.

Since the King was on his throne at this time in the capital, we can assume that this is painting an allegorical picture of the Messianic Era, when King Mashiach will be on His throne in His Temple in Jerusalem, a time when everyone will be in harmony and good humour under the rule of the King of Righteousness. Throughout this three and a half year period, the Torah is revealed in its fullness, as in it, God honours Israel with His Shekinah Presence. Additionally, the 180 days duration of King Ahasuerus feast also refers symbolically to a 180 degree turn, which is representative of **Teshuvah** (REPENTANCE). That is because it is only repentance that will lead to the glory and riches of His Kingdom and the crown of righteousness upon our head.

The King then goes on to prepare *a seven-day feast* for all great and small in the court of the garden (of Eden – which was located on Mount Zion in Jerusalem – the garden of the King's Palace - the Temple). No one was forced to comply with the King's laws (Torah)... it was all by our individual choice to accept Torah or reject it. Those who rejected it were simply not present at the feast with the King. The drinking of wine may well be a reference to Kidush, which is a Sabbath tradition, as bread and wine are symbols of the Covenant. Furthermore, they also give us another allusion to the Messianic Age of Mashiach. Remember, how after Abram had defeated the kings of the plain and rescued his cousin Lot, he was visited by the King of Salem:

#### "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought 'BREAD' AND 'WINE;' he was the priest of God most high." (Genesis 14:18, NKJV)

The hangings of white and blue linen in Shushan allude to the **tzitziyot the Israelites are commanded to wear in remembrance to all the 613 commands of Yehovah, the King of the Universe**. (Numbers 15:37-41)

Re: The mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble. The original Hebrew text actually does not mention turquoise or green, but "**KARPAS**" (*which means vegetable or celery*). The '*Karpas*' is dipped in salt water and when it is eaten, it reminds us of the tears the Israelites shed during their enslavement while in Egypt. This *karpas* was eaten during the Pesach Seder. The dipping of the *karpas* in salt water is an intrinsic part of the Passover Seder which is done every year. In this, we have an indication that this *seven-day feast* occurs at Passover time.

The word for "*hangings*" (*akhuz*) means "*brotherhood*." In other words, there was a brotherhood of white and blue.

Then in **Verse 9**, we see **Queen Vashti organizing her own feast**. In doing this, she is walking in the footsteps of King Jeroboam of the House of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, as centuries earlier; he set the pattern of rebellion, idolatry and adultery. He led the Ten Tribes of Israel to separate themselves from the House of David by breaking off all relations with Judah, Jerusalem and the Temple. Jeroboam set up golden calves in Bethel and Dan, which he declared to be Israel's "*gods*." Abolishing the Torah of Moses, he established his own priesthood and Feast days. (1 Kings 13:28-33) Christianity at large has followed this same Israelite trait of rebellion against the Torah by categorically stating it has been done away!

The King summoned seven servants to bring His bride Vashti before him. He loved her above all other women, and wished to see her. He desired to show his bride to the other people (the nations). But, the Queen/bride did not come! She thought she was free to disobey the commands of the King. She, just like the Christian church, thought she was free to plan her own celebrations apart from those commanded in the Torah of the Kingdom.

#### Notice what the book of Esther says:

"But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him."

(Esther 1:12, NKJV)

The king then spoke to His wise men. They were the ones who knew the Feast days of Leviticus 23 in the Torah, because they observed them all. These SEVEN that were closest to the King sat FIRST IN THE KINGDOM. When we receive the Torah, we are receiving the '*Living Word of God*,' which yields its fruit in its season. Adam and Eve had access to the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, but they chose the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil – the Tree of Human Experimentation – the Tree that was immortalized by Frank Sinatra in his song: "*I DID IT MY WAY!*"

We read in the book of Proverbs:

"The Torah is the Tree of Life!" (Proverbs 3:18, NKJV)

When we receive the '*TREE OF LIFE*' and care for it, we eat its fruit (seed) and it grows within us, as a baby grows inside its mother. If the mother will not

receive the seed of her husband, she cannot reproduce. If she receives seed from someone other than her husband, she produces a bastard child who is cursed by his father. It is called adultery!

Queen Vashti, by keeping different feast days than her husband and King, and by refusing point blank to come at his command, has wronged him and set an appalling example of disobedience before the whole kingdom.

"If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she."

