

## DIVINE APPOINTMENTS:

### *Purim*

פורים

#### Two Additional Feasts:

##### HANUKKAH

John

Spiritual Exile

Miracles



##### PURIM

Esther

Physical Exile

No miracles



**Esther 9:20-22** And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

**Esther 9:24-26** For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast *Pur* (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them. But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. Therefore they called these days *Purim*, after the term *Pur*...

#### Leviticus 23:28

And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a **Day of Atonement**, to make atonement for you before Adonai your God.

יום כפרים

(yom ki-purim)

**“A day like Purim”**



(1:20)  
“... it, and all wives shall give...”  
היא וְכָל הַנָּשִׁים יִתְּנוּ

(5:4)  
“... let come the king and Haman today...”  
יָבוֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֵּן הַיּוֹם

(5:13)  
“... this avails nothing to me...”  
זֶה אֵינְנוּ שׂוֹהֵה לִי

(7:7)  
“... that evil was determined against him...”  
כִּי כָלְתָה אֵלָיו הָרָעָה

Spelled **forward** –

Spelled **backward** –

**First** letters –

**Last** letters –

a **Jew** is speaking

a **Gentile** is speaking

concerns a **woman**

concerns a **man**

**First letters + Forward** = Esther speaks

א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
כ	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	צ	ק	
20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	
			ר	ש	ת				
			200	300	400				

וְאֶבְדּוּ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְשִׁנְאֵיהֶם כְּרְצוֹנָם: וַיִּבְשׁוּשָׁן הַבְּיָרָה

הָרְגוּ הַיְהוּדִים וְאֶבְד \* חֲמִשׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ: וְאֶרֶב

פֶּרֶשְׁנֵה־תָא

דִּלְפּוֹן

אֶסְפֶּרֶת־א:

פּוֹרְתָא

אֶדְלִיא

אֶרִידָת־א:

פֶּרְמֵשְׁתָּא

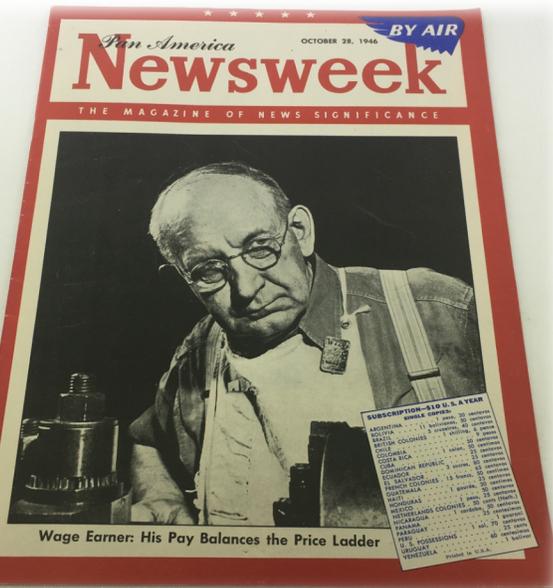
אֶר־יָסִי

אֶר־יָדִי

וְיָרֶב־א:

בְּנֵי הָמֶן בְּן־הַמֶּד־תָּא צִרַר הַיְהוּדִים הָרְגוּ וַיִּבְכְּזָה לָא

שִׁלְחוּ אֶת־יָדָם: יֵא בִיּוֹם הַהוּא בָּא מִסְפֵּר הַהֲרוּגִים



FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSWEEK

Andrus's prize charge, Hermann Wilhelm Göring, lying on his small iron cot in Cell No. 5 and wearing black silk pajamas and a blue shirt, crushed between his teeth a glass vial of potassium cyanide, gasped, twitched, and died. Defendant and confident throughout the long trial, Göring at the end had succeeded in wrecking its planned psychological impact. For despite attempts of some, including Justice Robert H. Jackson, to brand the suicide an act of cowardice, few Germans saw it in that light. They took grim satisfaction in the knowledge that the Allies couldn't hang "Unser Herrmann" after all.

