



# El Shaddai Ministries

Feasts of the Lord in Prophecy Newsletter  
eNews!

February 2012, Vol 6, Issue 2



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## Message from Pastor Mark

Shalom one and all!

Here we already are in February and Purim is moving fast upon us and before we know it Passover will be here! Purim is so significant prophetically as it speaks of a Persian madman bent on destroying the Jewish people and prevent the rebuilding of the Temple. Sounds familiar doesn't it! Be sure and listen to our [recent lesson](#) on Purim and Revelation!

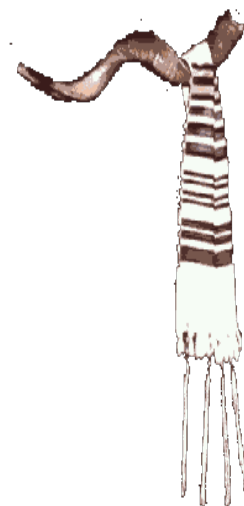
This month we have [Susanna Kokkonen](#) from Yad Vashem in Israel coming to speak to us on the Shabbat of Feb 23rd. Monday night Feb 25th is the Purim party and then

Monday night March 11th is [David Rubin](#) followed by Sunday night March 24th our Passover seder. Be sure and get your tickets early and if you are coming from out of town we are looking forward to seeing you!! Get your tickets and find hotels [here](#) ([www.elshaddaiministries.us/events/2013passover.html](http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/events/2013passover.html)).

We also have our Memorial Weekend [Zikron Conference](#) coming the end of May that will be very exciting and we hope you plan to attend! We will have Rabbi Daniel Lapin and Frank Seekins joining us for a weekend of learning all about Shavuot. We will also be doing mikvah's for those interested.

I know this is way in advance but if you are interested in our 2014 Israel trip the end of April and first of May be sure and contact our office and let us know!

When you read historical records of the events surrounding the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, I can't help but remember what Josephus has to say. He talks about different celestial signs that were seen portending the coming disaster. Well guess what! Not only do we have the coming eclipses in 2014 and 2015 but coming this fall of 2013 we have a comet to beat all comets! It is called ISON and all you have to do is google it to read all about it. They say it may be as bright as a full moon and even be visible during the day. By the end of October you will be able to easily see it with binoculars and perhaps even without them. ISON will be seen in the constellation Leo in October then in November it will pass through Virgo. It is reported it will be its brightest on Nov 28th as it passes through the inner corona of the sun experiencing temperatures of up to 2 million degrees Fahrenheit. ISON will whip around the sun at a speed of 425,000 miles per hour and be 732,000 miles above the sun literally grazing the solar



surface. One astronomer said it will resemble a lighted match at the sun's edge. It just so happens Nov 28th is the first day of Chanukah! God Himself will see to it that He lights this candle!

Be Blessed!!

**Pastor Mark**

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## PURIM LESSONS

By Tom O'Haver

**Purim**

Purim is a post-Torah festival in Judaism that is described in Esther 9:26-32. The word purim is from the word pur, which means lot, luck or fate. "Purim" is the plural. Lots were cast to determine a day to exterminate the Jews throughout the Persian empire. This very popular festival in Judaism commemorates a very momentous victory of the Jewish people over an adversary intent upon genocide. In Esther 9:28 it is said that these days [should be] remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and [that] these days of Purim

should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.

Haman, who King Ahasuerus promoted over all the princes of the kingdom of Medo-Persia, was a descendant of Agag who King Saul should have killed in the account described in I Sa 15:3, 8. Because Saul did not obey God's command given him by the prophet Samuel, Agag's seed, Haman, was alive to become incensed at what he considered an affront to his dignity by Mordecai (Est 3:2)

As a result of this Haman created a plan and had it developed into legislation signed and sealed by the king himself that called for the annihilation of all the Jewish people in the kingdom. If Haman's plan had succeeded genocide would have occurred. Ultimately the Jewish people were given the right by the king to defend themselves against the day of the planned genocide. The Scripture says the Jewish people were saved, and many of the gentile peoples of Medo-Persia became Jews as a result of this situation.

### LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM PURIM

**1. All of God's people are called to stand for human rights, regardless of their age or influence**

One of the lessons we learn from this account is that all of God's people are called to stand for

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human rights, regardless of their age or influence. This is a testimony against any attempt at genocide of any ethnic people.

Though *Purim* is not included in the Torah festivals of Leviticus 23, it is, nevertheless, a biblical festival that has been celebrated faithfully by the Jewish people since the time of the event itself. It speaks of the fact that God's protection is upon his people regardless as to the circumstances they face. This can also be a great lesson for Christians of how God can bring victory and deliverance from the least likely places, and he can use anyone who steps forward to take on the challenge of standing against evil and for the good of humanity.

