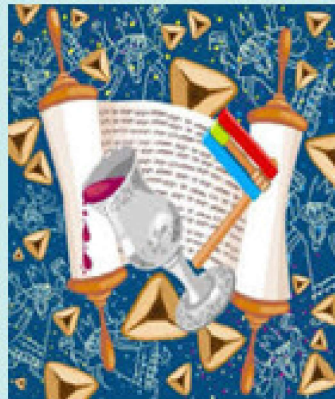


# PURIM



Purim Service and  
*Megillat Ester (B'k'tzarah)*  
The Book of Esther (Abridged)



## A Beatles Purim 2023

Retelling the Story of Purim  
using artfully altered lyrics of The Beatles

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Sharing what we have with others  
is a very ancient tradition of our people.  
On Purim we do this through *Shalach Mones* --  
or *Mishloach Manot*.

Either way we pronounce the words, they mean the same thing:  
"The Sending of Gifts" to friends and neighbors.

What kind of gifts do we mean?  
Maybe something you have made or baked -- like *Hamantashen!*  
Or maybe it is something we give to those in need.  
Whatever you give, the important thing about it  
is that you are giving something of yourself.

It is said:  
"When you feel most like crying,  
then rejoice."  
When Purim comes, we rejoice.  
We drink our wine, and sing our songs.  
We make our happy noise  
because we are alive,  
because in the long tale of our people  
not one Haman has risen to destroy us,  
but one after another.  
And yet, because we live,  
our cup of joy overflows:

*Am Yisrael Chai,*  
Our People Israel lives!  
And we give praise:

## The Shema and Its Blessings

Please rise.

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ.  
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Barekhu et Adonai ham'vo-rakh.

*Barukh Adonai ham-vo-rakh l'olam va'ed.*

Praise Adonai to whom our praise is due!

*Praise Adonai to whom our praise is due, now and forever!*

### Creation

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ, עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכֹּל.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, יוֹצֵר הַמְּאוֹרוֹת.

Barukh Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melelk HaOlam,  
Yotzeir Or u'Vorei Choshech, Oseh Shalom u'Vorei et HaKol.  
Barukh Ata Adonai, Yotzeir Ha'Me'orot.

*We praise You, God, Ruler of the world,  
who creates light and darkness, who plans peace and forms all things.  
We are grateful, God, that there is still a light which shines on us.*

### Revelation

**Ahavah Rabah,**

to the tune of "Love Me Do"

אַהֲבָה רַבָּה אַהַבְתָּנוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ,  
חֲמַלָה גְדוֹלָה וַיִּתְּרָה חֲמַלְתָּ עָלֵינוּ.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הַבוֹחֵר בְּעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲבָה.

Ahava Raba Ahavtanu, Adonai Eloheinu  
Chemalta Gedloah, Vitaira Chamalta Aleinu.  
Barukh Ata Adonai, HaBocheir B'Amo Yisrael B'ahavah.

Love, love me do You know I love you I'll always be true So please, love me do Whoa, love me do Love, love me do You know I love you I'll always be true So please, love me do
--

*You loved us with a great love, Adonai our God.  
When we find ourselves in times of trouble,  
You hold our hands and lead us in love.*

שְׁמַע | יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ | אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ | אֶחָד.

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Shema Yisrael Adonai Elohenu Adonai Ehad!

Barukh Shem k'vod Malkhuto l'olam va'ed!

*Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!*

*Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever!*

**Please be seated.**

וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת יְיָ | אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּכֹל | לְבָבְךָ, וּבְכֹל נַפְשְׁךָ, וּבְכֹל מְאֹדְךָ.

וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר | אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם, עַל | לְבָבְךָ.

וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבִנְיָךָ, וְדִבַּרְתָּ בָּם, בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ,

וּבְלִכְתֹּךָ בַּדֶּרֶךְ, וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ, וּבְקוּמְךָ.

וּקְשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת | עַל יָדְךָ, וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפוֹת בֵּין | עֵינֶיךָ.

וּכְתַבְתָּם | עַל מְזוֹזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ.

לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם | אֶת כָּל מִצְוֹתַי, וְהֵייתֶם קְדוֹשִׁים לֵאלֹהֵיכֶם.

אֲנִי יְיָ | אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי | אֶתְכֶם | מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם,

לְהִיוֹת לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים, אֲנִי | יְיָ | אֱלֹהֵיכֶם.

