

March 15, 2025  
T'shuvah תשובה Repentance  
Ester 4.15-16

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**KC Star Headline**

**Rising egg prices leave KC eateries scrambling**

**IN A WORLD FULL OF PEOPLE WHO PREFER TO BE CALLED BY PRONOUNS, I'VE NOW DECIDED THAT I WANT TO BE KNOWN BY ADJECTIVES. A FEW EXAMPLES WOULD BE..**

**SAVED, REDEEMED, DELIVERED, RESCUED, FORGIVEN, JUSTIFIED, BORN-AGAIN, AND SANCTIFIED.**

*[from Scott Hahn]*



**T'SHUVAH**  
**תשובה**  
ת

Esther 4:15-16  
Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

March 15, 2024 | 15th of Adar, 5785  
ט"ו באדר תשפ"ה

**OR HAOLAM**  
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

T'shuvah תשובה Repentance

Ester 4.15-16

- 1. Primacy of repentance
- 2. Ester's motivation to repent
- 3. Ongoing repentance in Messiah
- 4. Repentance in the wars of Israel
- 5. Deliverance

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Ester 4.15-16 Ester had them return this answer to Mordekhi: "Go, assemble all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and have them fast for me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, night and day; also I and the girls attending me will fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."

Why fast?

Why did Ester fast so intensely?

What was going on  
for those three days?

Why fast?

Why did Ester fast so intensely?

T'shuvah

תשובה

Repentance

*[T'shuvah/ repentance may be the sweetest word / action to G-d's ears.]*

Repentance is

the prime directive  
of the Kingdom,  
the starter core value.

*[Star Trek]*

Mk 1.14-15 After Yokhanan had been arrested, Yeshua came into the Galil proclaiming the Good News from God: "The time has come, God's Kingdom is near! Repent, turn to God from your sins and believe the Good News!"

<sup>1</sup> Kefa 4.17 For the time has come for the judgment to begin. It begins with the household of God; and if it starts with us, what will the outcome be for those who are disobeying God's Good News? *[That is, we believers repent first, then others may follow.]*

A repentant spirit is the access to all the aspects of the Kingdom ...



Lk 18.9-14 **Also, to some who were relying on their own righteousness and looking down on everyone else, he told this parable: “Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Parush and the other a tax-collector. The Parush stood and prayed to himself, ‘O God! I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity — greedy, dishonest, immoral, or like this tax-collector! I fast twice a week, I pay tithes on my entire income, ...’ But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes toward heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God! Have mercy on me, sinner that I am!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home right with God rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.”**



**T'shuvah תשובה Repentance**

Ester 4.15-16

1. Primacy of repentance
2. **Ester's motivation to repent**
3. Ongoing repentance in Messiah
4. Repentance in the wars of Israel
5. Deliverance

Ester 3.12,13 **The king's secretaries were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month...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.”**  
*[Complete genocide. Ethnicity specific.]*

Ester 4.1,3 **When Mordekhi learned everything that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes and went out through the city, lamenting and crying bitterly...In every province reached by the king's order and decree, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing, as many lay down on sackcloth and ashes.**  
*[Empire wide seeking of G-d by the Jews. But Ester...]*



She's decked out in royal garments, being pampered by maidens who attend to her every need.

Ester 4.5-9 **Ester summoned Hatakh, one of the king's officials attending her, and instructed him to go to Mordekhi and find out what this was all about and why. Hatakh went out to Mordekhi in the open space in front of the King's Gate, and Mordekhi told him everything that had happened to him and exactly how much silver Haman had promised to put in the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the decree for their destruction issued in Shushan; so that he could show it to Ester, explain it to her, and then instruct her to approach the king, intercede with**

