Feast of Lots

Background

- Commemorates the preservation of the Jewish people in 473 BC
- Purim marks the deliverance of the Jews through Mordecai and Queen Esther in Shushan, Persia (modern day Susa, Iran).

1

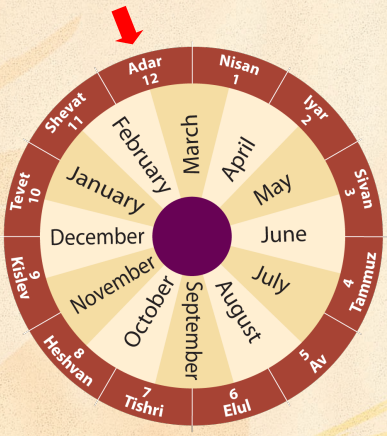
Feast of Lots

Also Known As: *Purim*

Observed:
14 or 15 Adar
February or March

Scripture:
Book of Esther

Hebrew: פּוּרִים



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Feast of Lots

Background

- Esther was her Persian name, meaning "star."
- Her Hebrew name was Hadassah, meaning "myrtle."
- Myrtle means 'love' or 'crowning glory'

Queen Esther by Andrea Del Castagno, 1450

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Feast of Purim

Background

- The word *purim* means "lots" and refers to the lot Haman cast to decide the day to choose for the destruction of the Jewish people.
- *Est 3:7- In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.* NKJV

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Persian Kings in the 3 Books

Ezra 1-6	539-530 B.C.	Cyrus "the Great"
	530-522	Cambyses II (not mentioned)
	522-486 B.C.	Darius I "the Great"
Esther	486-464 B.C.	Ahasuerus (also called Xerxes) (Esther's husband)
Ezra 7-10 & Nehemiah	464-423 B.C.	Artaxerxes I (Esther's stepson, Ezra's supporter & Nehemiah's boss)
	423-404 B.C.	Darius II (briefly mentioned in Neh.12:22)

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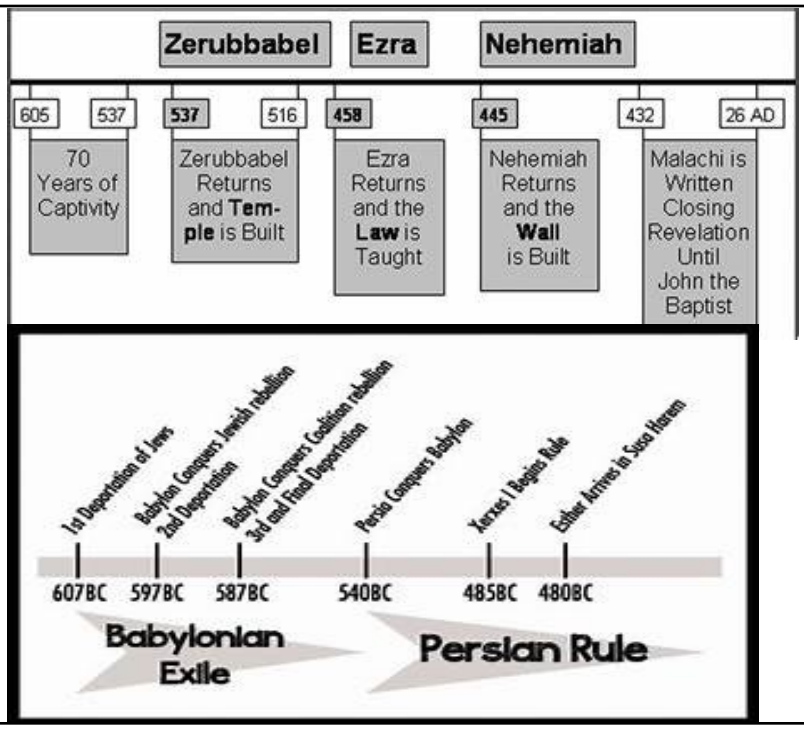

