

COMPLETE MASECHET MEGILLAH IN HONOR OF PURIM WITH TALMUD ISRAELI

מסכת מגילה MASECHET MEGILLAH

פרק א: המגילה נקראת CHAPTER 1: THE MEGILLAH IS READ



מדוע אין קוראים את ההלל בפורים?

DAF 14: WHY HALLEL IS NOT RECITED ON PURIM

Why, unlike nearly all other holidays, is *Hallel* not recited on Purim? The *Gemara* presents three answers:

- 1) *Hallel* is not recited over any miracle that took place outside of *Eretz Yisrael*, and the Purim miracle happened in Persia, the kingdom of Achashverosh.
- 2) Rav Nachman theorized that the reading of the *Megillah* itself is an act of reciting *hallel*.
- 3) Rava explained that at the beginning of *Hallel* we recite Psalm 113, which starts: “*Hallelu-yah, hallelu avdei HaShem,*” meaning, that we, servants of *HaShem*, praise Him. Therefore, on *Pesach*, for example, we recite “*Hallelu avdei HaShem,*” because we were saved from enslavement under the Egyptian Pharaoh and became servants of *HaShem*. However, with the Purim miracle, although the Jews were saved from death, they remained under the rule of Achashverosh. As such, *Hallel* is not read on Purim.



השרביט שנהיה ארוך

DAF 15: THE SCEPTER WAS EXTENDED



The Haman prepared *iggerot* (letters) in which it was written that the Jews were to be killed. These *iggerot* were written on 13 Nisan. Mordechai the *tzaddik* immediately went and warned Queen Esther that she had to go to see the king and convince him to cancel the evil decree.

Esther sent a message to Mordechai — “Please, gather all of the Jews in the city of Shushan to fast and pray for me to be successful in my mission to persuade King Achashverosh to call off the decree.” Mordechai immediately declared a three-day fast. From 14 Nisan through 16 Nisan, the Jews of Shushan fasted. They did not eat on *Erev Pesach*, nor on the first or second days of the *Pesach* holiday.

Then, Esther entered the royal palace to see the King, even though she had not been invited to see him. Esther was very concerned because anyone who entered to see the King without permission was liable to be killed — unless the King extended his royal scepter toward that person, on the spot, as a sign of his approval of the visit. Rabbi Yochanan said that when Esther entered the King’s royal chamber, three angels came to assist her. An angel extended the King’s scepter to where Esther stood. Esther was able to touch the scepter and she was spared from possible death.





מִרְדֵּכַי הַעֲדִיק חֶשֶׁב שְׁבָאִים לְהַרְג אֹתוֹ

DAF 16: MORDECHAI THOUGHT THEY WERE COMING TO KILL HIM

On a previous *daf* we learned about the miracle that happened to Queen Esther on 16 Nisan. Despite the fact she had entered the palace of King Achashverosh without first receiving permission, she was not killed. On this *daf* we learn about the events that took place later that same day.

Achashverosh commanded Haman to have Mordechai dress in royal garments and parade him around Shushan on one of the king's horses. Haman went out to look for Mordechai and found him studying the *halachot* of *Minchat Ha'Omer* (First Barley Offering) with his students — since the *Minchat Ha'Omer* was offered on 16 Nisan. The *Korban Minchat Ha'Omer* was fulfilled by sacrificing a "*kometz*" (handful). The *kohen* would take a *kometz* of flour in the palm of his hand and offer it on the *miz'be'ach* (altar).

But when Mordechai saw Haman approaching on a horse, instead of expecting a reward, he thought: "Haman is surely coming to kill me!" Mordechai instructed his students to escape, so that they would not be killed too, and he prayed to God that he be spared. Courageously, Mordechai's students chose to remain. When Haman arrived, he asked Mordechai's students what they were learning. They told Haman they were learning about the *Minchat Ha'Omer* that was offered on that date when the *Beit HaMikdash* stood.

On the following day, toward evening on 16 Nisan, on the second day in *sefirat ha'omer* (counting of the *omer*), Haman was hanged on a tree.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

1. What are three reasons why we don't say *Hallel* on Purim?

2. On what days did Esther and Mordechai decree that all the Jews should fast on?

3. Which *halachot* was Mordechai learning when Haman came to see him?

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