Purim is recognizing the triumph of good over evil and of the need for every person to be available or the call of God on their life "for such a time as this."

## **2. Remember That God Is In Control.**

The name of God is not recorded anywhere at all in the entire Book of Esther. Yet it is obvious that He was quietly at work behind the scenes, setting up the downfall of Haman and the deliverance of His people. We can see how He orchestrated all the events which were necessary for the fulfilling of His plan-the removal of Queen Vashti, the king's choice of Esther, Mordecai's discovery of the assassination plot, the king's insomnia, the servant's choice of what to read the king that night, and the timing of Haman's arrival.

The story of Purim reminds us that God is sovereign and often works in ways that are not apparent to the natural eye. Sometimes we look at a situation and it seems as though God is not at work at all: it seems like He is entirely absent and totally indifferent. Some time later we may come to realize that God was indeed at work. He was just doing His work behind the scenes, in ways that we could not see at the time.

## **3. Be Slow To Judge Others.**

It would be easy for us to criticize Esther and Mordecai's behavior. After all, King Ahasuerus was a heathen and had a harem of concubines. What was a nice Jewish girl like Esther doing marrying someone like him? And why did Mordecai tell her to assimilate and keep her Jewish identity a secret?

Under normal circumstances it would have been wrong for Esther to do what she did. However, we do not know all the details about the situation. The scripture does not say that Esther married the king of her own free will. As a matter of fact, the Talmud claims that Esther was taken against her will (Sanh. 74b). If this is true, it would explain why Mordecai told her to keep her Jewish identity a secret. If the king found out she was Jewish, it could make a bad situation worse.

We need to be very careful about judging the actions of others, especially when we do not know all the details. Sometimes actions appear to be wrong only because we jump to conclusions, assuming the worst, and judge according to appearance.

We need to be careful about judging people even when their actions are wrong. Actions have reasons behind them. Reasons do not always justify or excuse actions, but they can explain why people do the wrong things. In one sense it was wrong for Esther to marry a heathen king, but apparently God brought Esther to the throne "for such a time as this."



## **4. Be Faithful To God.**

Mordecai told Esther to hide her Jewish identity, but he made no effort to hide his own identity. On the contrary, he told his co-workers in the palace that he was a Jew, and he risked his life by refusing to bow to Haman according to the king's commandment. (The Torah does not forbid bowing to a king or king's official. Jewish commentators believe that Mordecai's refusal to bow was possibly because Haman had declared himself Divine and/or because Haman had idolatrous images on his clothing.)

Mordecai's faithfulness to God got him into trouble and brought the threat of annihilation to all the Jews. However, it was also Mordecai's faithfulness that ultimately caused God to act. This same pattern can be seen in other situations, such as the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lion's den. The New Testament tells us that the saints of old "stopped the mouths of lions (and) quenched the violence of fire" (Heb.11:33). The New Testament writer of this passage goes on to point out, though, that other faith-filled saints were not delivered. They were tortured and killed in spite of their faith and their faithfulness. And in the post-Biblical centuries, God did not stop the mouths of the lions that were loosed on the faithful Christians in the Roman Coliseum, nor did He quench the fires lit beneath Protestants tied to the stake.

So the lesson from Mordecai's faithfulness is two-fold. First, it teaches us that being true to our faith will probably get us into trouble at some point in our lives. The second lesson is to be faithful to God, whether we get deliverance in this life or die as a martyr. Either way, we win in the end.

As Pastor Mark has often said, we need to be ready to say to God, "Put us into the battle, Lord"!

#### 5. Know That You Have A Purpose.



When Esther was reluctant to go to the king, Mordecai told her that if she did not do it, then deliverance would come "from another place." Then he asked the question, "And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" In a general sense, we each need to realize that we have been brought into the world at this point in history "for such a time as this." God was the One who decided when you would be born. It was His will that you be alive in this present generation, not in the generation of a hundred years ago or a hundred years from now. He put you

into this current period of history, and He has a destiny for you to fulfill. Whether you fill a major or minor role in the big picture, you have a role to play. Whether you are small or great, you have a purpose, just as every part of the human body has a purpose, whether small or great. In a more specific sense, we need to realize that God often brings us into specific situations "for such a time as this." The situations may or may not be dangerous to us, and they may or may not be of major historical importance in the eyes of the world. They may be situations as simple as an opportunity to help a brother in need or an opportunity to point a lost soul to the Lord. If God brings you to such situations "for such a time as this" and you refuse to do your part, then "deliverance will arise from another place." In other words, God will use someone else to do the job, and that person will receive the eternal and temporal rewards that could have been yours.