V'ahavta et Adonai Eloheicha b'chol l'vav'cha u'v'chol nafshecha uv'chol me'odecha.

V'hayu ha'd'varim ha'eleh, asher anochi m'tzav'cha hayom al l'vavecha.

V'shinantam l'vanecha, v'dibarta bam bishivt'cha b'veitecha,

U'v'lechem badereck, u'v'shoch'b'cha, uv'kumecha.

U'k'shartem l'ot al yadecha, v'hayu l'totafot beyn eynecha,

Uch'tav'tam al m'zuzot beytecha, uvish'arecha.

L'ma'an tizk'ru va'asitem et kol mitzvotai, vi'h'yitem k'doshim leilohleichem.

Ani Adonai Eloheichem asher hotzeiti etchem mei'erezt Mitzrayim,

Li'h'yot lachem leilohim. Ani Adonai Eloheichem.

You shall love Adonai your God

with all your mind, with all your strength, with all your being.

Set these words, which I command you this day, upon your heart.

Teach them faithfully to your children;

speak of them in your home and on your way,

when you lie down and when you rise up.

Bind them as a sign upon your hand,

let them be a symbol before your eyes;

inscribe them on the doorposts of your house, and on your gates.

Be mindful of all My Mitzvot, and do them;

so shall you consecrate yourselves to your God.

I am your Eternal God, who led you out of Egypt to be your God.

I am your Eternal God.

God, how many rise up to harm me! They say to me: God will not help you.  
They set traps for me, spreading a net along the road.

*They have laid traps for me; they surround me,  
but You are my shield; You help me stand up straight.  
I hold my head high, as it is said:  
“Do not be afraid, O Israel, for I will save you,  
you and your children,  
and none will make you afraid.”*

We have escaped, like birds from a trap;  
the trap broke and we escaped;  
for the God of heaven and earth has been our help.

We remember the days of Haman,  
when Esther and Mordecai helped our people live;  
and we remember the days of Pharaoh,  
when Miriam and Moses led us out of Egypt.  
Then they sang this song of praise:

מִי כְמוֹחָהּ בְּאֵלִים יְיָ, מִי כְמוֹחָהּ נֶאֱדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ,  
נֹרָא תְהִלָּתָהּ, עֲשֵׂה פֶלֶא.  
מַלְכוּתָהּ רָאוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, בּוֹקֵעַ יָם לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה,  
זֶה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאָמְרוּ: יְיָ יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.  
וְנֵאמְרוּ: כִּי פָדָה יְיָ אֶת יַעֲקֹב, וַיִּגְאֹלוּ מִיַּד חֲזָק מִמֶּנּוּ.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, גֹּאֲלֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

Mi chamocha ba'eilim Adonai, mi kamocho ne'edar bakodesh,  
nora t'hilot oseh feleh.  
Malchut'cha ra'u vanecha, bokeya yam lifnei Moshe,  
zeh eil, anu v'am'ru.  
Adonai Yimloch l'olam va'ed.  
V'ne'emar ki fada Adonai et Ya'akov,  
u'ga'alo miyad chazak mimenu.  
Barukh atta Adonai, ga'al Yisraeil.

Who is like You, Eternal One, among the gods that are worshipped? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders? The redeemed sang a new song unto You; together they sang at the shore of the sea, with gratitude and proclaiming Your sovereignty, saying: “The Eternal will reign for ever and ever.”

## Please Rise

### You are... eighteen benedictions (an alternative Amidah)

אֲדֹנָי, שִׁפְתַי תִּפְתַּח, וּפִי יִגִּיד תְּהִלָּתְךָ

*Adonai, Sifatei Tiftach, u'fi Yagid t'hilatecha*

Eternal God, open up my lips, that my mouth may declare Your glory.

You are strong  
when you take your grief  
and teach it to smile.

*You are brave  
when you overcome your fear  
and teach others to do the same.*

You are happy  
when you see a flower  
and give it your blessing.

*You are loving  
when your own pain  
does not blind you to the pain of others.*

You are wise  
when you know  
the limits of your wisdom.

*You are true  
when you admit  
there are times you fool yourself.*

You are alive  
when tomorrow's hope means more to you  
than yesterday's mistake.

*You are growing  
when you know what you are  
but not what you will come to be.*

You are free  
when you are in control of yourself  
and do not wish to control others.

*You are honorable  
when you find your honor  
is to honor others.*

You are generous  
when you can take  
as sweetly as you give.

