



Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963



Kevin Geoffrey
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a good reminder of God's continual faithfulness to preserve His chosen people—even when the anti-Semitic forces of the world are bent on her destruction.

The Story of Puriym

The story of Esther and the Jews living in Persia takes place around 500 BC, near the end of Israel's expulsion to Babylon. The historical account (found in the book of Esther) concludes with Esther and Mordechai's triumph over Haman and

We are now entering the last month of the biblical Jewish year, which hosts the Feast of *Puriym*—a holiday birthed out of the events reported in the book of Esther. The celebration of this special day, though not directly commanded by God, is nonetheless

the spirit of anti-Semitism, securing the Jewish people's momentary safety in a foreign land. In short,

...Haman... the 'Agagiy, adversary of all the Jews, had devised [a plot] concerning the Jews to destroy them, and

had caused *pur* to fall—that is, the lot—to crush them and to destroy them. But in [Esther's uncovering of Haman's plot and] coming in before the king, [the king responded] with the [written proclamation] letter, "Let [Haman's] evil device that he devised against the Jews turn back upon his own head!" And they hanged him and his sons on the tree. (Esther 9:24-25)

As Jewish people around the world celebrate the Feast of Puriym, they eat Hamantaschen--tasty filled cookies that are supposedly shaped like Haman's hat.



The ensuing "days of banquet and of joy, and of sending portions [of food] one to another, and gifts to the needy" were celebrated "as days on which the Jews

have rested from their enemies, and the month that has been turned to them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning to a good day." (vs. 22) These days inaugurated an annual memorial—"Puriym—by the name of the lot"—established by Mordechai's letter to the Jews of Persia.



Update from Israel

I recently received an update from our ministry friend Baruch, sharing about the work he has been doing with new immigrants in the city of Ashdod. He wrote: "Lately, there is tremendous Aliyah [immigration] from Ukraine. It may be what Jeremiah prophesied: "Therefore behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when it will no longer be said, 'As the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.'" (Jeremiah 16:14-15) Because I am from Kiev (the Ukraine's capital), it is easy for me to connect with such people—we have many topics to talk about—and that is good since they easily receive information from me and are open to my advice.

"We had a special event for many of these new Ashdod residents. Hundreds were...

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Therefore... the Jews have established... to be keeping these two days... in every year.... And these days are [to be] remembered and kept in every generation... and city. And these days of *Puriym* may not pass away from the midst of the Jews, and their memorial may not [be] ended from their seed. (Esther 9:26-28)

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given an oil radiator and a blanket as a gift. Here in Israel, we have short but harsh winters with heavy rains and strong wind. It can be cold and wet in the apartments—especially during the night, when temperature decreases to 40 or 50°F—and not every family can afford to get a radiator. So you can imagine how glad people were to receive such a gift!

“We also have a monthly distribution of food packages for these immigrants, and also share the Good News of Yeshua with them. I was recently privileged to interpret for a pastor from the USA who had come to share the Word of God with the people. It was very moving message and I thank God that I was able to pass it on to the people in the right form!”



squeezed by the nations—forced to worship and follow other gods and other ways, or face the sting of persecution and death.

Puriym, therefore, is one more event in a long line of persecution-related narratives, joining a host of Jewish “histori-days”—including *Chanukah*, which celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the overwhelming anti-Semitic and assimilating forces of their day; and the modern *Yom Yerushalayim*, which celebrates the retaking of the old city of Jerusalem during the six day war of 1967, ending the reign of Gentile rule over Jerusalem for the first time in two millennia. *Puriym* is, of course, unique, since it alone appears in the Hebrew canon of Scripture, but its themes reverberate through the annals of time.

Salvation Through Yeshua

My friend, anti-Semitism is most certainly still at work in the world today, but we know that God will continue to preserve and protect his chosen people, just as He has done throughout history. However, we also know that ADONAI’s ultimate salvation for His people has already been accomplished through the work of the Messiah Yeshua—and it is vitally important for the Jewish people to embrace that salvation. This is the ultimate purpose and goal of MJMI,

and I am asking you to stand with me for the redemption and deliverance of my people.

Your generous donation of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** will help MJMI accomplish its vision to see all Israel saved. Please use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit www.mjmi.org to send your much-needed donation today. And if you aren’t already, please consider becoming a ministry partner, so that I will know we can count on you for monthly support.

This *Puriym*, let us remember God’s promise to the Jewish people:

Blessed is ADONAI, the God of Yis’rael, because He looked upon *us*, and worked redemption for His people, and raised a horn of salvation to us, in the house of David His servant, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been from the age, salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, AND OUT OF THE HAND OF ALL THOSE HATING US. (Luke 1:68-71, quoting Psalm 106:10, MJLT)

For the sake of the Messiah,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin".

Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI

So by royal decree, the Jews of Persia escaped an onslaught against them, and instituted *Puriym* as an annual reminder to all Israel of this “good day.” *Puriym* is to be celebrated “the fourteenth day of the month of Adar [the twelfth month], and the fifteenth day of it, in every year...” (Esther 9:21)

A History of Persecution and Protection

Although neither the name of ADONAI nor any reference to the God of Israel is found in the book of Esther, the underlying theme of divine providence is encapsulated in the famous line uttered by Mordechai to the reluctant Queen Esther: “and who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for a time such as this?” (Esther 4:14) God’s silent role in the story of Esther is what brought about the protection and salvation of the Jewish people of Persia.

The story of Esther is not the first account in which the Jewish people faced atrocities at the hands of the Gentiles. Even before she became a nation, Israel’s future was severely threatened while she remained enslaved by Pharaoh in Egypt. We continue to see the spirit of anti-Semitism weaved like a thread throughout the tapestry of Israel’s volatile history. When she was not destroying herself by following other gods and losing her own way, she was being