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SCYTHIANS
DANUBE R.
THRACE
MACEDONIA
BLACK SEA
CAUCASUS MTS
CASPIAN SEA
ARAL SEA
JAXARTES R.
MASSAGETAE
SAKAE
(SCYTHIANS)
Plataea
Athens
GREECE
SALAMIS
Marathan
CRETE
AEGEAN SEA
BITHYNIA
Ancyra
Sardis
PHRYGIA
LYDIA
CARIA
CAPPADOCIA
Trapezus
ARMENIA
CASPIANS
CADUSH
CILICIA
Tarsus
CYPRUS
ASSYRIA
Arbela
AMARDI
CHORASMIA
Maracanda
SOGDIANA
OXUS R.
MARGIANA
DERBICCANS
Bactra
BACTRIA
Taxila
GANDARA
ARIA
PARTHIA
Ecbatana
THE GREAT SEA
(Mediterranean Sea)
Cyrene
LIBYA
SYRIA
Damascus
EUPHRATES R.
TIGRIS R.
PERSIAN EMPIRE
Samaria
SAMARIA
Jerusalem
Babylon
BABYLONIA
Aspadana
Shushan
SAGARTIANS
DRANGIANA
ARACHOSIA
JUDAH
Memphis
EGYPT
NILE R.
Pasargadae
Persepolis
CARMANIA
PERSIS
UTIANS
GEDROSIA
INDUS R.
INDIA
ARABIA
PERSIAN GULF
Thebes
N
W
E
S
0
400 Miles
RED SEA
The Persian Empire
During the Time of Esther
Around 475 BC
ARABIAN SEA

7

Persia is in Modern Day Iran
Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzsta
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Syria
Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Saudi Arabia
Oman
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Feast of Lots

Grogger and Hamantashen

The four central commandments (mitzvot) of Purim include:

Reading the Megillah: Listening to the story of Esther (twice) in the synagogue, often with rowdy, festive noise-making.

Cheer for Mordachai - Boo Haman

Mishloach Manot: Sending at least two portions of food to one person or family

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Feast of Lots

Matanot La'evyonim: Giving charity to at least two needy individuals.

Seudah: Partaking in a festive, celebratory meal, often featuring wine and, for some, drinking to the point of being unable to distinguish between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordecai".

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Feast of Lots

Fascinating Facts

- Other customs include parades, dressing up as characters and reenacting the story of Esther, parties, and carnivals.

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Feast of Lots

Yeshua (Jesus)

- The Jews of Esther's day were delivered from an irrevocable decree of the Persian king Ahasuerus.
- The Jews were delivered by Esther exposing Hamon and the King giving the Jews the right to defend themselves.
- God also has an irrevocable decree that all people are sinners and deserve death.

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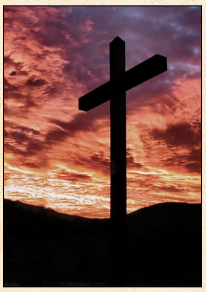
Feast of Lots (PURIM)

Yeshua (Jesus)

However, the Messiah (Jesus) delivers all who believe in him from that irrevocable decree as well



Rom 6:23- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Feast of Lots

Yeshua (Jesus)

- Many have and may continue to persecute believers in Messiah, but Isaiah's prophecy proclaims that they will not prevail because "God is with us," or literally, because of *Immanuel* (Isaiah 8:10).

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Feast of Lots

Background

- Adar 14 and 15 became days of joy and feasting.
- Purim is celebrated on Adar 14 in most cities except those cities surrounded by walls since the time of Joshua.
- Walled cities celebrate Purim on Adar 15 (Shushan Purim).
- Read Esther 9:23-32

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Jesus and Purim

Did Jesus celebrate Purim?

Most likely -John 5

5 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.....9b The day on which this took place was a Sabbath

- only feast during Shabbat during those years was Purim.

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