

Need help with origin of Purim in Bible

Posted by TheJester - 28 Feb 2012 10:59

Hi guys - I have a major trial of faith here.

I cannot find any reference to Purim in the Torah, and this disturbs me greatly. The closest that I can come to this is because Purim is specifically a Judean festival, and therefore we can learn out from the story of Yehuda's sons, Er and Onan.

Still, this seems a little *shvach* to me. I think that perhaps it is a Medieval excuse for a masque, which was known to make people happier, and we don't follow Medieval social norms nowadays, so this remains an issue for me.

In a similar vein, I cannot understand why we wear a kippah today. I cannot find any source for it in the Torah. Again, it seems to be Jews who wear one, and therefore it must be related to Yehuda (origin of the name Jews), and therefore it must be related to his children (since we are mostly his descendants). Is the wearing of a kippah simply a Medieval medical treatment against balding? If so, perhaps the original *Judenhat* (this name is a reference to Judah and his sons, who must have worn one) would be a better alternative. Still, I am struggling with this one, too.

Lastly, I cannot understand why we should perform any of the human kindnesses and norms that are not specifically mentioned in the Torah, or expounded upon at greater lengths in later Oral tradition. I have a funny feeling that it all goes back to Yehuda's children, and that if only we could conclusively prove that everything stems from there, we could all be good people and good *Yehudim* (children of Yehuda). If I cannot get conclusive proof of EVERYTHING from this small section of the Torah, then I fear that the very foundations of my faith may suffer.

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Re: Need help with origin of Purim in Bible

Posted by tehillimzugger - 28 Feb 2012 11:21

Interesting Thing!

I figured I might try my luck and find some passuk related to er and onan that somehow is

gematria some of the minhagim yossi mentioned, so i entered "maaseh purim" in Bar-Ilan's Gematria feature, guess what-

"maaseh purim" is the exact gematria of:

"Hashem Melech Olam Vaed Avdu Goyim MeiArtzo"!

Fascinating!

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Re: Need help with origin of Purim in Bible
Posted by Me3 - 28 Feb 2012 16:10

I don't even know where to begin. Megillas Esther is part of the "bible" so I'm not sure where you were looking. If you mean the 5 Books of Moses there are references cited by the Gemara (Haman min HaTora minayen, Ester min HaTorah Minayin, etc..) but why MUST you find reference in the Torah? The story happened later?

Wearing a Kippah I believe started as a minhag but nowadays it has been (almost) universally accepted so much so that it is now a requirement. Why do you need a biblical source for this? (Yarmulka is a contraction of 2 words Yarei Malka which means Fear of the King)

And you last point about human kindness not specifically mentioned in the Torah. There is a biblical commandment to emulate G-d. Mah Hu Rachum af atta Rachum, Just as He is merciful so should you be.

But really your whole premise is flawed, if you cant find conclusive proof of everything then the foundations of your "faith" will suffer? Do you know what the word faith means?

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Re: Need help with origin of Purim in Bible
Posted by tehillimzugger - 28 Feb 2012 16:16

[Me3 wrote on 28 Feb 2012 16:10:](#)

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you failed to notice that he changed his signature writing that when it comes to purim he *is* a jester!

whaddya think the guy's crazy? why all the references to er and onan? iss ah dzhoke!

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Re: Need help with origin of Purim in Bible
Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 28 Feb 2012 16:26

Good job Yossi! ;D ;D ;D

You had me going for a minute too until I noticed your signature...

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Re: Need help with origin of Purim in Bible
Posted by TheJester - 28 Feb 2012 16:38

[Me3 wrote on 28 Feb 2012 16:10:](#)

But really your whole premise is flawed, if you cant find conclusive proof of everything then the foundations of your "faith" will suffer? Do you know what the word faith means?

It appears to me, from a comprehensive review of the **most commonly asked question on this site**, the one that seems to crop up every few weeks or so in another guise, that what we do (and ultimately faith) is all about proving that something is right or wrong based on one little story in Torah. Or isn't.

Or something.

[Me3 wrote on 28 Feb 2012 16:10:](#)

I don't even know where to begin.

At the beginning. Duh!

but why **MUST** you find reference in the Torah?

Good question!

Why do you need a biblical source for this?

Good question!

Just as He is merciful so should you be.

Great response!

It's funny, because you answer like so many who ask the same question would answer. Or maybe it's only me who sees the humor in it...

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Re: Need help with origin of Purim in Bible
Posted by Me3 - 28 Feb 2012 17:18

oh dear

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Re: Need help with origin of Purim in Bible
Posted by TheJester - 28 Feb 2012 17:29

[Me3 wrote on 28 Feb 2012 17:18:](#)

oh dear

Bazinga?

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