



THE TRIBE SCRIBE

HAPPY PURIM!



PURIM SAMEACH FROM **TRIBE!**

ONE OF THE MAIN IDEAS IN THE STORY OF PURIM IS THAT EVERYTHING IS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN. **HAMAN** IS HANGED ON THE SAME GALLOWES THAT HE BUILT TO HANG **MORDECHAI**. **ESTHER**, A PERSECUTED JEWESS WHOSE REAL NAME IS **HADASSAH** BECOMES THE **QUEEN OF PERSIA**. **MORDECHAI** THE ENEMY OF **HAMAN** RECEIVES THE KING'S HONOUR BY BEING PARADED AROUND TOWN ON A HORSE LED BY **HAMAN**! **HAMAN** PLANS TO DESTROY THE **JEWS OF PERSIA**, YET THEY ARE SAVED WHILST **HAMAN** AND HIS HENCHMEN ARE DESTROYED. NOTHING WAS THE WAY IT SEEMED.

HAMAN



MORDECHAI

In fact, our sages say that in the *Megilla*, whenever *"The King Absentminded"*, it is a secret allusion to *Hashem* - The King of Kings. Try it out for yourself when reading the *Megilla*.

Mordechai alludes to this when he famously tells *Esther* that if she doesn't save the *Jews* someone else will. He says to her, "Who knows if it was just for such a time as this that you attained the royal position?" *Mordechai* knew that even though *God's* face was concealed He was still present. He challenges *Esther* to think about why *God* had placed her in her unique position.

The word *Esther* comes from the word *hester* which means hidden and the *Book of Esther* is one of only two books in the *Torah* that does not mention the name of *God*. We can look at the story of *Purim* and choose to call the unexpected events mere coincidences or we can choose to see that *God* was hiding behind the scenes pulling invisible strings. When someone hides from us they are still there - we just can't see them.

PURIM REMINDS US THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS COINCIDENCE. IT FORCES US TO LOOK AT THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT, MORE PROFOUND WAY AND ASK OURSELVES WHAT **GOD** WANTS OF US IN THIS PLACE AT THIS TIME WITH OUR UNIQUE TALENTS.

HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



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Tribe is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.