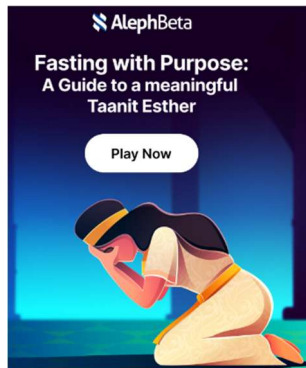
him and implore his favor on behalf of her people. Hatakh returned and told Ester what Mordekhi had said. *[Ester said, “I can't approach the King, as I've not been invited.” Instant death.]*  
*[art credit: <https://members.alephbeta.org/playlist/taanit-esther-meaning>]*

Ester 4.12-14 **Mordekhi asked them to give Ester this answer: “Don’t suppose that merely because you happen to be in the royal palace you will escape any more than the other Jews. For if you fail to speak up now, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from a different direction; but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows whether you didn’t come into your royal position precisely for such a time as this.”**

*[One of the greatest affirmations of FAITH in the Bible.*

רְנַח וְהִצֵּלָה יַעֲמוּד לְיְהוּדִים

*One of the greatest statements of calling in the Bible.]*



Ester 4.15-16 **Ester had them return this answer to Mordekhi: “Go, assemble all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and have them fast for me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, night and day; *[Dramatic reversal of lifestyle.]***

Ester 4.15-16 **also I and the girls attending me will fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.”**

*[She’s not separate from, above her people.]*



**Why fast?**

**Why did Ester fast so intensely?**

**T’shuvah**

**תְּשׁוּבָה**

**Repentance**

**“neither eating nor drinking for three days”**

**Levels of fasting**

1. Daniel fast: foregoing favorites
2. Juice fast: nothing else
3. Water fast: water only
4. Yom Kippur fast: NPO, “*nils per os*” or “nothing by mouth.”

*[Ester did #4. Ouch.]*

Living in the prosperity and luxury of the Persian palace, maybe they grew to **trust** Persian policy

- Return to the Land: Ezra

- Rebuild the Temple
- Security and luxury assumed

*["luxury once enjoyed becomes a necessity"]*

*"Each girl had her turn to appear before King Akhashverosh after she had undergone the full twelve-month preparation period prescribed for the women, consisting of a six-month treatment with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and other cosmetics for women."*

- Spiritual humility: Fasting is a biblical way to humble yourself in the sight of God.
- Self-reflection and transformation: Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and transformation.
- Quicken the Word of God: Fasting encourages the Holy Spirit to make God's truth more meaningful to you.
- Deprivation for a greater good: Fasting involves giving up something good (like food or comforts) to make a decision for a greater spiritual purpose.

*[She needed a strategy. If she just went to the King and requested reversal of the decree, she may have lost. Strategy of double banquet piqued Akhashverosh's interest.]*

Yael 2.12-15 **"Yet even now,"** says Adoni, **"turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting."** Tear your heart, not your garments; and **turn to Adoni your God**. For he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace, and willing to change his mind about disaster. *[Fasting intensifies repentance.]*

Yael 2.12-15 **Who knows? He may turn, change his mind and leave a blessing behind him, [enough for] grain offerings and drink offerings to present to Adoni your God. "Blow the shofar in Tziyon! Proclaim a holy fast, call for a solemn assembly."**

**Consider Daniel in Babylon**

Dan 9.4-6 **"I prayed to Adoni my God and confessed, saying: 'O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and mercy with those who love Him and keep His mitzvot, [Daniel saw Israel in distress, but a promise of redemption after 70 years captivity.]"**

Dan 9.4-6 **we have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have acted wickedly; we have rebelled; we have turned away from Your mitzvot and from Your rulings. We have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our leaders and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.**

Dan 9.11-14 **Yes, all Isra'el flouted your Torah and turned away, unwilling to listen to your voice. Therefore, the curse and oath written in the Torah of Moshe the servant of God was poured out on us, because we sinned against him. He carried out the threats he spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us disaster so great that under all of heaven, nothing has been done like what has been done to Yerushalayim. As written in the Torah of Moshe, this whole disaster came upon us. Yet we did not appease Adoni our God by renouncing our wrongdoing and discerning your truth. So Adoni watched for the right moment to bring this disaster upon us, for Adoni our God was just in everything he did, yet we didn't listen when he spoke.**

