

## 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

וְיִמְמִים הָאֵלָה נָזְבָּרִים וְנָעָשִׂים בְּכָל-דָּוָר וְדָוָר מִשְׁפָּחָה וּמִשְׁפָּחָה מִדִּינָה וּמִדִּינָה וְעִיר וְעִיר וַיְמִי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלָה לֹא יַעֲבְּרוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְהוּדִים וְזָכָרָם לְאִיסּוֹר מְזֻרָּעָם: {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 אבاهו: "אִפְּרָכָה שׁוֹלְחָנָה" - שערכה לה שלוחן בעולם הזה ובעולם הבא, ואי זה - זה שם טוב שקنته לה בעולם הזה ובעולם הבא, שכל המועדים עתידים בטלים, וימי הפורים אינם בטלים לעולם, שנאמר (אסתר ט כה): "וַיְמִי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלָה לֹא יַעֲבְּרוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְהוּדִים".

**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future but the days of Purim will not be nullified, as it is stated (Esther 9:28), 'And these days of Purim will not be rescinded from the Jews.'"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 סְפִּירִי הַנְּבִיאִים וְכָל הַכְּתוּבִים עַתִּידִין לְבַטֵּל לִימוֹת הַמְּשִׁיחָה חִוִּז מִמְּגַלְתָּא אַסְטָר וְהַרִּי הִיא קִימָת כְּחַמְשָׁה חָמְשִׁי תֹּרֶה וְכָלְכּוֹת שֶׁל תֹּרֶה שֶׁבְּעֵל פֶּה שֶׁאֵין בְּטָלֵין לְעוֹלָם. וְאֶתְלָפְּנֵי שֶׁכְלָל זְכָרוֹן הָאֲרוֹת יַבְטֵל שָׁנְאָמָר (ישעיה סה ט) "כִּי נִשְׁכַּחוּ הָאֲרוֹת הָרָאשׁוֹנֹת וְכִי נִסְתַּרְוּ מִעִינִי". יַמִּי הַפּוּרִים לֹא יַבְטֵל שָׁנְאָמָר (אסתר ט כה) "וַיְמִי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלָה לֹא יַעֲבְּרוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְהוּדִים וְזָכָרָם לֹא יִסּוֹר מְזֻרָּעָם":

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

"וַיַּתְאַבֵּו בְּתִחְתִּית הַהָר", אמר ר' אַבְדִּימִי בֶּן חֶסֶא: מַלְמֵד שְׁכִפָּה הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא עֲלֵיכֶם אֵת הַהָר כֶּגֶגִית, וְאָמַר לָכֶם: אִם אַפְתָּם מַקְבְּלִים הַתּוֹרָה מוֹטָב, וְאִם לֹא — שְׁם תְּהִא קְבּוּרָתֶכֶם. אמר ר' אַחָא בֶּן יַעֲקֹב: מִכָּאנו מַזְעָא רֶבֶה לְאָוֹרִיתָא. אמר ר' בָּא: אִפְעָל פִּי כֵּן הַדָּור קְבּוּרָה בַּיּוֹם אַחֲשָׁרוֹשׁ, דְּכִתִּיב: "קִימּו וְקִבְּלוּ הַיְהֹודִים" — קִימּו מֵה שְׁקִיבָּלוּ כֶּבֶר.

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 Hama bar Hasa 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 Aha 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.