

Daniel and Christina's
newborn Wenona Rose 8 lbs 5 oz



[Sent Friday, 3/7/14, 11:36 p.m.]

Dad's trick

“Oh, I sure am happy to see you,” the little boy said to his grandmother on his mother’s side. “Now maybe daddy will do the trick he has been promising us.”

The grandmother was curious. “What trick is that?” She asked.

“I heard him tell mommy that he would climb the walls if you came to visit,” the little boy answered.

[I believe strongly in pre-marital prep. So, one dad addressed his future son in law.]

Support a family

The prospective father-in-law asked, “young man, can you support a family?”

The surprised groom-to-be replied, “well, no. I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves.”

The water pistol

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol... He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink.

I was not so pleased. I turned to mom and said, “I’m surprised at you. Don’t you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?”

Mom smiled and then replied..... “I remember!!”

Life after death

“Do you believe in life after death?” The boss asked one of his employees.

“Yes, sir,” the new employee replied.

“Well, then, that makes everything just fine,” the boss went on. “After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother’s funeral, she stopped in to see you!”

Ester אֶסְתֵּר

(Esther) 3.7-14; 8.1-6, 15-17; 9.20-22

Ester 3.14 Letters were sent by courier to all the royal provinces “To destroy, kill and exterminate all Jews, from young to old, including small children and women, on a specific day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to seize their goods as plunder.”

[How could anyone just announce such a thing? Would anyone declare such a thing today? Declared genocide? The world would react.]



The *Fars* news agency quoted Brigadier General Hossein Salami as having said that Iranian military commanders **are prepared to attack and destroy “the Zionist regime of Israel” as soon as they receive such an order.** “Today, **we can destroy every spot which is under the Zionist regime’s control** with any volume of fire power (that we want) right from here,” Salami said, addressing a conference in Tehran.

[Was that in the Star? On NPR? On KMBZ? Foxnews? CNN? Everyone yawns. A petition needs to be raised that the real red line for American policy, and world policy, is genocidal talk. Genocidal talk should be viewed as a red line act of war. What people say...they do, eventually. Following is our theme.]

Ester 9.1 The time approached for the king’s order and decree to be carried out, the day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to overpower them. But, as it turned out, **the opposite took place** - the Jews overpowered those who hated them.

v’nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

On the contrary, the reverse is true

This is a major theme of this holiday and of the song.

v’nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

One the contrary, the reverse is true

[It’s become a bit of a theme in Jewish thinking, maybe literature. Let’s practice it. Here’s the Maccabeats song for tomorrow. The Ruakh breathed on it to be a message.]

Stand for a tale so grand
 Shushan is the place where it all began
 The hidden miracle
 One man, second in command
 Slay all the Jews was his wicked plan
 A scheme so miserable
 He chose a day for the disaster
 It’s ironic what came after
 He didn’t know a girl named Esther
 Would turn it upside down
 So raise your glass if you can see the **hidden meaning**,
 it’s right in front of you,
 we will never be never be anything but proud to tell the story,

v'nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

(It was turned upside down)

[Raise your glass high ref to Ad Lo Yada. Also a popular song.

Raise your praises high. Hidden meaning is what this day is about. G-d working in the hidden place.

Maybe instead of proud...grateful, praising]

Won't you come on and come on and raise your glass

Esther became the queen

Cuz' God was pulling strings from behind the scenes

She wore the royal crown

3 days the Jews just prayed,

Queen Esther risked her life went to save the day

She took Haman down

The streets were filled with celebration

Everyone ate Hamantashen

Jubilation for the nation

Ken tihyeh lanu... כֵּן תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ

(So should it be for us)

So raise your glass if you can see,

the hidden meaning,

it's right in front of you,

we will never be never be anything but proud to tell the story,

v'nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

[A line from the Havdalah [close of Shabbat] service.]

Won't you come on and come on and raise your glass

just come on and come on and raise your glass

So get your costumes on

Make noise and drown out Haman

Don't drink like a fool

And remember and remember

What the day's about...