*[Our trust is NOT in Trump and Musk and Doge.]*



Mtt 6.9-13 ‘Our Father in heaven! May your Name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven...’Forgive us what we have done wrong, as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us. And do not lead us into hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.  
*[Assumes that we need daily to repent of failure.*

*Repentance never ends.*

*It doesn't say, "Thank you that I've arrived"]*

**A repentant spirit**

- is NOT a spirit of abject failure.
- It IS a spirit of joyful dependence on the Blood of Atonement and the power of the Ruakh
- It IS an easy heart to say “I was wrong.”

Mtt 5. 3-10 “How blessed are the poor in spirit! for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

How blessed are those who mourn! for they will be comforted. How blessed are the meek! for they will inherit the Land! How blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness! for they will be filled. How blessed are those who show mercy! for they will be shown mercy. How blessed are the pure in heart! for they will see God.

Yn 17.13 But now, I am coming to you; and I say these things while I am still in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.  
*[His joy...dependent on Him.]*

Yn 17 24-26 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am; so that they may see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.  
*[Repent of self-reliance, dependent on glory.]*

Yn 17 24-26 Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these people have known that you sent me. I made your name known to them,  
*[Our dependence on Him!]*

Yn 17 24-26 and I will continue to make it known; so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I myself may be united with them.”



Shoftim/Ju 6 12-13 **The angel of Adoni appeared to him and said to him: “You valiant hero! Adoni is with you!” “Excuse me, sir,” answered Gid’on, “but if Adoni is with us, then why is all this happening to us?”**

*[Gid’on saw idolatry of Israel as related to their subjugation by the Midianites.]*

Shoftim/Ju 6 12-13 **And where are all his miracles our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Didn’t Adoni bring us up from Egypt?’ For now, Adoni has abandoned us and handed us over to Midyan.”**  
*[So, Gid’on tore down the idol and worshipped G-d.]*

Israel and America must NOT rely on secular strength primarily.



He is referring to the inspiring words of Professor Ed Husain, a Muslim scholar, author, teacher and a guide to understanding a path forward in the Abrahamic Region for Jews and Arabs to thrive and live side by side with mutual respect.



<https://youtu.be/wX4YXIQcJSo>  
from Russell Reitz

**As Ronald Reagan famously said, “If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”**

*[https://www.drjamesdobson.org/articles/the-attack-on-our-fundamental-liberties?utm\_campaign=6458768-2025%20Public%20Policy&utm\_medium=email&\_hsenc=p2ANqtz--gXRuztA9EHOWAMzkif87oc1ArioGAwLhk2J-z1JSgH2TtYXocMKYcr5bYLckaGuFUCoXXy0LYwsXn2gAwOCr0a7XXbQ&\_hsmi=348269053&utm\_content=348269051&utm\_source=hs\_email]*

Purim is a time of celebration of victory, but it needs to be in the context of repentance.

Three duties:

Ester 9.20-22 **Mordekhi recorded these events and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces of King Achashverosh, both near and far, instructing them to observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and the fifteenth day, every year, [to commemorate] the days on which the Jews**

obtained rest from their enemies and the month which for them was turned from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; they were to make them days of celebrating and rejoicing, sending portions [of food] to each other and giving gifts to the poor.

**Ester 9.20-22**

- Celebrating and rejoicing Sunday afternoon
- Sending portions: Saturday afternoon mishloakh manot משלוח מנות distribution



- Giving gifts to the poor: offering for Reach Initiative for Nova survivors. Both at the end of the Shabbat service and in the Sunday party. [\[https://youtu.be/Z6oPXeEuUuA\]](https://youtu.be/Z6oPXeEuUuA)



**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.



Another supernatural Reversal / deliverance  
 “This event might go down in history as one of the biggest miracles the Jewish people experienced since biblical times,” writes columnist Hillel Fuld. Feb 23, 2025, a young lady noticed a suspicious object on a bus in the center of Israel. She reported it to the driver who pulled into a station, got everyone off the bus, at which point, the bus blew up and was completely destroyed.

