



## Prayer Focus

March 14-20, 2022

### Purim – Unity, Strength and Joy

The festival of Purim will be celebrated this week from sundown on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, to sundown, March 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the remembrance of the deliverance of the Jewish people from annihilation as described in the book of Esther.

One of the incredible lessons from Purim is how unity of the people, strength, and joy came through this great difficulty.

Haman's request: *"Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, 'There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries.'" Esther 3:8-9*

Haman's hatred of the Jewish people was primarily due to his outrage at their God and His laws setting the people apart. The response of the Jewish people to the pronouncement of this decree is universally recorded as great mourning, fasting, weeping, and wailing, and "many lay in sackcloth and ashes." When Esther asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews present in Shushan to fast for her, he did as she commanded.

On Purim, we remember Esther and her great act of bravery and courage. She was placed by the Lord in this unique position to be used of Him in a time of crisis for

the deliverance of her people. Yet, it can be overlooked that she was backed by a vast number of fasting and praying people.

Once the decree was exposed as Haman's evil plan, it also took a great number of Jews to rise up and defend themselves. Through this, the *"Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor...Then many people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them."* Esther 8:16, 17b

What could have been a catastrophe, the Lord used to unify His people, give them strength, honor, and joy; and to draw men to Himself.

- Melody Divine

### **PRAY**

- Offer thanksgiving to God for His deliverance.
- Pray for the body of Messiah to be unified and strengthened through our difficulties.
- Pray for joy and gladness to be found by His people in the midst of trials.
- Pray for the harvest to see Him in us, at work through us, and to be drawn to Him.

### **Events**

Prayer Force Website: <http://www.prayerforce.live/>

Prayer Force Room Sign-Up

Prayer Force Equipping Hour – Every other Tuesday at 1:00pm, Pacific