

Mordechai and the Son of David: A Messianic Look at Purim Texts

1. Please read Megillat Esther in preparation and bring a copy with you.

2. Megillah 9:28

וְהַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה נִזְכָּרִים וְנַעֲשִׂים בְּכָל־דּוֹר וְדוֹר מִשְׁפָּחָה וּמִשְׁפָּחָה מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וְעִיר וְעִיר וַיְמִי הַפּוּרִים
הָאֵלֶּה לֹא יֵעָבְרוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְּהוּדִים וְזָכָרָם לֹא־יִסּוּף מִזֶּרְעָם: {ס}

Consequently, these days are recalled and observed in every generation: by every family, every province, and every city. And these days of Purim shall never cease among the Jews, and the memory of them shall never perish among their descendants.

3. Midrash Mishlei 9:1

אמר רבי אבהו: "אף ערכה שולחנה" - שערכה לה שולחן בעולם הזה ובעולם הבא, ואי זה - זה שם טוב שקנתה לה בעולם הזה ובעולם הבא, שכל המועדים עתידים בטלים, וימי הפורים אינם בטלים לעולם, שנאמר (אסתר ט כח): "וימי הפורים האלה לא יעברו מתוך היהודים".

She even prepared her table that she set herself up a table in this world and in the world to come. And what is that? That is the good name that she acquired in this world and in the world to come; since all of the holidays are to be nullified in the future but the days of Purim will not be nullified, as it is stated (Esther 9:28), 'And these days of Purim will not be rescinded from the Jews.'

4. Rambam Hilchot Megillah 2:18

כָּל סִפְרֵי הַנְּבִיאִים וְכָל הַכְּתוּבִים עֲתִידִין לְבָטֵל לִימּוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ חוּץ מִמַּגִּלַּת אֶסְתֵּר וְהָרִי הִיא קִיּוֹמָהּ
בְּחַמְשָׁה חֳמִשִּׁי תוֹרָה וְכִהְלָכוֹת שֶׁל תוֹרָה שֶׁבָּעַל פֶּה שֶׁאֵינָן בְּטִלִּין לְעוֹלָם. וְאֵף עַל פִּי שֶׁכָּל זְכוֹרֹן הַצָּרוֹת
יִבָּטֵל שְׁנֵאמַר (ישעיה סה טז) "כִּי נִשְׁכַּחוּ הַצָּרוֹת הָרָאוּשׁוֹנוֹת וְכִי נִסְתָּרוּ מֵעֵינַי". יְמֵי הַפּוּרִים לֹא יִבָּטְלוּ
שְׁנֵאמַר (אסתר ט כח) "וַיְמֵי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלֶּה לֹא יֵעָבְרוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְּהוּדִים וְזָכָרָם לֹא יִסּוּף מִזֶּרְעָם":

All the books of the Prophets and all the Holy Writings will be nullified in the Messianic era, with the exception of the Book of Esther. It will continue to exist, as will the five books of the Torah and the *halachot* of the Oral Law, which will never be nullified.

Although all memories of the difficulties endured by our people will be nullified, as Isaiah 65:16 states: "For the former difficulties will be forgotten and for they will be hidden from My eye," the celebration of the days of Purim will not be nullified, as Esther 9:28 states: "And these days of Purim will not pass from among the Jews, nor will their remembrance cease from their seed."

5. Shabbat 88a

”וַיִּתְּצוּ בְּתַחֲתֵית הָהָר,” אָמַר רַב אַבְדִּימִי בַר חֲמָא בַר חֲסָא: מְלִמְד שְׂכַפָּה הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא עָלֵיהֶם אֶת הָהָר כְּגִיגִית, וְאָמַר לָהֶם: אִם אַתֶּם מְקַבְּלִים הַתּוֹרָה מוֹטָב, וְאִם לֹא — שָׁם תִּהְיֶה קְבוּרַתְכֶם. אָמַר רַב אֲחָא בַר יַעֲקֹב: מִכָּאן מוֹדְעָא רַבָּה לְאוֹרְיֵיתָא. אָמַר רַבָּא: אִף עַל פִּי כֵן הִדּוּר קִבְלוּהָ בִימֵי אֲחִישָׁרוּשׁ, דְּכָתִיב: ”קִיְמוּ וְקִבְלוּ הַיְּהוּדִים” — קִיְמוּ מַה שְׁקִיבְלוּ כָּבָר.

he Gemara cites additional homiletic interpretations on the topic of the revelation at Sinai. The Torah says, “And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet God; **and they stood at the lowermost part of the mount**” (Exodus 19:17). **Rabbi Avdimi bar Ḥama bar Ḥasa said:** the Jewish people actually stood beneath the mountain, and the verse **teaches that the Holy One, Blessed be He, overturned the mountain above the Jews like a tub, and said to them: If you accept the Torah, excellent, and if not, there will be your burial.** **Rav Aḥa bar Ya’akov said:** From here there is a **substantial caveat** to the obligation to fulfill the **Torah**. The Jewish people can claim that they were coerced into accepting the Torah, and it is therefore not binding. **Rava said: Even so, they again accepted it willingly in the time of Ahasuerus, as it is written:** “The Jews **ordained, and took upon them**, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them” (Esther 9:27), and he taught: The Jews **ordained what they had already taken upon themselves** through coercion at Sinai.