So raise your glass if you see God in hidden places,

He's right in front of you,

We will never be never be anything but proud to tell our story

v'nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

So raise your glass if you can see the hidden meaning,

it's right in front of you,

we will never be never be anything but proud to tell the story,

v'nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

On the contrary, the reverse is true

The Scroll of Ester is about a **Hidden miracle**.

- The word Ester in Persian means star, in Hebrew is **הַסְתֵּיר** related to secret, hiding, concealing
- The Book of Ester has NO mention of any of the names of G-d

- Costumes are about hidden identity
Ken tihyeh lanu...(So should it be for us)
[A line in the Havdalah liturgy.]

¹ Cor 1.26-31 For God's "nonsense" is wiser than humanity's "wisdom." And God's "weakness" is stronger than humanity's "strength." ...But God chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise; God chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the strong; and God chose what the world looks down on as common or regards as nothing in order to bring to nothing what the world considers important; so that no one should boast before God. It is his doing that you are united with the Messiah Yeshua. He has become wisdom for us from God, and righteousness and holiness and redemption as well!

¹ Cor 1.26-31 Therefore - as the Tanakh says - "Let anyone who wants to boast, boast about ADONI."

וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא *v'nahafokh hu*

On the contrary, the reverse is true

Ester/Hadassah

- Beautiful G-dly young woman, contemplating a future husband, children → a pagan harem
 - Submission to Mordekhi
 - Submission to the government
 - Trust in the hidden hand of HaShem

[Cousin Morde, do you really know what you are doing?

If you are doing right, and the best you can figure, the results will surprise you. Eventually.]

Moshe and his parents

- Where is this basket going?
- Will the crocs get him?
- Who will find him?

After he was returned...will he remember?

v'nahafokh hu **וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא**

On the contrary, the reverse is true

[Movie, I think there was one praying mother, father sister and brother!

Miriam sang her mother's song, riveted Moshe's attention. Maybe it happened.]

Messiah's redemption

- Year of obscurity
- Year of celebrity
- Year of adversity, arrest, execution!

RESURRECTION!!

v'nahafokh hu **וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא**

On the contrary, the reverse is true

Security of Israel:

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry thinks it is a “mistake” for Israel to demand that the Palestinian Authority (PA) recognize it as a Jewish state in order to achieve peace.

“I think it’s a mistake for some people to be raising it again and again as the decider of their attitude towards the possibility of a state and peace, and we’ve obviously made that clear,” Kerry told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Thursday, when asked to clarify the official position of the Obama administration on the issue, according to the Breitbart website.

“‘Jewish state’ was resolved in 1947 in (UN) Resolution 181 where there are more than 40-- 30 mentions of ‘Jewish state,’” Kerry testified at a Congressional hearing. “In addition, chairman Arafat in 1988 and again in 2004 confirmed that he agreed it would be a Jewish state. And there are any other number of mentions,” he added.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has insisted that the PA recognize Israel as a Jewish state in order to reach a peace agreement, explaining that the Arabs’ refusal to recognize Israel stands at the heart of the conflict.

PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly insisted that the PA would not recognize Israel as a Jewish state and has also stressed that the future Palestinian state would not include the presence of a single Israeli – civilian or soldier.

He stood his ground last Friday, saying during a meeting with Fatah youth activists that that there is “no way” he will recognize Israel as a Jewish state and accept a Palestinian capital in just a portion of eastern Jerusalem.

[Looks pretty bleak when Israel’s greatest ally doesn’t get the central issue. There are many Arab states; exclusively Arab. Israel is NOT exclusive, but just has a purpose, a destiny that needs to be respected.

Jewish state was recognized by the UN in 1947, by Arafat [notorious liar] in 1988 and 2004, NEVER changed the PLO charter!

Ireland is an Irish state, Spain is a Spanish state. There is no open immigration anywhere.]

Next Israeli war:

- Hamas rockets
- Hezbollah rocket
- Iranian rockets

v’nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

On the contrary, the reverse is true

Your situation?

v’nahafokh hu וְנִהְפֹךְ הוּא

On the contrary, the reverse is true