

Notes: February 27 2021

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Cancel Culture – A Generational Curse (Purim 2021)

Is Purim 2021 and the times we are living in now really any different than the time of Mordekhai and Esther? Other than the time being centered around the monarchy of King Achashverosh rather than a government structured as a representative republic, not really.

People have not changed since Adonai breathed breath into Adam, formed Havah from one of Adam's ribs, the fall and thus expulsion from the garden due to the Adversary's deceiving tactics. Our lifestyle, that is the standard by which we live has most certainly change, yet our character traits still remain the same.

One aspect that we see today and has a term has been witnessed and attempted in the past. The term I am referring to is “cancel culture” Dr. [Utpal Dholakia](#) provides the following from an article published in July 2020 at the height of a summer of social unrest where rioting was a nightly occurrence in several cities.

What Is Canceling?

Canceling is an individual's volitional act of publicly rejecting and actively pursuing harm against a perceived transgressor. There are two parties in every canceling episode: the person who cancels (the canceler) and the entity — person, group, or organization that is canceled. Canceling requires the canceler to engage in three psychological processes:

1. *To identify or become aware of a transgression and judge it to be significant*
2. *To experience strong negative emotions*
3. *To act punitively and visibly to harm the transgressor*

Canceling begins with a real or perceived transgression by the canceled entity that the canceler observes or is made aware of and deems to be serious. The transgression can be about anything such as the violation of a strongly-held political value ([effusively praising](#) a loathed politician) or a social justice value (tweeting in [support of transphobia](#), [saying something racist](#) to a stranger; etc.) that the canceler deems to be significant. A strongly-held value in a different domain like animal welfare also qualifies as a transgression, like serving [lion meat](#) or [swan meat](#) in one's restaurant.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-science-behind-behavior/202007/what-is-cancel-culture>

This is how one Dr. of psychology defines the action of canceling. Do the three points used to identify canceling as identified by Dr. [Utpal Dholakia](#) fit our Purim narrative?

Let's see...

Est 3:2 All the king's servants at the King's Gate would kneel and bow down before Haman, because the king had so ordered. But Mordekhai would neither kneel nor bow down to him.

Est 3:3 The king's servants at the King's Gate asked Mordekhai, "Why don't you obey the king's order?"

Est 3:4 But after they had confronted him a number of times without his paying attention to them, they told Haman, in order to find out whether Mordekhai's explanation that he was a Jew would suffice to justify his behavior.

Est 3:5 Haman was furious when he saw that Mordekhai was not kneeling and bowing down to him.

Est 3:6 However, on learning what people Mordekhai belonged to, it seemed to him a waste to lay hands on Mordekhai alone. Rather, he decided to destroy all of Mordekhai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole of Achashverosh's kingdom.

Now, let's evaluate this passage to Dr. [Utpal Dholakia](#) three identifying points of "canceling"...

1. To identify or become aware of a transgression and judge it to be significant

What was the transgression - Mordekhai was not kneeling and bowing down before Haman just as every other servant was ordered to do.

2. To experience strong negative emotions

What was the negative emotion – Haman was furious that Mordekhai would not bow before him

3. To act punitively and visibly to harm the transgressor

What was Haman's response...rather than just addressing his anger towards Mordekhai he would act against the people of Mordekhai as well. Haman was so furious with Mordekhai that, to use today's term, would cancel all of the Jewish people in addition to Mordekhai.

If you are keeping score, this passage of Esther recounting the origins of Purim checks the boxes on all three points. It all begins with a real or perceived transgression. It was a real issue from Haman's perspective.

Haman was only one person, yet he was a person in a powerful position. He had the King's ear.

Est 3:8 Then Haman said to Achashverosh, "There is a particular people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people; moreover, they don't

observe the king's laws. It doesn't befit the king to tolerate them.

Est 3:9 If it please the king, have a decree written for their destruction; and I will hand over 330 tons of silver to the officials in charge of the king's affairs to deposit in the royal treasury."

Est 3:10 The king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hamdata the Agagi, the enemy of the Jews.

A people who were part of his kingdom now become an enemy of the kingdom because of one man who was offended by the actions of one man. Haman would convince the King of the perceived threat of a disloyal subject and thus an entire people who follow the same practices would be deemed disloyal also. All through the words of one man did this occur.