*You are humble  
when you do not know  
how humble you are.*

You are thoughtful  
when you see me just as I am  
and treat me better than I am.

*You are merciful  
when you forgive in others  
the faults you condemn in yourself.*

You are beautiful  
when you don't need a mirror  
to tell you.

*You are rich  
when you never need  
more than you have.*

You are what you are  
and that is enough  
for anyone to be loved.

*You are what you are  
and that is enough  
for anyone to be loved.*

**Please be seated**

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ,  
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, (וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל) וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Oseh Shalom bimromov, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu,  
v'al kol Yisrael (v'al kol Yosh'vei Teiveil), v'imru: Amen.

May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us, for all  
Israel, and for all who inhabit the earth. And let us say: Amen.

## **A Beatles Purim Note from Rabbi Michael Feshbach**

Following on an experiment with a “Dylan Purim” in 2019 (perhaps coming here next year?), I turned to the wit and wisdom of John, Paul, George and Ringo! This “Beatles Purim,” in early March 2020 in a version essentially identical to what we present tonight, was the very last in-person service held at my previous congregation before we closed down for COVID. After trying to create this myself, I discovered that a Beatles Purim had been done in other settings. The result, here, is a mixture: I wrote some of the lyrics below, many others are adapted from Congregation Or Ami, in Lafayette Hill, PA, when Ken Carr was the Rabbi there, and Jordan Franzel the Cantor. There are other selections whose point of origin is not clear to me. Some were available on public domain searches. Of the selections borrowed from elsewhere, many have been tweaked or altered by me.

### **Blessings before the Reading of the Megillah**

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל מִקְרָא מְגִלָּה.  
Barukh atta Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh HaOlam,  
Asher Kiddishanu B'mitzvotov, v'tzivanu Al Mikra' M'gillah.

We praise you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of Existence,  
who sanctifies us with Your mitzvot, and commands us to read the Megillah.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְן הַזֶּה.  
Barukh atta Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh HaOlam,  
she'asa nisim lavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man ha'zeh.

We praise you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of Existence,  
who performed miracles for our ancestors in their days, at this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.  
Barukh atta Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh HaOlam,  
Shehechyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyannu laz'man hazeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of Existence,  
who sustains us in life, and allows us to reach this moment in time.



**Beatles Purim: Is There Anybody Going to Listen**  
to "Girl," from Or Ami Purim Mania (OAPM),  
tweaked by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

Is there anybody going to listen to our story  
All about an ancient holiday  
The beginning is romantic but the end is gory  
Still we must retell it anyway  
Ah Purim! Purim!

When I think of all the places  
We have had to leave, er,  
You could turn to me and start to cry  
But there's a promise of a place for us and I believe it  
After all this time I don't know why  
Ah, Purim.  
Purim! Purim!

Shushan is the town where it goes down  
In Persia many years ago  
The story is a real thrill  
You're gonna hear the whole megillah  
Oh, oh, oh, oh  
Purim! Purim!

## **The Scroll of Esther (Abridged)**

### **Esther 1:1-7**

א וַיְהִי בַיָּמִי אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ הוּא אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהַדּוֹ וְעַד-כּוֹשׁ שֶׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים  
וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה: ב בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם כְּשֶׁבֶת | הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ עַל כֹּסֵא מַלְכוּתוֹ אֲשֶׁר  
בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה: ג בְּשָׁנַת שְׁלוֹשׁ לְמָלְכוֹ עָשָׂה מִשְׁתֵּה לְכָל-שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו חֵיל | פָּרֶס  
וּמְדֵי הַפָּרְתִּימִים וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת לְפָנָיו: ד בְּהִרְאֹתוֹ אֶת-עֶשֶׂר כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ  
וְאֶת-יָקָר תְּפָאֲרַת גְּדוּלְתּוֹ יָמִים רַבִּים שְׂמוֹנִים וּמֵאֵת יוֹם: ה וּבְמַלְוֹאת | הַיָּמִים  
הָאֵלֶּה עָשָׂה הַמֶּלֶךְ לְכָל-הָעַם הַנִּמְצָאִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה לְמַגְדוֹל וְעַד-קָטָן  
מִשְׁתֵּה שְׁבַע יָמִים בְּחֶצֶר גִּנַּת בֵּיתוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ: ו חוּר | בְּרַפֵּס וּתְכֵלֶת אַחוּז  
בְּחַבְלֵי-בּוּץ וְאַרְגָּמָן עַל-גְּלִילֵי כֶסֶף וְעִמּוּדֵי שֵׁשׁ מִטּוֹת | זָהָב וְכֶסֶף עַל רְצֻפַת  
בַּהֲטָזָשׁ וְדָר וְסַחֲרֹת: ז וְהַשְּׁקוֹת בְּכָלִי זָהָב וְכֵלִים מְכֻלִּים שׁוֹנִים וַיֵּין מַלְכוּת  
רַב כִּיֹּד הַמֶּלֶךְ:

