

Purim

Purim 2016 begins at sunset on Wednesday, March 23, and ends on Thursday evening, March 24.

The Background of Purim

The [story](#) of the joyous holiday of Purim might appear somber at first glance: It tells of the near-destruction of the Jewish people as decreed by [Haman](#), an adviser to the Persian King Ahashuerus.

However, Ahashuerus' newly crowned queen, Esther—who replaced Vashti when she was thrown out of the kingdom—is secretly a Jew.

Due to her courage and her eventual role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is known as “Megillat Esther,” or the [Scroll of Esther](#).

Purim, or the Feast of Lots, is a joyous holiday that recounts the saving of the Jews from a threatened massacre during the [Persian period](#) (539-330 BCE). The [story of Purim](#) is recounted in the [Book of Esther](#), whose eponymous heroine plays the leading role in saving her people. The holiday is traditionally celebrated with wild abandon and with the giving of gifts to friends and the poor.

For more information click on the link below

<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/purim-2016/>