Let me share another definition with you...

Cancel culture (or **call-out culture**) is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles – whether it be online, on social media, or in person. Those who are subject to this ostracism are said to be "canceled". Merriam-Webster notes that to "cancel", as used in this context, means "to stop giving support to that person"

The cancel culture machine was set in motion with its aim set on a single target...the Jewish people. The vast apparatus of the King has been mobilized to withdraw any support with the ultimate and final outcome – eradication.

The wheels would be greased whereby funds were appropriated to fund this single mandate. People would be given orders as part of this single initiative and thus the cancel culture machine was primed and ready to roll...

Est 3:11 The king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, and the people too, to do with as seems good to you."

Est 3:12 The king's secretaries were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month. They wrote down all Haman's orders to the king's army commanders and governors in all the provinces and to the officials of every people, to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language; everything was written in the name of King Achashverosh and sealed with the king's signet ring.

Est 3:13 Letters were sent by courier to all the royal provinces "to destroy, kill and exterminate all Jews, from young to old, including small children and women, on a specific day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to seize their goods as plunder."

Est 3:14 A copy of the document to be issued as a decree in every province was to be publicly proclaimed to all the peoples, so that they would be ready for that day.

All was in place and ready to go.

Yet, the ones who were identified to be cancelled did not accept their fate as was written. They did not fight in the way you would expect but they prayed and fasted, seeking guidance and direction as how best to proceed. It would appear that the people who were about to be cancelled had a "plant", a "mole" within the power structure of the cancelor...

Est 2:3 The king should appoint officials in all the provinces of the kingdom to gather all the young, good-looking virgins to the house for the harem, in Shushan the capital. They should be put under the care of Hegai the king's officer in charge of the women, and he should give them the cosmetics they require.

Est 2:4 Then, the girl who seems best to the king should become queen instead of Vashti." This proposal pleased the king, so he acted accordingly.

Est 2:5 There was in Shushan the capital a man who was a Jew, whose name was Mordekhai the son of Ya'ir, the son of Shim'i, the son of Kish, a Binyamini.

Est 2:7 He had raised Hadassah, that is, Ester, his uncle's daughter; because she had neither father nor mother. The girl was shapely and good-looking; after her father's and mother's death, Mordekhai had adopted her as his own daughter.

Est 2:8 When the king's order and decree were proclaimed, and many girls assembled in Shushan the capital under the care of Hegai, Ester too was taken into the king's house and put under the care of Hegai, who was in charge of the women.

Est 2:9 The girl pleased him and won his favor, so that he lost no time in giving her her cosmetics, her portions [*of special food*] and seven girls from the king's palace to attend her; he also promoted her and the girls attending her to the best place in the harem's quarters.

Est 2:10 Ester did not disclose her people or family ties, because Mordekhai had instructed her not to tell anyone.

Notice the order by which this occurred. Haddasah was chosen before anything had even transpired between Haman and Mordekhai thus Mordekhai did not plan to have Haddasah infiltrate the Kings ranks because she was already there. The plan was to utilize Esther's position and garner influence from the King. Esther was not a spy at first, but in accepting Mordekhai request became a spy for her people.

Just as one man had set the ball rolling on cancelling the Jewish people, one woman was tasked in derailing the ball and thus cancelling the cancelled. In math two negatives make a positive. Thus to cancel the actions intended to cancel the targeted, is a positive.

After three days of fasting...

Est 4:15 Ester had them return this answer to Mordekhai:

Est 4:16 "Go, assemble all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and have them fast for me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, night and day; also I and the girls attending me will fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."

Est 4:17 Then Mordekhai went his way and did everything Ester had ordered him to do.

Even though it is not stated here, I believe that with this time of fasting there was praying as well. A devout man such as Mordekhai was likely a man of prayer as well. Remember, Adonai's name is not mentioned once in Esther, yet His fingerprints are all over the events that transpired. Why wouldn't the prayers of His people be there as well?

The plan was to reveal Haman's intention to the King by way of a banquet.

Est 5:6 So the king and Haman came to the banquet Ester had prepared.

Est 5:7 At the banquet of wine the king again said to Ester, "Whatever your request, you will be granted it; whatever you want, up to half the kingdom, it will be done."