**Rabbi:** Once upon a time, in the days of Ahasuerus -- that king of Persia who ruled over one hundred twenty seven provinces from India all the way to Ethiopia... (Esther 1:1)

**Congregation:** *when King Ahasuerus occupied the royal throne in the walled city of Shushan, in the third year of his reign, he made a feast for all of his officials and servants, and he showed off the riches of his kingdom for a hundred eighty days. (1:2-4)*

**Reader:** At the end of this time, the king gave a special banquet for seven days in the court of the king's palace garden, for all the people who lived in Shushan, high and low alike... Royal wine was served in great abundance.. and the rule for the drinking was "no restrictions!" (1:5-8)

**Congregation:** *On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, he ordered... seven servants... to bring Queen Vashti before the king wearing [only?] her crown, to show off her beauty to everyone, for she was indeed a very beautiful woman. But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command...*

**Reader:** The king became very angry, and he consulted his servants, and he issued a royal decree that Vashti should be exiled and her royal estate be given to another who was more [obedient] than she. (1:10-13, 19)

**Beatles Purim: “Vashti Says Goodbye To Diamonds”**

to “Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds” written by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

Picture yourself in a gilded casino  
With slap-happy patrons and all leering eyes.  
Somebody calls you you answer quite slowly  
The queen who would wear a disguise.

Free-flowing cocktails of all different ilks  
Pouring down into your head  
Look for the queen with the fire in her eyes  
And she's gone

Vashti says goodbye to diamonds.  
Vashti says goodbye to diamonds.  
Vashti says goodbye to diamonds.

Follow her out to a life led in exile  
Where newly woke women refuse to recline.  
Smiling inside as they challenge the old men  
Who think they're incredibly fine.

Limos and taxis appear by the door  
Waiting to take you away  
Straighten your back with your head held up high  
And you're gone.

Vashti says goodbye to diamonds.  
Vashti says goodbye to diamonds.  
Vashti says goodbye to diamonds.

**Congregation:** *And letters were sent to all the provinces of the king... that every man should be the boss in his own home! (1:22)*

**Reader:** Some time afterward, when the king was less angry [and had recovered from his hangover] he realized that he was in serious need of a new queen! So the king's servants suggested that a Miss Persia contest be held, and that beautiful young women from all over the land be brought to Shushan, and given make-up, and that the woman who most pleased the king would become Queen instead of Vashti. (2:1-4, paraphrased).

**Reader:** In Shushan, the capital, there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai, who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. He was the foster father of Hadassah -- that is, Esther -- his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. (2:5-7)

**Congregation:** *The young woman was shapely and beautiful, and when her parents died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter. (2:7)*

**Reader:** When the king's contest was announced, many young women gathered together in Shushan. Esther, too, was taken to the palace. When Esther's turn came to go to the king, she found favor in the eyes of all who saw her. (2:8, 15)

**Beatles Purim: Got To Make That Esther My Wife!**

to "Got To Get You Into My Life."

OAPM, tweaks by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

I am alone, I had a queen  
She wouldn't dance, I made her leave here  
She hit the road and so I sit  
a lonely king without a queen here

Ooh, then I suddenly see her  
Ooh, did I tell you I need her  
I want to make that Esther my wife

She is the one, I do not lie  
You know I want so much to hold her  
Before she's gone I must decide that she's the one  
And now I've told her

Ooh, you were meant to be near me  
Ooh, and I want you to hear me  
Say we'll be together every day  
Got to make that Esther my wife

ESTHER: What should I do, what should I say  
That I'm a Jew? Can I be me here?  
Though it is true, I will not tell  
I don't feel safe, I don't feel free here  
Ooh, then I suddenly see him  
Ooh, did I tell you I need him  
I want to be Ahashverosh's wife

KING: Got to make that Esther my wife

I was alone, I had no queen  
I didn't know what I would find here

ESTHER: Another road I'm heading down  
I have a future with the King here

BOTH: Ooh, you were meant to be near me  
Ooh, and I want you to hear me  
Say we'll be together every day

