The Feast of Purim is a Jewish holiday in celebration of the deliverance of the Jews as recorded in the book of Esther. It is also known as the Feast of Lots (Purim being the Hebrew word for "lots"). The feast is not mentioned in the New Testament, although scholars believe the unnamed feast of John 5:1 could be Purim. In Esther, Haman, prime minister to the Persian King Ahasuerus, is insulted by the Jewish leader Mordecai, who refused to bow to Haman. Haman convinces the king that all Jews are rebellious and must be destroyed. To set the date of the genocide, Haman uses lots, or purim. Unbeknownst to Haman, Ahasuerus's queen, Esther, is a Jew and Mordecai's niece. Esther appeals to Ahasuerus for her people's lives. Hanukkah is known as the Feast of Lights or the Feast of Dedication because of a legendary miraculous provision of oil for the eternal light in the Temple. • Purim marks the deliverance of the Jews through Queen Esther in Persia. Feasts of the Bible also includes additional fascinating facts about the feasts of the Bible; for instance: •Leviticus 23 is sometimes called "God's calendar of redeeming grace" because the 44 verses tell of God's redemptive plan. • God told Moses that seven of the feasts were to be "appointed feasts of the Lord" and were to be proclaimed as sacred... Purim and Hanukkah in Custom and Tradition: Feast of Lots, Feast of Lights. Author: Theodor Hertzl Gaster. Publisher: READ BOOKS. The Feast of Lots, or Purim, commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people through the heroism of Queen Esther in Persia. The name Purim, or "lots," was most likely given to this festival in a sense of irony, because Haman, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted against them to completely destroy them by casting the lot (Esther 9:24). Today Jews not only celebrate this great deliverance on Purim but also the continued survival of the Jewish race. By Queen Esther's official decree, these days were established as a lasting custom called Purim, or the Feast of Lots. Hanmantashen is a traditional Jewish treat eaten during Purim. It has three corners and represents Haman's hat. It is common to see Purim plays reenacting the story of Esther on Purim.