



March – April 2017

| Adar – Nisan – Iyyar 5777

## NEW LIGHT NEWS

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### THE WISDOM OF FOOLISHNESS

Purim is Judaism's wildest holiday, commemorating not only the deliverance of the Jewish people, but also that despite appearances, our G-d is still in control. Purim itself stands in sharp relief to other observances and holidays in the Jewish calendar: masks and bright costumes (even cross-dressing!) against, for instance, the pure white of Yom Kippur garb, feasting against fasting, drinking to excess against moderation the rest of the year, laughter against lamentation, merriment against mourning. Yet more, all this is enjoined on us as a religious holiday and the *megillah* (scroll of Esther) is ordered to be read, but the book itself doesn't mention G-d at all!

Purim's craziness is modeled after that of the upside-down Book of Esther. In it, Queen Vashti is banished, because it's feared her refusal to follow orders will embolden women across the kingdom to rebel against their husbands. This is turned upside down when a new queen, Esther, is given her place and crown, and in the end a woman exercises great power over the land. Haman, a feared and respected noble, plots against the Jewish people; but his inner foolishness is turned inside out for all to see, when his own scheme turns against him and he is put to death on the very gallows he built for his victims. In the beginning, the Jews, having many enemies as a people and nearly exterminated, have good reason to fear and suspect non-Jews. And in the end this too is turned around, for "fear of them," the Jews, "fell upon all people".

We're fortunate to view these events from the outside, reading them in the megillah instead of living them, seeing G-d's hand working behind the scenes instead of just the outward appearances. The strangeness of Purim should remind us that appearances aren't always reality, and that we should trust in the G-d who can turn everything upside-down in an instant. "Multiply your mirth when Adar arrives," says the Talmud. Purim is upon us! And folly is serious business.

– Matt Lilly

The enclosed envelope is for your convenience, or use the PayPal button that is located on our reworked web site. Please click on [www.ohrchadash.org](http://www.ohrchadash.org).

## March 2017 / Adar – Nisan 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 / 3 Adar	2 / 4 Adar	3 / 5 Adar Shabbat Service, 8 PM	4 / 6 Adar Parashat Terumah Shabbat Morning Service, 10 AM
5 / 7 Adar	6 / 8 Adar	7 / 9 Adar	8 / 10 Adar	9 / 11 Adar  Fast of Esther	10 / 12 Adar Purim Service, 8 PM	11 / 13 Adar Parashat Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor <b>Purim Party, 6pm with Kids' Purim Play!</b>
12 / 14 Adar  Purim	13 / 15 Adar	14 / 16 Adar	15 / 17 Adar	16 / 18 Adar	17 / 19 Adar Shabbat Service, 8 PM	18 / 20 Adar Parashat Ki Tissa Shabbat Parah
19 / 21 Adar	20 / 22 Adar	21 / 23 Adar	22 / 24 Adar	23 / 25 Adar	24 / 26 Adar Shabbat Service, 8 PM	25 / 27 Adar Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei Shabbat HaChodesh <b>HAVDALAH &amp; GAME NIGHT</b>
26 / 28 Adar	27 / 29 Adar	28 / 1 Nisan  Rosh Chodesh Nisan	29 / 2 Nisan	30 / 3 Nisan	31 / 4 Nisan Shabbat Service, 8PM	

## April 2017 / Nisan – Iyyar 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>MISS A SERVICE?</b> You can watch videos of our services here: <a href="http://vimeo.com/ohrchadash">vimeo.com/ohrchadash</a> Audio recordings of the sermon are sent out every week. Send us an email at <a href="mailto:OhrChadashOffice@aol.com">OhrChadashOffice@aol.com</a> to be added to the list!					1 / 5 Nisan Parashat Vayikra Shabbat Morning Service, 10 AM
2 / 6 Nisan	3 / 7 Nisan	4 / 8 Nisan	5 / 9 Nisan	6 / 10 Nisan	7 / 11 Nisan Shabbat Service, 8 PM	8 / 12 Nisan Parashat Tzav Shabbat HaGadol
9 / 13 Nisan  Search for Chametz After Nightfall	10 / 14 Nisan  Erev Pesach, First Seder Tonight	11 / 15 Nisan  Pesach I	12 / 16 Nisan  Pesach II  1 Omer	13 / 17 Nisan  Pesach III Chol HaMoed  2 Omer	14 / 18 Nisan Shabbat Service, 8 PM  Pesach IV Chol HaMoed  3 Omer	15 / 19 Nisan  <b>Community Seder, 5:30 pm</b>  Pesach V Chol HaMoed 4 Omer
16 / 20 Nisan Pesach VI Chol HaMoed Khag Hat'khiyah Service, 11:30AM 5 Omer	17 / 21 Nisan  Pesach VII  6 Omer	18 / 22 Nisan  Pesach VIII  7 Omer	19 / 23 Nisan  8 Omer	20 / 24 Nisan  9 Omer	21 / 25 Nisan Yom HaShoah Service, 8 PM  10 Omer	22 / 26 Nisan Parashat Shemini  11 Omer
23 / 27 Nisan  12 Omer	24 / 28 Nisan  Yom HaShoah  13 Omer	25 / 29 Nisan  14 Omer	26 / 30 Nisan  Rosh Chodesh Iyyar, 1st Day  15 Omer	27 / 1 Iyyar  Rosh Chodesh Iyyar, 2nd Day  16 Omer	28 / 2 Iyyar Yom HaAatzma'ut Service, 8PM  17 Omer	29 / 3 Iyyar Parashat Tazria-Metzorah <b>HAVDALAH &amp; GAME NIGHT</b>  18 Omer
30 / 4 Iyyar  19 Omer						