KING: Got to make that Esther my wife  
Got to make that Esther my wife

**Congregation:** *The king loved Esther above all the other women. So he set the royal crown upon her head, making her queen instead of Vashti! And the king threw another great party for all of his officials, and he even proclaimed that no one would owe any taxes during that period of time. (2:17-18)*

**Reader:** But Esther still did not reveal her religion or her people; as Mordecai had instructed her, she did not tell the king that she was Jewish. (2:20)

**Reader:** At about that time, Mordecai happened to be sitting in the palace gate, when he overheard two of the king's... male-servants-with-artificially-high-voices become angry, and plot to do away with King Ahasueres. Mordecai told the matter to Queen Esther, who reported it to the king in Mordecai's name. (2:21-22)

**Congregation:** *The matter was investigated, and found to be true, and the two servants... were dealt with harshly. (2:23)*

**Beatles Purim: Execution**

To: "Revolution."

OAPM Purim, tweaked lightly by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

ALL: Oh we're planning for a revolution, well, you know,  
We all want to kill the king  
We're gonna make a substitution, well, you know,  
Will you join us in this thing?

MORDECAI: When you talk about destruction  
Don't you know that you can count me out.  
You know it's going to be all right, all right, all right

ALL: We know we got a good solution, well, you know  
We have organized a coup.

MORDECAI: No, you're serving up an execution, well, you know,  
Voting instead is right to do.  
And if you are acting for people with minds that hate,  
All I can tell you is you have to wait.  
Someday it's going to be all right, all right, all right.

### Esther 3:1-2

א אַחַר | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה גָּדַל הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחָשֵׁוּרוּשׁ אֶת־הַמֶּן בֶּן־הַמִּדְיָא הָאֲגָגִי  
וַיִּנְשָׂאֵהוּ וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת־כֶּסֶּאֱוֹ מֵעַל כָּל־הַשָּׂרִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ: ב וְכָל־עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ כָּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהַמֶּן כִּי־יָבֹן צֹהֵלֹו הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמְרַדְּכֵי לֹא  
יִכְרַע וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה:

**Reader:** After these events, the king promoted **HAMAN** the Agagite, placing him above all other officials. [3:1]

**Reader:** All of the king's servants in the palace knelt and bowed low to him, as the king had commanded. (3: 2)

**Congregation:** *Only Mordecai would neither kneel nor bow. (3:2)*

#### Beatles Purim: “Hey, Jew.”

To: “Hey, Jude.”

OAPM Purim with minor tweaks

Hey Jew, you must bow down  
Here's a warning, you know you'd better  
Remember that Haman's walking by soon  
Get on your knees, you know you'd better.

Hey Jew, you're not afraid  
To your one God you will be true  
The moment that Haman sees you still stand  
He will command that we should just kill you.

And even if Haman can be a pain, hey Jew, explain  
Why do you wear that shawl on your shoulders?  
For well you know that it's a fool who plays it cool.  
Resisting? What makes you bolder?

Hey Jew, you must bow down  
Here's a warning, you know you'd better  
Remember that Haman's walking by soon  
Get on your knees, you know you'd better, better, better, better,

Na na na, na na na na, na na na na, Hey Jew.....

**Reader:** When **HAMAN** saw that Mordecai would neither kneel nor bow to him, he was filled with anger.

**Congregation:** *But he decided not to hurt Mordecai alone; having been told that Mordecai was Jewish, **HAMAN** decided to do something that would hurt all the Jews throughout the whole kingdom. (3:5-6)*

**Reader:** So **HAMAN** said to King Ahasueres: "There is a certain people, spread out among the other peoples in all the provinces of your land, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king's laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them. If it please Your Majesty, let an order be sent forth that they be destroyed." (3:8-9)

**Reader:** And the king said to **HAMAN**: "Let it be done!" (3:11)

### **Beatles Purim: Wicked Man**

To: Nowhere Man.

OAPM Purim, with tweaks by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

He's a real wicked man  
Spittiing spite in Shushan land  
Making all his evil plans to hurt the Jews.

HAMAN: I'm a really dirty rat  
Wearing this three-cornered hat  
Who could like a guy like that  
Well, nobody!