Est 5:8 Then Ester answered, "My request, what I want, is this: if I have won the king's favor, if it pleases the king to grant my request and do what I want, let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them; and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

Thus it would be at this banquet whereby Esther would reveal the plans against her people by revealing who her people are through identifying how her enemy is...

Est 7:1 So the king and Haman went to Queen Ester's banquet;

Est 7:2 and the king again said to Ester at the wine banquet, "Whatever your request, Queen Ester, you will be granted it; whatever you want, up to half the kingdom, it will be done."

Est 7:3 Ester the queen answered, "If I have won your favor, king, and if it pleases the king, then what I ask be

given me is my own life and the lives of my people.

Est 7:4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, killed, exterminated. If we had only been sold as men- and women-slaves, I would have remained quiet; since then [*our*] trouble would not have been worth the damage it would have caused the king [*to alter the situation*]."

Est 7:5 King Achashverosh asked Ester the queen, "Who is he? Where is the man who dared to do such a thing?"

Est 7:6 Ester said, "A ruthless enemy—it's this wicked Haman!" Haman stood aghast, terrified before the king and queen.

It would be through her placement in advance and her actions as directed through prayer and fasting that led to the canceling of being canceled.

Where are the Esther and Mordekhai today?

There is no limit to cancelling today.

- Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head have lost their identities and are now just Potato Head.
- Disney has added disclaimers to the Muppet Show regarding offensive material
- Dr. Seuss is even being cancelled.

Celebrated American children's author Dr. Seuss is now considered too controversial for one of Virginia's largest school districts, a new report reveals.

For over two decades, Dr. Seuss's birthday has been celebrated in schools as [Read Across America Day](#) — a day dedicated to the importance of reading and literacy. The day falls on Dr. Seuss's birthday in honor of the impactful author, whose books have helped countless children learn to read across the globe.

But following pressure from activists, Loudoun County Public Schools is reportedly dropping the annual Dr. Seuss celebration.

"Realizing that many schools continue to celebrate 'Read Across America Day' in partial recognition of Dr. Seuss' birthday, it is important for us to be cognizant of research that may challenge our practice in this regard," Loudoun County Schools said in an announcement reported by the Daily Wire.

"As we become more culturally responsive and racially conscious, all building leaders should know that in recent years there has been research revealing radical undertones in the books written and the illustrations drawn by Dr. Seuss," the school district [continued](#).

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/loudoun-county-public-schools-dr-seuss-racial-undertones>

Cancelling is not new...ask the Jewish people about being cancelled. It has followed them where ever we have gone. Kicked out of one country, residing in another, cancelling would ensue. We see this today in China with the Uygur muslims and Christians. We see this in other cultures. Cancelling is not new, not associated with one nation, people or religion. It is a generational curse, not of the inflicted, but of the one's who impose such haneous treatment towards a people simply because of who they are.

We are not cursed but the curse of the cancel culture crowd is the hatred that has consumed them and thus through their actions have not the love of Adonai within them.

1Jn 4:15 If someone acknowledges that Yeshua is the Son of God, God remains united with him, and he with God.

1Jn 4:16 Also we have come to know and trust the love that God has for us. God is love; and those who remain in this love remain united with God, and God remains united with them.

1Jn 4:17 Here is how love has been brought to maturity with us: as the Messiah is, so are we in the world. This

gives us confidence for the Day of Judgment.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love. On the contrary, love that has achieved its goal gets rid of fear, because fear has to do with punishment; the person who keeps fearing has not been brought to maturity in regard to love.

1Jn 4:19 We ourselves love now because he loved us first.

1Jn 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar. For if a person does not love his brother, whom he has seen, then he cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

1Jn 4:21 Yes, this is the command we have from him: whoever loves God must love his brother too.

This will only end when we cancel the cancelling. Through prayer and fasting and thus as directed by the wisdom of Adonai, through the power of the Ruach Ha Kodesh and in the authority of Yeshua we can be raised up like Esther.

Mat 19:23 Then Yeshua said to his talmidim, "Yes. I tell you that it will be very hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mat 19:24 Furthermore, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

Mat 19:25 When the talmidim heard this they were utterly amazed. "Then who," they asked, "can be saved?"

Mat 19:26 Yeshua looked at them and said, "Humanly, this is impossible; but with God everything is possible."