(Esther 1:19, NKJV)

Disobedience does have consequences and our King will not allow this flagrant breach of His Commandments. <u>THE KING THEN WRITES A DECREE</u> <u>AND SENDS THE REBELLIOUS QUEEN AWAY</u>!!!

HEY, DOES THIS NOT RING A BELL SOMEWHERE?

Remember, JEREMIAH 3:8???....

"Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding <u>Israel had committed adultery</u>, I had <u>PUT</u> <u>HER AWAY</u> and given her a CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE!"

What we see here is that Queen Vashti is a symbolic type of the rebellious House of Israel, as the Ten Tribes too had refused to keep the Moadim [Holy Days] commanded in the Torah. They too felt free to disobey the commands of the Holy One of Israel. They also disobeyed by organizing their own Moadim [Feast Days] in flagrant breach of the Torah Laws of the Kingdom, and as far as Yehovah was concerned, they had committed adultery! (1 Kings 12:26-29; 14:15-16)

NOTICE, QUEEN VASHTI'S POSITION IS GIVEN TO ANOTHER....It is given to one who will honour the King by keeping His commandments, feast days, decrees, statutes, ordinances, and judgments. **This will happen in the Messianic Age when the King's decrees are spread all over the entire Kingdom, when the Law, (Torah), will go forth from Zion and the Word of ELOHIM from Jerusalem to the whole earth**. (Isaiah 2:3)

In the book of Esther, we find thus, a subtle hint to this age yet to come. It proclaims that all these decrees of the King are sent out in every language to all the peoples of the earth, and that those who receive those decrees have been given power to rule in their houses. This power comes from the King of the World, (Universe). He has granted them authority to walk in His ways after Him. He is the source of their authority. Without His decree, they are unable to rule in their own households because their wives would despise them. (Esther 1:20-22)

The story of Esther goes on to relate how young beautiful virgins are sought for the king in order to select the young woman who is to become queen instead of Vashti, and at this point, we are introduced to Mordecai.

Mordecai was the son of Yair. (Esther 2:5). **Yair** signifies that which illuminates or brings light!

#### "And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter."

(Esther 2:7, NKJV)

*Esther* was an orphan, and before she was adopted by Mordechai; her name was *Hadassah*, which means; "*That which was diffused, such as light, and that which was hidden and kept in secret*." Hadassah also refers to '*MYRTLE*' – a plant, which is one of the '*four species of Sukkot*.'

Hadassah subsequently becomes known as *Esther*. The name *Esther* refers to a section of land (or people), which is preserved and will bring healing, (*might this be a reference to Israel?*) Hadassah was given a Gentile name, because she too is a symbolic type of the Lost House of Israel, whose descendants, having lost their identity, have come to look upon themselves as Gentiles. Thus, like Esther, they too have acquired a Gentile name. Having lost the knowledge of their true origins, their identity became hidden. The name Esther also means "*that which is hidden or veiled* (*in darkness*)." Esther, the beautiful Orphan Queen, just like the Lost House of Israel, had spiritually and physically lost her parents. The word for parent in Hebrew is '*HORAH*,' and it comes from the same (root-verb) as TORAH.

Thus, we see that both Queen Vashti and Queen Esther are symbolic types of the House of Israel. Queen Vashti is the negative type representing the rebellious House of Israel that is sent away from the Land. Queen Esther on the other hand is the positive type, who is favoured by Yehovah to bring about the deliverance of the Jews.

As we have already seen earlier in Isaiah 11 - the prophet has given us a dramatic end-time scenario where Ephraim and Judah work together to defeat their end-time adversaries.

We know from the **Biblical** account that Hegai, the custodian of the women favoured Esther:

"Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favour; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women."

(Esther 2:9, NKJV)

Hegai, was the kings eunuch, his valet, or "*helper*," if you will. When Esther's turn came to be examined by the King, she asked to be arrayed only in what Hegai, the King's eunuch/helper suggested for her. So it was that Esther won the favour of all who saw her. (Esther 2:15)

In this, we see that Hegai knew what the King liked; Esther wisely listened to his counsel and thus, won the King's heart.

"Now when every maid's turn was come to go into king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)."