Wicked man, made a vow (aaah-ah-la-la-la)  
Because Mordechai would not bow (aaah-ah-la-la-la)  
Wicked man (aaah-ah-la-la-la)  
He swore all the Jews would suffer. (aaah-aah-lala-lala-la)

HAMAN: Got the King to soon agree  
Issue an exec decree  
Making sure no one will me defy.  
Gallows built to do the deed  
My evil plan set to succeed  
That's my little strategy, to Jews: bye-bye!

Wicked man, he's bad (aaah-ah-la-la-la)  
And his plans make us sad (aaah-ah-la-la-la)  
We all pray (aaah-ah-la-la-la)  
a judge will stay his order (aaah-aah-lala-lala-la)

He's a real wicked man  
in his big house in Shushan land  
Making all his evil plans to get revenge.  
Making all his evil plans to get revenge.  
Making all his evil plans to get revenge.

**Congregation:** *When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and walked into the city weeping and wailing and crying very loudly. (4:1)*

**Reader:** In every province there was great mourning among the Jews, and loud cries, and fasting and weeping and wailing. (4:3)

**Congregation:** *Esther's maids and servants came and told her this news, and the queen became very upset. Esther then called Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains who had been appointed to serve her, and ordered him to find Mordecai, and to find out what was going on. (4:4-5)*

**Reader:** Mordecai then told him all that had happened to him, and he gave him a copy of **HAMAN's** decree which had been proclaimed in Shushan ordering the destruction of the Jews, so that he might show it to Esther, and report to her, and bid her to go to the king and plead with him for her people. (4:7-8)

### **Beatles Purim: You Gotta Tell The King**

To: I Wanna Hold Your Hand

OAPM

Oh yeah, I'll tell you something  
The Jews are suffering.  
You've got to do something  
You gotta tell the King  
You gotta tell the King-i-i-ing  
You gotta tell the King!

Oh Haman he is plotting  
Our lives he's threatening  
You must save your people  
You gotta tell the King  
You gotta tell the King-i-i-ing  
You gotta tell the King

And though you've kept the fact you're Jewish all inside  
Right now it's something too important, you can't hide  
You can't hide, you can't hide



So please say to me  
You're going to do this thing  
Our future's in your hand  
Now go and tell the King  
You gotta tell the King-i-i-ing  
You gotta tell the King  
You gotta tell the King-i-i-ing

**Beatles Purim: She's Jewish**

To: She Loves You

OAPM

You think you know the Queen  
Well, I saw her yesterday  
There's something unforeseen  
And she told me this, oy vey!  
She says she's Jewish  
So how can that be bad?  
Yes she's Jewish  
That Haman will be mad.

She said no one must know  
To put it from my mind  
The King adores her so  
She's gentle and kind  
She says she's Jewish  
So how can that be bad?  
Yes she's Jewish  
That Haman will be mad. Oy!

She's Jewish, oy, oy oy  
She's Jewish, oy oy oy  
With a queen like that  
You know we should be glad  
With a queen like that  
You know we should be glad  
With a queen like that  
You know we sho-uld  
Be glad  
Oy, oy, oy  
Oy, oy, oy, oy

**Reader:** Hatach came and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Esther then spoke to Hatach, and instructed him to carry this message back to Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court of the king without an invitation will be put to death(!)... unless the king extends his golden scepter... only then may that person live. And as for me, I have not been called to come in unto the king for the last thirty days. (4:9-11)

**Reader:** And Mordecai answered Esther: Do not think that because you are in the king's palace, and because you have hidden your identity, that you alone of all the Jews will escape. On the contrary; if you remain silent about who you are in this crises, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another source, but you and your father's house will perish. Besides, who knows -- perhaps it was for just such a time as this that you attained your royal status." (4:13-14)

**Congregation:** *And Esther sent this message back to Mordecai: "I will go in to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."* (4:15-16)

**Beatles Purim: Don't Let It Be**

To: Let It Be

Written by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mordecai just comes to me,  
Pushing words of wisdom: "Don't let it be!"  
And in my hour of darkness, family right in front of me.  
Nudgy with words of wisdom: "Don't let it be."

Don't let it be! Don't let it be!  
Don't let it be! Don't let it be!

And when all persecuted people  
Living in the world agree,  
Kindness is the answer; don't let it be.  
For though they are still haters around us  
There is still a chance that they will see  
If we stand up and answer: leave us be.

Leave us be, leave us be. Yeah  
It's part of our answer, just leave us be.

But until we live in harmony,  
There is still a light that shines through me,  
Shine until tomorrow, don't let it be.  
I wake up to the sound of kvetching

Mordecai just comes to me, pushing words of wisdom,  
don't let it be.

