

Esther 9:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,

Analysis

Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,

The festival's name "Purim" derives from "Pur" (the lot Haman cast to determine the Jews' destruction date, 3:7). Naming the celebration after the divination device that determined the attack date creates profound irony: the instrument intended to ensure successful genocide instead marks the day commemorating Jewish deliverance. The name forever reminds celebrants that what enemies intend for evil, God turns to good. The reference to "all the words of this letter" indicates Mordecai's official establishment of Purim (v. 20-22), and "that which they had seen" grounds the festival in historical experience—not legend but witnessed events.

Historical Context

Naming festivals after significant elements from the deliverance narrative was common practice (Passover from God "passing over" Israelite homes, Exodus 12:13). Purim's name permanently memorialized Haman's reliance on pagan divination that God overruled. The irony would have been obvious to ancient audiences: the lots Haman cast to find the lucky date for destroying Jews instead found the date of his own destruction and Jewish victory. The appeal to both

written documentation ("this letter") and eyewitness experience ("which they had seen") established Purim's historical legitimacy, distinguishing it from mythical celebrations. Archaeological evidence shows ancient communities carefully documented founding events of religious observances to maintain authentic tradition.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does naming Purim after Haman's divination lots illustrate that God transforms instruments of intended evil into monuments of His deliverance?
2. What does grounding the festival in both written documentation and witnessed experience teach about the importance of historical reliability in religious observance?

Interlinear Text

עַל	הַפְּרִזְבֵּת	וְרִא	כִּי	עַל	בְּאַלְמָנָה	לִמְמָנָה	לְמִמְנָה	לְמִמְנָה	עַל
H5921	H3651	Wherefore they called	H7121		these days	H3117		H428	Purim
									H5921
									H6332
דְּבָרִים	עַל	הַפְּרִזְבֵּת	כִּי	עַל	כִּל	עַל	שָׁם	דְּבָרִים	
after the name	Purim	H5921	H3651	H5921	H3605			Therefore for all the words	H1697
H8034	H6332								
בְּאַלְמָנָה	עַל	בְּאַלְמָנָה	וְמִמְנָה	וְמִמְנָה	בְּאַלְמָנָה	וְמִמְנָה	בְּאַלְמָנָה	עַל	
of this letter	H2063	H4100	and of that which they had seen	H5921					
H107				H7200					
אֲלֵיכֶם:	הַגִּיעַ	וְמִמְנָה	וְמִמְנָה	בְּכָה	אֲלֵיכֶם:	הַגִּיעַ	וְמִמְנָה	וְמִמְנָה	
concerning this matter	H4100		and which had come	H413					
H3602				H5060					

Additional Cross-References

Esther 9:20 (Parallel theme): And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,