(Esther 2:12, KJV)

Notice, that all the virgins were given their things for '*purification*!' They were given ointments for '*healing*' and Esther too was given her '*things for purification*' (KJV); or, '*her allowance of delicacies*,' (Tanakh Stone Ed.); or, '*rations*' or, '*her appointed portions*,' (other translations). There is deep symbolism in all of these descriptions and the Rabbis and Sages of Israel believe that these all refer to '*TORAH PORTIONS*.' Esther, just like all the other virgins that were chosen to come before the King, had to undergo **a twelve month period of purification and preparation**. Twelve months is a reference to the completion of a Torah cycle during the times of exile. Esther was not known in the kingdom as the Kings wise men were. She needed one year (*one reading of the Torah*) to make herself presentable before the King.

"Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it." (Esther 2:10, NKJV)

Queen Esther thus, ended up at the Court of the King, and yet not only did she keep her identity hidden, her true purpose for being there was also kept hidden! Mordecai symbolises a type of **Mashiach ben Yosef. Who according to Jewish Sages' interpretation is mandated to re-identify and return the Lost House of Israel (Ten Tribes) to their heritage. (**Kol Ha Tor, Gaon of Vilna, Rabbi Hillel Shkover). **He saved the orphan Esther and he took her in and looked after her, and it was he who led her to the King.** 



King Ahaspherous with Queen Esther

Esther was taken into the King's chamber into His royal house in the tenth month, which is the Hebrew month of Tevet (the beginning of the month Tevet) occurs during the festival of **Chanukah**. Chanukah is the time of the rededication of the Temple and the lighting of the Menorah within. It is during this time that **Esther**, (*that which was hidden, disguised or veiled*), was taken to the Palace/Temple to be with the King, as if consummating a marriage. She was to be rededicated to God, because Esther asked for nothing other than what her Torah teacher (Mordecai) advised. (Esther 2:20) **It was**  whilst in this place that Esther was able to fulfil her God given role – to save the House of Judah! In this end time, in the years ahead of us, Esther, i.e. the re-identifying and re-complying-with-Torah Lost children of the House of Israel, will once again be used to save the House of Judah from total annihilation. Also when Esther, (symbolic of Ephraim – a popular group name used in the Bible to refer to the Ten Tribes) - the House of Israel, returns to Torah, she will be the dominant influence in bringing Deliverance and Restoration to the Whole House of Israel. Unlike Queen Vashti before her, Esther's chief characteristics were submission and humility, as evidenced by the following:

"Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him."

(Esther 2:20, NKJV)

As a young orphan child she had been taken in by Mordecai, the Jew, and she had retained her childlike **submissiveness and humility** even in her exalted position as Queen of the Persian Empire. In this, she symbolizes **a greatly chastened and humbled** House of the Ten Tribes of Israel. She thus pictures a yet future time when Ephraim of the Prodigal House of Israel will be willing to submit to his elder brother Judah. The prophet Zechariah comments that there will come a time when:

#### "In those days it will happen that , of all the [different] languages of the nations, will take hold, they will take hold of the corner of the garment of a Jewish man, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that G-d is with you.'"

(Zechariah 8:23, TANAKH, The Stone edition)

The reference to TEN men from all the nations and languages appears to be an indirect reference to the Ten Lost tribes of Israel seeking some sort of reconciliation with their Jewish brothers. All the arrogance and the pride which led Ephraim, (*the Lost House of Israel*), to secede from Judah and the House of David, to go headlong into idolatry and replacement theology appear to have become a thing of the past in Zechariah's prophecy. We are able today in our time to witness the early shoots of this phenomenon in the burgeoning *Hebrew Roots Movement* in the Christian Church today. This ought to be a huge encouragement to both houses of Israel, as it is a '*sign*' of '*the beginning of The Redemption,*' (*Atchalta d'Geula*).

As we have already seen, the name Esther means "*that which is hidden or veiled (in darkness)*." The Lost Tribes of Joseph too have been veiled in darkness, and they are often referred to as '*LOST*.' Yet, they are a nation,

indeed many nations of peoples in the world today that have been preserved. We do not see it because of the disguise they wear. Remember Joseph stood right before his brothers, but they did not recognise him because he was clothed in Egyptian garments and he spoke to them in the Egyptian language. Today, the tribes of the House of Israel, the tribes of the House of Joseph, still retain Israelite souls, yet their outer appearance has become much like the Gentiles. They have adorned themselves with the clothes of the Egyptians and the whole world perceives them to be Gentiles. Even their Jewish brothers do not recognise them anymore. Joseph's firstborn son was Manasseh, meaning 'CAUSING TO FORGET.' Joseph named him Manasseh because the birth of his son and his marriage to his Egyptian bride, as well as his many responsibilities as the Governor of Egypt had caused him to forget his Israelite identity. Today, his descendants, 10-Israel, have forgotten their Israel identity also. They have forgotten their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their mothers Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. In short; They are orphans just like Esther.