Don't let it be, don't let it be.  
To the meanness still surrounding us, don't let it be.  
Don't let it be, don't let it be,  
Calling us to action, don't let it be.

**Reader:** After three days of fasting and praying, Esther put on her best royal robes, and stood in the inner courtyard of the king's palace, while the king was sitting on his throne. (5:1)

**Congregation:** *When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she won his favor, and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which he had in his hand, and Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.* (5:2)

**Reader:** Then the king said to her: "What is troubling you, Queen Esther, and what is your petition? Be it half the kingdom, it will be granted to you!" (5:3)

**Reader:** And Esther said: "If it please the king, let the king and **HAMAN** come today to a feast which I have prepared for them." (5:4)

### **Beatles Purim: Chicken Tonight**

To: Ticket to Ride From: OAPM

KING: I think I'm gonna be fed  
I think it's today, yeah  
The Queen I recently wed  
Is serving buffet

She's making chicken tonight  
She's making chicken tonight  
She's making chicken tonight  
And I'll be there!

Before I made Esther Queen  
Was feelin' real down, yeah  
But then I gave her a ring  
And the royal crown.

She's making chicken tonight  
She's making chicken tonight  
She's making chicken tonight  
And I'll be there.

I don't know what she'll serve on the side,  
Maybe wild rice  
That ought to do right by me  
Before she gets through serving the pie  
I'll have a small slice  
That ought to do right by me!

HAMAN: I think I'm gonna be fed  
I think it's today yeah  
I am moving ahead  
Life's going my way

BOTH: She's making chicken tonight  
She's making chicken tonight  
She's making chicken tonight  
And I'll be there!  
I'm gonna be there,  
I'm gonna be there,  
I'm gonna be there!

**Reader:** The king replied: "Bring **HAMAN** quickly to fulfill Esther's wish!" (5:5)

**Congregation:** *And the king, together with his advisor, came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.* (5:5)

**Reader:** Then the king said to Esther: "Now, what is your request? It will be granted to you!" And Esther said: "If I have found favor in the king's eyes, let the king and **HAMAN** come to the feast which I have prepared for them tomorrow." (5:6-7)

### Esther 7:1-6

א וַיָּבֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּן לַשְּׂתוֹת עִם־אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה: ב וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם  
בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁנִי בְּמִשְׁתֵּה הַלַּיִן מִה־שְּׂאֵלָתָךְ אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וְתִנָּתֶן לָךְ וּמִה־בִּקְשֵׁי־  
עַד־חֲצֵי הַמַּלְכוּת וְתַעֲשֵׂ: ג וַתַּעַן אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־מְצֹאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב תִּנָּתֶן־לִי נַפְשִׁי בְּשֵׂאֵלָתִי וְעַמִּי בְּבִקְשֵׁתִי: ד כִּי נִמְכְּרֵנוּ  
אֲנִי וְעַמִּי לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהַרְגוֹ וּלְאַבֵּד וְאֵלּוּ לַעֲבָדִים וְלִשְׁפָחוֹת נִמְכְּרֵנוּ הַחַרְשֵׁתִי כִּי  
אֵין הַצָּר שׁוֹה בְּנֶזֶק הַמֶּלֶךְ: ה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ וַיֹּאמֶר לְאֶסְתֵּר  
הַמַּלְכָּה מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי־זֶה הוּא אֲשֶׁר־מְלֹאֵו לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן: ו וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר  
אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב הָמֶן הִרְעֵה זֶה וְהַמֶּן נִבְלַעַת מִלִּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמַּלְכָּה:

**Congregation:** *So the king and [that bad guy] came to the feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, the king again asked Esther: "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half the kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."* (7:1-2)

**Reader:** And Esther said: "May my life be given to me as my petition, and the life of my people as my request. For we have been sold, me and my people, for destruction, for murder and annihilation!" (7:3-5)

**Beatles Purim: Help!**

To: Help! Written by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

Help! we need somebody  
Help! not just anybody  
Help! you know we need someone! Help!

When I was younger, so much younger than today  
I never needed anybody's help in any way  
But now those days are gone the danger is absurd.  
Now I find allies are fine, I just need to be heard.

Help me if you can, we're on the clock  
My head will soon be put right on the block  
Our end will come if you don't stop it,  
Won't you please, please help me?