Over the hours that followed, an additional four bombs were discovered on buses, some of them exploded, others were taken apart before exploding. Some malfunctioned. SIX bombs were found in and around Bat Yam (Tel Aviv) with some already exploding in buses (non injured) and the rest set to go off tomorrow when the buses were to be crowded with people.



*[Sally Shiff]*

According to my source, and this was news to me, a whopping 15 buses were supposed to explode this morning. According to reports, the terrorist set the timer for 9 PM instead of 9 AM. In addition to the 15 buses, 5 suicide bombers were set to detonate bombs on the light rail at the same time, all in the center of Israel. My source says that as those buses and terrorists blew up, massive security and emergency forces were supposed to rush to the scene at which point, there would be a massive breach of the security fence and many terrorists from Judea and Samaria would invade Israel and carry out a **10/7 2.0**. Only this time it wouldn't be from Gaza so it would be an invasion into basically every major city in Israel.

### Effect of Deliverance on Torah reading

[\[https://unitedwithisrael.org/the-miracle-behind-the-exploding-buses-is-much-larger-than-you-think/\]](https://unitedwithisrael.org/the-miracle-behind-the-exploding-buses-is-much-larger-than-you-think/)

It is interesting to note that the reading of “Zachor” [Dt 25.17-19] is the only Torah reading that we are obligated to hear by Torah law. The weekly Torah readings were instituted by the sages, while this reading – the Torah itself commands us to listen to.

[\[https://unitedwithisrael.org/remember-amalek/\]](https://unitedwithisrael.org/remember-amalek/)

Dvarim/Dt 25.17-19 “Remember what ‘Amalek did to you on the road as you were coming out of Egypt, how he met you by the road, attacked those in the rear, those who were exhausted and straggling behind when you were tired and weary. He did not fear God. Therefore, when Adoni your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies in the land Adoni your God is giving you as your inheritance to possess, you are to blot out all memory of ‘Amalek from under heaven. Don't forget!



Hitler and Haman

The great Torah sage the Vilna Gaon explained that the Germans are also descendants of the nation of Amalek. Simon Dubnow, Arthur Szyk and Raul Hilberg also identified the Nazis, who sought to eliminate the Jewish people, as being Amalekites. There are also Talmudic passages that mention a nation called Germania during the Roman Diaspora that seem prophetic in retrospect.

[\[https://unitedwithisrael.org/strange-parallels-between-the-](https://unitedwithisrael.org/strange-parallels-between-the-purim-story-and-the-nuremberg-trials/)

[purim-story-and-the-nuremberg-trials/\]](https://unitedwithisrael.org/strange-parallels-between-the-purim-story-and-the-nuremberg-trials/)

Fascinatingly, one finds in the Book of Esther that four of the Hebrew letters in Haman's sons names utilize small instead of big characters. Jewish sages have taught throughout the generations that whenever there is a variation in the size of a letter or spelling of a word, it has a specific meaning.

If these four small Hebrew letters are used to represent the Jewish number for recording years, it states the year 5707 on the Jewish calendar. 5707 was the year on the Jewish calendar that the 10 Nazi war criminals were hung for committing genocide against the Jewish people.

As Dr. Moshe Katz proclaimed, “Since the trial was conducted by a military tribunal, the sentence handed down should have been death by firing squad, or by electric chair as practiced in the U.S.A. However, the court specifically prescribed hanging, exactly as in Esther's original request: ‘...let Haman's ten sons be hanged.’

Though doubts may linger about the connection between the Book of Esther and the Nazi war criminals, the condemned Julius Streicher certainly had none. Through some insight, Streicher appears to have grasped this link to Purim, as revealed by his final shout, with the noose about his neck, mere seconds before he was hanged.” In fact, Julius Streicher, the Nazi editor of the anti-Semitic Der Stürmer newspaper, even proclaimed before he was hung, “Purim Fest 1946.”



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