Even though they are not in any way aware, this is the real reason for the tradition as to why the Jews dress in costumes for Purim! It is not to frighten away evil spirits or any pagan nonsense such as that. It is to serve as a reminder to us that when we take upon us the traditions of our host nations in the Diaspora, we assimilate and we become like those people, and before long, we become unrecognisable to our brothers. This at least, in part, perpetuates the current and ongoing exile of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel. The other part is Yehovah's purpose and timing, for He has promised to bring them back!

Check it out for yourself in: JEREMIAH 23:3-8 & 16:14-15 & ISAIAH 11:11-16 + JEREMIAH 31:7-21 + VERSES 27-28 & 31-33 & myriads of other prophecies.



The disguise of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel is seen even within the name of Joseph's son Ephraim. The first three letters of Ephraim (ALEPH ( $\aleph$ ), PEY ( $\boxdot$ ), REYSH ( $\neg$ ) = 95) spell the word '*APHER*, which means "*MASK*" or "*DISGUISE*." This is the reason for the masks that are worn, or held up at the feast of Purim. It has absolutely nothing to do with a so-called

Jewish version of Halloween or CARNIVAL, but instead, **it has everything** to do with the veil, the disguise, and the mask that God Himself has drawn over the face of the wayward Lost and HIDDEN House of 10-

# **Israel**. The feast of Purim therefore fundamentally is about the deliverance and glorious return of the Lost House of Israel. The day will come when their mask is removed before the face of the whole world.

There will soon come a time when Joseph will remove his Egyptian costume of disguise and replace it with an original Hebrew or Torah garment. In fact the good news is that, we are living in those days, as millions of Christians from all around the world, in an uncoordinated yet massive grassroots movement, are shedding their Christian theology and doctrines to wholeheartedly embrace the Torah. As in all movements like this, there remains much confusion, as people tend to travel at different speeds, with some racing ahead, whilst others are left behind in the slow lane. Inevitably, it is a process for these well intentioned Hebrew Roots Israelites, and it takes time to remove all the many layers of false doctrines, opinions, and prejudices, which have been inculcated into them over several millennia.

If there is to be reconciliation between the House of Judah and the House of Israel, then it behoves Ephraim, (10 Israel), to approach his brother Judah in all humility. He needs to learn this lesson from Queen Esther, who was willing to listen and submit to Mordecai, the Jew in all things. It is not good for Hebrew Roots Israelites who come to Judah and tell him what he is doing wrong! Submission and humility are the most vital keys to bringing genuine restoration in a relationship, which was fractured and torn apart some three thousand years ago. Two thousand years of the most vicious Christian persecution of the Jews needs to be borne in mind at all times. The Hebrew Roots Restoration Movement needs to understand that they are in no position to come to Judah with demands. They are in no position to classify Jewish Purim celebrations as '*carnal*' and '*pagan*,' or to scoff at many of the Rabbinic Torah interpretations. Instead, if they really want to make a good impression, they should humbly wear the Torah Cloak of righteousness and by their conduct make Judah jealous of their zeal. Their own lives should set the example, as only then will the prophetic words of Moses ever be fulfilled:

#### "But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation."

(Deuteronomy 32:21b, NKJV)

Moses is speaking about you and me [former Christians] because we represent that prodigal son who ended up with the pigs! With the advent of the Hebrew Roots Restoration Movement, we are now living in the days when the prophecy of Jeremiah 31, is gradually becoming a reality:

#### "For there shall be a day When the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim, 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'"

#### (Jeremiah 31:6, NKJV)

For surely if the House of Judah and the House of Israel are ever going to be reconciled and unite into One nation comprising The Whole House of Jacob, then this call will have to go out to the nations where 10 Israel is scattered.

