

PURIM

Purim begins at sunset on Monday, March 6 and continues through March 7. *Purim*, or the Feast of Lots, is a joyous holiday that recounts the saving of the Jews from a threatened massacre during the Persian period (539-330 before the Common Era). Esther, new bride to the king, was told to keep her Jewish faith a secret by her cousin, Mordecai. When Mordecai refused to bow down before Haman, prime minister of the empire, Haman plotted to kill all the Jews as revenge. He chose the day by throwing lots.

Esther's cousin persuaded her to risk her life by going to the king without being summoned and reveal her faith. After inviting the king and Haman to a great feast, she revealed that she was Jewish and persuaded the king (her husband) to allow the Jews to defend themselves against Haman's plot. The Jews prevailed, Haman was executed, and Mordecai was appointed to take his place.

Purim is a reminder to the Jewish people that even though they face enemies, they will overcome adversity.

The story of *Purim* is recounted in the Book of Esther.

Short video on why Jews wear costumes on *Purim* (around 2 minutes long):

<https://youtu.be/PBQ3Dcib7wI>

Home Companion for celebrating *Purim*, including ways to celebrate, recipes, and common myths and misconceptions about *Purim* [Purim Home Companion](#)

