



י"ד אדר תשפ"ג March 7, 2023

## שְׂאֵלוֹת הַפְּתִילָה • Megillat Esther Scavenger Hunt



### פּוּקָא • CHAPTER 1

1. Why did Vashti refuse to come to Ahashverosh's party?
2. What item from the Seder table can be found in this chapter?

### פּוּקָב • CHAPTER 2

3. Who was Mordechai's great grandfather?
4. What was Esther's other name?



### פּוּקָג • CHAPTER 3



5. How much money did Haman offer to Ahashverosh?
6. What mouthful of words describes the governors of Ahashverosh's provinces?

## פרק 4 • CHAPTER 4

7. How long had it been since Ahashverosh last called Esther to come see him?

8. How long did Esther ask Mordekhai and all of the Jews of Shushan to fast with her?



## פרק 5 • CHAPTER 5

9. What did Zeresh and all of Haman's loved ones tell him to do?

10. How tall was the gallows?

## פרק 6 • CHAPTER 6

11. What did Haman call out while he paraded Mordekhai around town?

12. Who was in mourning?



## פרק 7 • CHAPTER 7

13. If the Jewish people were being sold into slavery, what does Esther say she would do?

14. Who told Ahashverosh that Haman had a tree ready for hanging Mordekhai?



## פרק 8 • CHAPTER 8

15. Who gets the king's ring?

16. What line that is part of the Havdalah prayer appears in this chapter?



## פרק ט • CHAPTER 9

17. What words in the chapter explain that Haman's decree was overturned and the opposite happened?
18. How many times does the word פּוּרִים (Purim) appear in this chapter?

## פרק י • CHAPTER 10

19. What book is mentioned in this chapter?
20. What was Mordechai's new role?



## הלכה • Halakhah

There are four special mitzvot on Purim. This is your once-a-year opportunity to observe them!

### (1) Reading the Megillah

The mitzvah is to either read Megillat Esther yourself or hear someone else read it. This has to be done twice, once at night and once in the morning (Mishneh Torah Hilkhhot Megillah 1:1-2). The source for this mitzvah is this line from the Megillah (9:28): וְהַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה נִזְכָּרִים וְנִעְשָׂיִם (and these days are remembered and observed). Reading the Megillah is how we do this "remembering."

It's very important to hear every single word of the Megillah, even the name of a certain wicked guy that we try to block out with noise!

The other three mitzvot come from this line in Megillat Esther (9:22):



לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם יְמֵי מְסֻתָּה וּמְסֻלָּה סָנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ וּמִתְּנוּת לְאֲבִיבָיִם:

... TO MAKE THE DAYS OF PURIM DAYS OF FEASTING AND JOY, AND SENDING FOOD EACH PERSON TO THEIR FRIEND, AND GIFTS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR.

## (2) Feasting and joy

The "feasting and joy" on Purim is called the Purim סעודה (seudah, meal). Almost everyone agrees that it should be eaten during the day, not the night before, and should be a fun occasion with friends and family (Shulhan Arukh Orah Hayyim 695:1).



## (3) Sending food

This is called משלוח מנות (mishloah manot). The core of this mitzvah is to give two different kinds of food to another Jew on the day of Purim (Shulhan Arukh Orah Hayyim 695:4). It can actually be two portions of the same food, as long as they taste a little different from each other. According to the Terumat Ha-Deshen (111), the point of mishloah manot is to make sure everyone has food for their seudah. So whatever you give should be ready-to-eat on Purim.

## (4) Gifts to people who are poor

There is no better way to spread our joy than to give מתנות לאביונים (matanot la-eyyonim), to give money or food to those who need it most (Mishneh Torah Hilkhoh Megillah 2:17). While the mitzvah of mishloah manot is to give two types of food to one person, the core of matanot la-eyyonim is to give one gift, normally money (but it could also be food), to two different people. This mitzvah is the highest priority—it's better to spend more money on matanot la-eyyonim than on the seudah and mishloah manot (Mishnah Berurah 694:3)!



## Megillat Esther Scavenger Hunt Answers:

1. The megillah doesn't say why (1:12)
2. Karpasi (1:6) Although here it refers to a kind of fabric.
3. Kish (2:5)
4. Hadassah (2:7)
5. 10,000 talents of silver (3:9)
6. לְשָׁלֹשׁ יָמִים וְשָׁלוֹשׁ עָרְסָנוּ (the king's ahashdarpenim) (3:12)
7. 30 days (4:11)
8. 3 days (4:16)
9. Prepare a gallows and tell Ahashverosh to hang Mordechai on it (5:14)
10. 50 amot (5:14)
11. "This is what is done for a person that the king wishes to honor!" (6:11)
12. Haman (6:12)
13. Be silent (7:4)
14. Harvona (7:9)
15. Mordechai (8:2)
16. הַיְהוּדִים אָמְרוּ אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרֹשׁ וְיָדָוּ (The Jews enjoyed light and happiness, gladness and honor) (8:16)
17. אֲרָבָה הִפְתָּח וְהָיָה חֹדֶם וְהָיָה חֹדֶם (9:1)
18. Five times (9:26, 28, 29, 31, 32)
19. The History Book of the kings of Media and Persia (10:2)
20. He is next in line to Ahashverosh (10:3)