Finally, to wrap up this message: **Purim is a prophetic feast relating, in** a most subtle and covert way, the yet future return of the Lost House of Israel leading to the great and glorious deliverance of the Whole House of Israel. Like Sukkot, Purim too speaks of the time when there will be perfect shalom between the House of Israel and the House of Judah. The incredible fact is that, had we not been given the revelation of the knowledge of the Two Houses of Israel, and the understanding of their ultimate Reconciliation, leading to the much prophesied Redemption (Geulah) of Israel, we would never have understood the true meaning of this feast of Purim. A full two-thirds of the Tanakh is prophecy, yes, even the parts which do not remotely look like prophecy, often turn out to be prophetic after all. The main message of prophecy is; 'Redemption,' which implies: "The Reconciliation in Peace of the two estranged Houses of Israel and their re-uniting for the establishment of the 12-Tribed Kingdom of Yehovah." It is this knowledge of the Two Houses of Israel, when combined with Yehovah's oft expressed desire, to bring those two Houses together again, that provides "THE" KEY to opening our understanding to the prophetic realm and God's true purpose for humanity.

We have seen how King Ahasuerus symbolises the King of the Universe, the Holy One of Israel. How Queen Vashti symbolises the rebellious House of Israel that was sent away, and how Queen Esther symbolises a righteous and **'repentant'** House of Israel that is willing to submit to the Torah rule of the King. How Haman and his sons symbolise Satan and his demons, and how Mordecai is a symbol of not only of Mashiach ben Yosef, but also ultimately of MASHIACH BEN DAVID, who will restore the Tabernacle of David in preparation for His RULE of over the WHOLE 12-Tribed House of Israel in the Messianic Era.

"So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. The Jews had "LIGHT" and gladness, joy and honor. And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday."

(Esther 8:15-17, NKJV)

The final passage above is quoted in the Havdalah after Shabbat prayer, and the whole context of the prayer invokes the glorious **'redemption'** of the Whole House of Israel.

"For Mordecai the Jew was SECOND to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen."

#### (Esther 10:3, NKJV)

As we look at the effusive language in which Mordecai is lauded in both passages quoted above, might one dare to imagine him in both roles of Mashiach Ben Yosef and Mashiach Ben David???? May the reader decide!

#### "Rock of Israel, arise to the aid of Israel and liberate as you pledged, Judah and Israel. Our Redeemer Hashem, Master of legions is His Name, Ruler of Israel, Blessed are you, HaShem, Who redeemed Israel."

#### (From the Talmud)

Purim is an awesome real life story of deliverance, yet some people have little regard for the book of Esther because the name of God is not mentioned in its pages. While His "*written*" name is not there, we clearly see His name, meaning His character, plus His Mighty Right Arm of protection in action throughout. Yehovah's name may not be spelled out in writing but His signs of deliverance abound throughout its pages.

All of us had, or perhaps are presently having times when we need to be delivered from our enemies. So let us follow the example of Mordecai and Esther and trust that our Elohim can save us.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version.

#### **ADDENDUM TO:**

#### HIDDEN PURIM SECRETS FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER

With all due respect to Mrs. Na ama Odess and her superb lecture on the political background to the situation in Shushan, the capital of the Persian Empire in the days of Queen Esther, I must take issue with something she said regarding the sacred golden vessels of the Beit Mikdash (the Temple).

Ahasveros is identified as Xerces I, who reigned from 485 - 465 B.C.E. He held his big feast in the third year of his reign i.e. in 482 B.C.E. The problem is that the holy vessels of the Temple were not in Persia during his reign, as they

had been taken to Jerusalem some 55 years previously under the reign of King Cyrus, one of his predecessors. It was King Cyrus who captured Babylon in 539 B.C.E. for the Persian Empire, and just two years later he opened the way for the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. Two major expeditions made the journey, one in 537 B.C.E., which is described fully in EZRA 1:1-11.

Notice that Cyrus brought out the sacred articles of gold and silver that had belonged to the Temple, some 5,400 items in all. In this first return, 49,897 men plus wives and children returned to Eretz Israel that year. Millions of Jews stayed behind scattered all over the empire.

There was a Second Return in 458 B.C.E., which was 7 years after Ahasveros' death. On this occasion only 1,754 males plus their families returned.

Ahasveros would never have dreamed of touching those Holy golden vessels of the Temple, as the Persians were well aware through the ministry of Daniel of the power of the God of Israel. They knew that the impregnable city of Babylon had fallen into their hands on the very night Belteshazar, the king of Babylon was feasting with a thousand of his lords using the sacred vessels of the Temple. They were also aware how the Hand of God had appeared during that banquet with the awesome judgment of MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN. You may be sure that this dramatic event was well known to the Persian rulers.

For more on Purim, please see our other article titled "<u>Modern Echoes of</u> <u>Purim</u>."