



A celebration of faith, the Purim perspective!

The Purim Perspective Perspective is in honor of the complete and speedy recovery of Sasson Betzalel ben Batya, Shaul Ben Berta, Fayga Sarah Bas Gittel, and Dalit Bas Shoshana.

The Purim Perspective is dedicated to the memory of Shlomo Ben Edward and Edward Ben Shaul. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.

There are many powerful lessons to learn from the Megillah; but, there is one that I would like to share.

The Megillah begins with King Achashverosh having a feast to celebrate 70 years since the destruction of the first Beis Hamikdash. Achashverosh knew that the Jewish prophets predicted that 70 years after the destruction of the First Temple it was going to be rebuilt. He was afraid that the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem might shake the foundations of his world empire.

According to Achashverosh's calculations, the seventy years of exile were to end in the third year of his reign. Yet, when that time came, and nothing happened, he was thrilled, believing that now the Jews would remain his subjects, without ever regaining their power or independence.

He celebrated with a great feast and adorned his tables with the sacred vessels of the Beis Hamikdash. As the Jewish people arrived at the palace, they saw the holy vessels on the King's tables, and yet they still remained for the feast.

G-d's anger was aroused by the Jewish people's disrespect, they went to a feast that had the vessels of the Beis Hamikdash on display, and enjoyed it. So He allowed the Jewish people should suffer the full weight of the wicked Haman's persecution.

Mordechai, the leader of the Jewish people found out about the decree and began mourned in the streets. Esther heard what Mordechai was doing and sent her servant with clothes to give him. Mordechai refused the new clothes and told him to tell Esther. "If you stay silent and do nothing, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter. But you and your father's house will perish. However, perhaps you have attained to royalty for just such a crisis."

Mordechai was encouraging Esther to see the divine providence of her position. To recognize that this was G-d's plan all along and all she needs to do is Believe! To believe that she was put in her position to set G-d's plan in motion!

Queen Esther shows us what true faith is, it is not being certain, but having the courage to live with G-d in the presence of uncertainty. To hear the voice of G-d even in the midst of chaos. To let G-d guide you on His journey and be the co-author of your destiny.

The Pasuk says *'The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, happiness and honor'*. The Gemora Megillah explains, that "אֹרֶה"(light) refers to the Torah, that because the Jewish nation showed their complete devotion to Hashem, they merited a spiritual awakening similar to the one they had at Mt. Sinai by the giving of the Torah.

May we experience the same spiritual awakening, success, happiness, and prosperity.

Have a joyful and meaningful Purim.

Rabbi Sholom Yemini