The 13 Steps: Frantic prison officials, determined that no other victim should escape them, at once shackled the ten surviving convicts in their cells. Then, in 90 minutes in the early hours of Oct. 16, they followed each other to the gallows.

Former Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, pale and disheveled but unflinching, inherited Göring's No. 1 spot. Flanked by American MPs and a chaplain, he walked the 35 yards from the cell block to the brightly lighted gymnasium at 1:11 a.m. Blinded by the glare, he stood inside the door, facing the three black wooden scaffolds erected on a floor where GI's had played basketball only four days before. The manacles were removed and his hands bound behind him with a black leather thong. Then Ribbentrop walked steadily to the foot of the thirteen steps.

He gave his name firmly and mounted the 8-foot platform where M/Sgt. John C. Woods, veteran executioner of 347 men in fifteen years, awaited him. He stood on the trap, beneath the rope suspended from a heavy wooden beam overhead, while an Army belt was pulled tightly around his ankles. "God protect Germany! God have mercy on my soul," he cried in a ringing voice, then asked: "May I say something else?" An American officer nodded.

"My last wish is that Germany realize its unity and that an understanding be reached between the east and the west. I wish peace to the world."

He stared straight ahead, lips tightly set, as the black hood dropped over his head. Then came the noose—and the trap banged open at 1:16. While the stiffening body still hung behind the screen that hid the gallows' dark interior, three knocks sounded at the gymnasium door and Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, clothes neatly pressed and shoes shined, entered. After him, the guards, with precise, ruthless efficiency, brought in the others one by one to deliver their last speeches and die.

"Purimfest": Only Julius Streicher went without dignity. He had to be pushed across the floor, wild-eyed and screaming: "Heil Hitler!" Mounting the steps he cried out: "And now I go to God." He stared at the witnesses facing the gallows and shouted: "Purimfest, 1946." (Purim is a Jewish feast.) Then to the American officer he cried: "The

Bolsheviks will hang you one day." He spoke again from beneath the black hood: "Adele, my dear wife"—and plunged through the trap. A groan came from inside the scaffold. Critics suggested afterward that Streicher was clumsily hanged and that the rope may have strangled him instead of breaking his neck. The hangman reported: "He kicked a little while, but not long." At 2:45 the last of the ten, Arthur Seyss-Inquart, was dispatched.

A few moments later, the door opened once more. Two soldiers carried in a stretcher, covered with a khaki Army blanket from which two bare white feet protruded. The blanket was whipped off and witnesses gathered close to testify



Sergeant Woods shows his noose

that Hermann Göring, too, was dead. A colonel said: "OK. Take him away."

Before dawn heavily guarded vans sped out of the prison yard, evaded pursuing correspondents, and headed toward the airfield at Fürth. The next day Colonel Andrus announced that the bodies of the eleven war criminals "have been cremated and the ashes dispersed secretly." Apparently, in a gesture of grim poetic justice, the Army had flown them to Dachau and consigned them to the notorious ovens where so many of their victims had died.

The Fatsos Mystery: But the curtain could not come down on the drama of Nuremberg until the mystery of Göring's suicide was solved. Rumors, speculation, unsupported charges, resurrected anecdotes, and heavy secrecy surrounded the investigation as a three-man Army board attempted to learn how he got the poison and how long he'd had it. The only fact revealed about the cyanide capsule was that it had been carried in a slender, 28-inch-long brass cartridge case. It resembled one found on Göring when he was captured.

Some of the suggested hiding places:

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**Esther 3:7** In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

**Genesis 4:14** “Behold, You have driven me today away from the ground, and from Your face I shall be hidden (סתר, *satar*). I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

**Exodus 3:6** And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid (סתר, *satar*) his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

### **God’s Name (YHVH) in Esther:**

**Esther 1:20** [Memucan, the king’s adviser] “So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, **all the wives will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike.**”

**Esther 5:4** And Esther said, “If it please the king, **let the king and Haman come today** to a feast that I have prepared for the king.”

**Esther 5:13** [Haman] “**Yet all this is worth nothing to me**, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.”

**Esther 7:7** [Mordechai (writing)] And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw **that evil was determined against him** by the king.