And now our lives have changed in oh so many ways  
Interdependence is the rule in this new phase  
It's enough to make one insecure  
To need each more than we did before.

Won't you please, please help me?  
Help me. help me, ooh!!!

## **Beatles Purim: All The Jewish People**

To: Eleanor Rigby,  
OAPM

ESTHER: King Ahashverosh,  
needed a queen so he searched for the best in the land  
I gave him my hand  
Trouble was stirring, someone was plotting to kill him,  
it wasn't a game.  
Who was to blame?

All the Jewish people  
Where do they all come from?  
All the Jewish people  
Where do they all belong?

Haman advised him,  
angry that Mordechai stood up and wouldn't bow down  
As he walked by  
Haman built gallows,  
sent out an edict all over the kingdom that said "All Jews must die"

All the Jewish people  
Where do they all come from?  
All the Jewish people  
Where do they all belong?

Here is the truth now,  
if all the Jews will be killed by your wicked decree  
You must kill me  
I've kept a secret,  
but now revealing the truth is the right thing to do  
I am a Jew!

All the Jewish people  
Where do they all come from?  
All the Jewish people  
Where do they all belong?

ALL: Ah, look at all the Jewish people  
Ah, look at all the Jewish people.....

**Reader:** And the king asked: (7:5)

**Congregation:** *"Who is he, and where is he, who dared to do such a thing?"* (7:5)

**Reader:** "A vicious enemy!" (7:6)

**Reader:** "This wicked **HAMAN!**" (7:6)

**Reader:** The king arose and said: "Hang him on the gallows that he prepared for Mordecai!" (7:7)

**Reader:** So they hanged **HAMAN** on the gallows he had built. (7:10)

**Reader:** The king's scribes were summoned, and Mordecai ordered that letters be sent to all the Jews, telling them how they had been saved from the hands of the king's evil advisor. (8:9, 11)

**Congregation:** *Then Mordecai left the king's presence dressed in a royal robe of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a cloak of white linen and purple, and the city of Shushan had a long, loud party!* (8:15)

**Rabbi:** *Hayita la'y'hudim orah v'simcha, ve'sasson, v'yikar* (8:16).

**Congregation:** *For the Jews there was light and joy, gladness and honor.* (8:16).

**Rabbi:** And Mordecai sent letters to the Jews, instructing them to observe the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar each year, the same days on which the Jews had found relief from their enemies, making them days of feasting and joy, for the exchange of gifts and the giving of *tzedakah* to the poor, so that these days of Purim should be remembered and kept for all generations. (9:20-22)

## Beatles Purim: Esther's Day

To: Yesterday by Yakira and the Band, YedidYah Music

Esther's Day is when Jewish folks will have their say  
and cruel Haman will just go away.

O we believe in Esther's Day.

Mordecai says that we don't really have to die.

Now that's just a lot of *chazerai*.

So have the King tell Haman "Bye."

Why we're hated so we don't know and who can say?

Esther help us now when our skies are blue and grey.

Esther's Day is when Haman will be sent away

Or forever we will say "oy vey!"

O we believe in Esther's Day.

Yes, we believe in Esther's Day!

## Blessings for after the Reading of the Megillah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הָרַב אֶת רִיבֵנוּ, וְהִדּוּן אֶת דִּינֵנוּ,  
וְהַנּוֹקֵם אֶת נִקְמַתֵנוּ, וְהַמְשַׁלֵּם גְּמוּל לְכָל אֵיבֵי נַפְשֵׁנוּ, וְהַנּוֹפֵר לָנוּ  
מִצָּרֵינוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הַנּוֹפֵר לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכָּל צָרֵיהֶם, הָאֵל הַמּוֹשִׁיעַ.

Barukh atta Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh HaOlam, harav et riveinu, v'hadan et dineinu, v'hanokeim et nikmateinu, v'ham'shaleim g'mul l'chol naf'sheinu, v'hanifra lanu mitzareinu. Barukh atta Adonain, ha'nifra l'amo Yisrael mikol tzareihem, ha'eil ha'moshiyah.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of Existence, who hears our plea, judges our claim, sees that justice is done, and knows that our enemies themselves will suffer from their hatred in the end. We praise You, Adonai, Eternal Source of Comfort for the Jewish people, and Source of Salvation for all the righteous and just of the world.





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putting your own stamp on our ever-evolving story,  
and helping to shape it  
for generations to come.

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**ISRAEL** **לְדוֹר**  
Building our **וְדוֹר**  
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