

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HaMizrachi Megillah Companion

**M**egillat Esther is, chronologically, one of the last of the books of the Tanach.

A story which occurs exclusively in exile. A book in which G-d's name is never mentioned. An intrinsic part of the *Ketuvim* which almost didn't make it in.<sup>1</sup>

There is so much that is unique about Megillat Esther, so many precious gems of wisdom hidden within it. What is hiding behind this ancient text?

The word מגילה, scroll, shares a root with the Hebrew word לגלות, to reveal. Esther's name comes from the Hebrew *hester*, what is hidden. Megillat Esther is the book of revealing what is hidden.

Esther's hidden Jewish identity becomes revealed, and her hidden strength and bravery is brought out into the light.

Like Esther, on Purim we hide our faces with masks and reveal our hidden, inner selves. We recognize G-d "hiding" behind the mask of nature, and reveal Him even where His name is seemingly missing.

Though the story of the Megillah seems like a coincidental sequence of natural occurrences, we realize that G-d is hiding behind the scenes the whole time.

Here is the *HaMizrachi Megillah Companion*: an introduction to the Megillah and 10 pearls of hidden wisdom for each of the 10 chapters of the Megillah, revealed by some of the top educators and speakers in Israel today.

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<sup>1</sup> Megillah 7a.