

THE BOOK OF ESTHER & FEASTS:

1. The story of Esther begins with / at a feast!

Esther 1:3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast (מִשְׁתֶּה) unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: **Esther 1:4** When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.

2. The story of Esther actually begins with 2 feasts!

Esther 1:5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast (מִשְׁתֶּה) unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; **Esther 1:6** Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble. **Esther 1:7** And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king. **Esther 1:8** And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

180 days – 7 days

For the aristocracy - for the loyal, local servants

Outsiders - insiders

Uncommon people – common people

3. Queen Vashti also made a feast and refused Xerxes's feast!

Esther 1:9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast (מִשְׁתֶּה) for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus. **Esther 1:10** On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, **Esther 1:11** To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. **Esther 1:12** But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

4. Esther was recognized and elevated at a feast!

Esther 2:17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. **Esther 2:18** Then the king made a great feast (מִשְׁתֶּה גָּדוֹל) unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast (מִשְׁתֶּה אֶסְתֵּר); and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

A great feast

A feast just for Esther

A coronation feast

5. The story of Esther hinges on a mini-feast!

Esther 3:13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. **Esther 3:14** The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day. **Esther 3:15** The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. **And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.**

6. Haman was set up at one feast and taken down at the second feast!

Esther 5:4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet (אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה) that I have prepared for him.

Esther 5:5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came **to the banquet (אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה)** that Esther had prepared.

Esther 5:6 And the king said unto Esther **at the banquet (בְּמִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן) of wine**, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and **what is thy request?** even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

Esther 5:8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come **to the banquet (אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה)** that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

Esther 5:12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king **unto the banquet** (אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה) that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

Esther 5:14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king **unto the banquet** (אֶל הַמִּשְׁתֶּה). And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

Esther 6:14 And **while they were yet talking with him**, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman **unto the banquet** (אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה) that Esther had prepared.

Esther 7:2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day **at the banquet** (בַּמִּשְׁתֶּה הַשֵּׁנִי) **of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther?** and it shall be granted thee: and **what is thy request?** and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

Esther 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: **Esther 7:4** For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. **Esther 7:5** Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? **Esther 7:6** And Esther said, **The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.**

Esther 7:7 And the king arising **from the banquet of wine** (מִמִּשְׁתֵּי הַיַּיִן) in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. **Esther 7:8** Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of **the banquet of wine** (בְּמִשְׁתֵּי הַיַּיִן); and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. **Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house?** As the word went out of the king's mouth, **they covered Haman's face.**

7. The story of Esther resulted in a feast!

Esther 8:15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. **Esther 8:16** The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. **Esther 8:17** And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, **a feast** (מִשְׁתֶּה) and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

8. The story of Esther ends with a permanent feast!

Esther 9:16 **But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces** gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey, **Esther 9:17** On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day **of feasting** (מִשְׁתֶּה) and gladness.

Esther 9:18 **But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day** of the same they rested, and made it a **day of feasting** (יּוֹם מִשְׁתֶּה) and gladness.

Esther 9:19 **Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwall'd towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar** a day of gladness and **feasting** (וַיִּמְשְׁתֶּה), and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

Esther 9:20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto **all** the Jews that were in **all** the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, **both nigh and far, Esther 9:21** To stablish this among them, **that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly, Esther 9:22** As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month **which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that** they should make them days **of feasting** (מִשְׁתֶּה) and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

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,

Esther 9:32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of **Purim**; and it was written in the book.