

## Purim

The word Purim comes from the Hebrew word *pur*, which means 'lot'. Purim is also called the Feast of Lots. A long time ago, a lot was drawn to decide which day was best suited for a certain event. The Book of Esther tells more of this story.

According to Jewish tradition, there was a man named Haman around 600 BCE in Persia (Iran) who was a minister to the Persian King Ahasuerus. Haman hated the Jews. So much so that he wanted all of them killed. He drew a lot that fell on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month Adar; which would be the day his terrible plan would be carried out. But there was a Jewish man named Mordecai who heard about Haman's plan. He told this to his Jewish niece Esther, who was newly married to King Ahasuerus. Once Esther heard about what Haman was up to, she went to her husband and explained this would lead to her death as well. The King was shocked and decided to use the gallows Haman had intended for Mordecai and Esther's people, for Haman himself. So the Jews were saved.



Continue reading on the next page.

