

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	כֵּן	קָרְאוּ	לַמַּיִם	הָאֵלֶּה	הַפּוּרִים	עַל
H5921	H3651	Wherefore they called	these days	H428	Purim	H5921
		H7121	H3117		H6332	
שֵׁם	הַפּוּרִים	עַל	כֵּן	עַל	כָּל	דְּבָרֵי
after the name	Purim	H5921	H3651	H5921	H3605	Therefore for all the words
H8034	H6332					H1697
הָאֵלֶּה	אֶת	וְהָ	כָּאֵל	עַל		
of this letter	H2063	H4100	and of that which they had seen	H5921		
H107			H7200			
בְּכָה	וּמָה	הֵגַיַּע	אֵלֵיהֶם:			
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,