#### 6. Beware Of Reaping What We Sow

Haman was hanged on the very gallows that he had built for Mordecai. The Bible teaches that when the wicked try to harm the righteous, the plan often boomerangs, and the wicked end up suffering the exact same harm, which they had intended to inflict on the righteous. "He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate (crown)" (Ps.7:15).

We need to beware of harming other people, in word as well as in deed, because we will reap whatever we sow. If you gossip about someone, someone else will gossip about you. If you insult people, other people will insult you. If you betray a friend or loved one, a friend or loved one will someday betray you. "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Matt. 7:2).

We need to beware of the "Reaping and Sowing" effect. We also need to remember that this spiritual law will work to our advantage when we have been unjustly attacked or harmed. Knowing about it makes it easier to not seek revenge, but to wait for God to avenge us and vindicate us.

#### 7. Trust God To Turn Sorrow Into Joy.

If Haman had succeeded, the 14th and 15th of Adar would have been days of mourning for the Jews—if any Jews had survived. Instead, these days became days of joy and feasting and gift-giving. Approximately 2,500 years have passed since the first Purim, and Jews still celebrate their deliverance from Haman every year. If Haman had not tried to kill the Jews, there would be no

festival of Purim. The irony of this is expressed in a Purim song that says of Haman: “And don’t forget we owe him thanks for this jolly Feast of Purim.”

If we trust God and are faithful to Him, He will eventually turn our sorrow into joy-if not in this age, then in the age to come, when we will have all eternity to rejoice. In the meantime, we can rejoice as much as possible under the circumstances in which we presently happen to be. We can celebrate Purim to commemorate God’s past deliverance of His people and to express our faith that He will ultimately deliver us from all future Hamans.

Celebrating the Lord’s deliverance of His people usually includes feasting, and Purim is no exception. As someone once remarked, “Most Jewish holidays can be summed up in just three sentences: They tried to kill us. We won. Let’s eat!”



Tom O'Haver is on staff at El Shaddai Ministries as Director of IT, administers the website, serves as a Pastoral Elder, Wellspring Prayer Minister and is also the production editor of this newsletter.

## RECIPES

Submitted by Tina Fallstead



Puff Pastry Salmon Hamentashen with Cucumber Dill Sauce

- 1 14.75 ounce cans salmon (pink or red)
- 1 ¼ cups bread crumbs, or more if necessary
- 2 large eggs
- 1 small onion, finely diced
- ½ cup ketchup
- 4 sheets puff pastry, defrosted
- 2 medium cucumbers, peeled
- 1 ½ cups lowfat mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon dried dill weed

- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds (optional)

Preheat oven to 400°F or 375°F if using a convection oven. Line 3 large cookie sheets with parchment paper set aside.

Place the cans of salmon in a large bowl. Do not drain. Crumble the salmon with your hands (I wear kitchen gloves) to make sure there are no lumps or hard pieces. Add the bread crumbs, eggs, onion, and ketchup. Mix until smooth. If the mixture seems too moist add more bread crumbs – but make sure that the mixture isn’t too dry.

Roll a sheet of puff pastry dough to 9x11 inches. Use a round (fluted if possible) cookie cutter to cut circles from the puff pastry dough. Using a scooper or tablespoon to scoop the salmon mixture onto the puff pastry circles. Pinch into triangle hamentashen. Bake for 15 minutes until browned. Serve warm or cold with Cucumber Dill Sauce.

For the Cucumber Dill Sauce: Process the cucumbers in a food processor until coarsely ground. Add mayonnaise and dill and pulse a few times to combine. Transfer to a container with a lid and refrigerate until ready to serve with the Puff Pastry Salmon Hamentashen

Tina Fallstead is El Shaddai Ministries' receptionist and Administrative

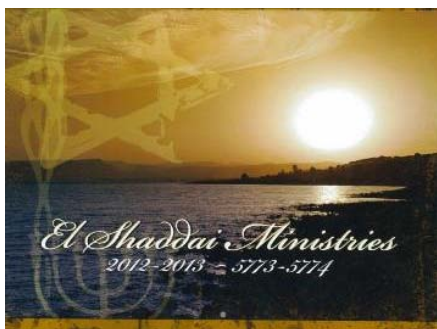


Assistant. She and her family are a valued part of our congregation and ministry.

## RECOMMENDED PRODUCT

Submitted by Tina Fallstead

### El Shaddai Ministries 16 month Calendar



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