

# WHAT'S THE WORD?

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Truth In An Uncertain World

**Today's Topic**

**American and Israeli  
military actions in Iran**

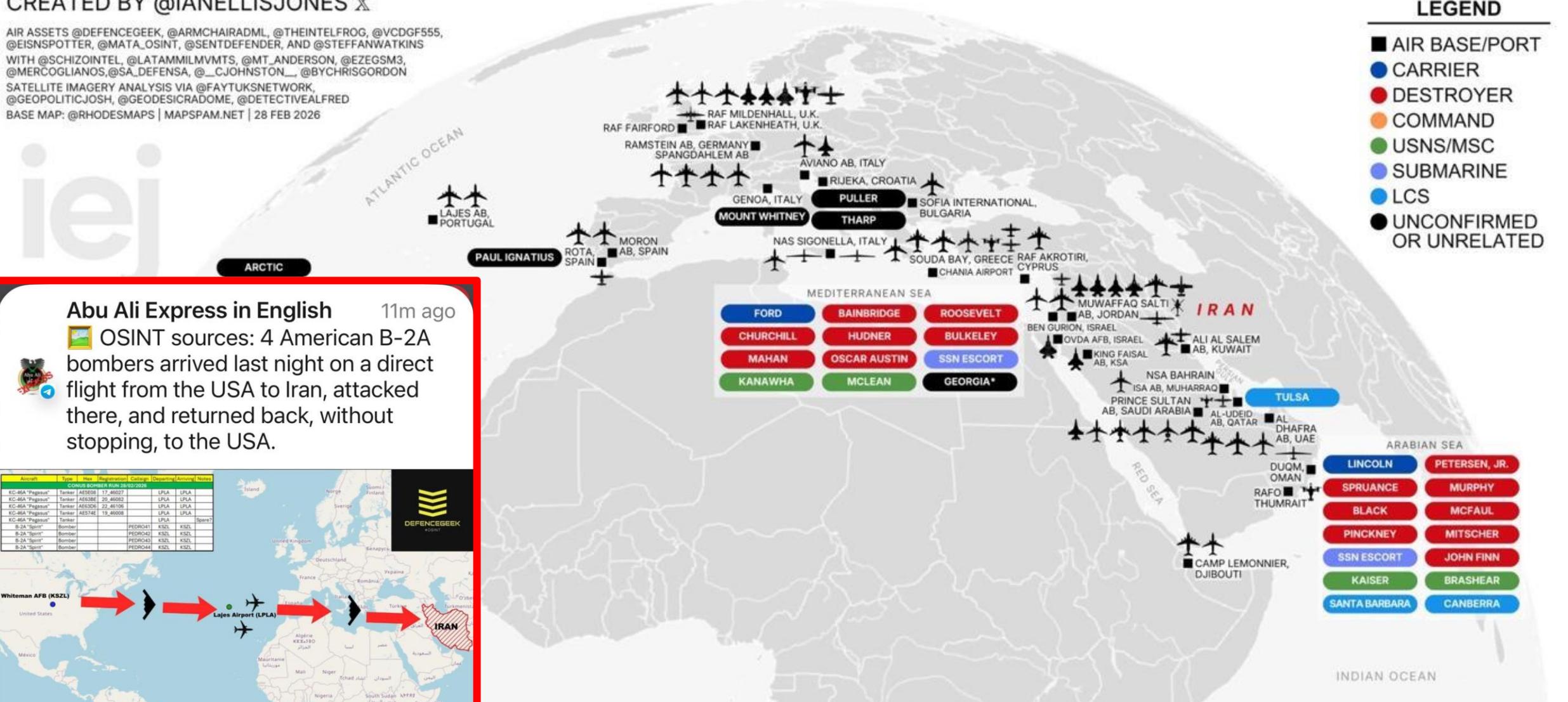
# U.S. CENTCOM, EUCOM, INDOPACOM | AIR AND NAVAL ASSETS

CREATED BY @IANELLISJONES X

AIR ASSETS @DEFENCEGEEK, @ARMCHAIRADML, @THEINTELFROG, @VCDGF555, @EISNSPOTTER, @MATA\_OSINT, @SENTDEFENDER, AND @STEFFANWATKINS WITH @SCHIZOINTEL, @LATAMMILVMTS, @MT\_ANDERSON, @EZEGSM3, @MERCGLIANOS, @SA\_DEFENSA, @\_CJOHNSTON\_, @BYCHRISGORDON SATELLITE IMAGERY ANALYSIS VIA @FAYTUKNETWORK, @GEPOLITICJOSH, @GEODESICRADOME, @DETECTIVEALFRED  
BASE MAP: @RHODESMAPS | MAPSPAM.NET | 28 FEB 2026

## LEGEND

- AIR BASE/PORT
- CARRIER
- DESTROYER
- COMMAND- USNS/MSC
- SUBMARINE
- LCS
- UNCONFIRMED OR UNRELATED



### Abu Ali Express in English

11m ago

OSINT sources: 4 American B-2A bombers arrived last night on a direct flight from the USA to Iran, attacked there, and returned back, without stopping, to the USA.

Asset	Type	Hex	Registration	Category	Occupancy (Aircrew)	Notes
CONUS - CONUS RUN 24/02/2026						
KC-46A "Pegasus"	Tanker	AJ2508	17-45027	LPLA	LPLA	
KC-46A "Pegasus"	Tanker	AES3BE	20-46082	LPLA	LPLA	
KC-46A "Pegasus"	Tanker	AES3DN	22-46106	LPLA	LPLA	
KC-46A "Pegasus"	Tanker	AES7AE	19-46008	LPLA	LPLA	
KC-46A "Pegasus"	Tanker			LPLA	LPLA	Spine?
B-2A "Spirit"	Bomber	PE0R041	K5ZL	K5ZL		
B-2A "Spirit"	Bomber	PE0R042	K5ZL	K5ZL		
B-2A "Spirit"	Bomber	PE0R043	K5ZL	K5ZL		
B-2A "Spirit"	Bomber	PE0R044	K5ZL	K5ZL		



WHAT'S THE WORD?



**Clement Molin** @clem...  
**WHAT WAS TARGETED IN IRAN**

- Tehran (primary target – multiple waves)
  - ◆ Compound / offices of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei (city center, smoke visible on satellite, main building destroyed)
  - ◆ Presidential Palace / offices (President Pezeshkian)
  - ◆ University Street (missile strikes confirmed)
  - ◆ Jomhuri District
  - ◆ Seyyed Khandan District (north)
  - ◆ Southern Tehran Ministries (multiple buildings)
  - ◆ Revolutionary Guard Headquarters / sites
  - ◆ Mehrabad Airport area
  - ◆ Political and security leadership sites (IDF confirmed)

- Isfahan-
  - ◆ Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center
  - ◆ Nuclear Enrichment Complex (one of the 3 nuclear sites targeted by US bombers)
  - ◆ Military and defense sites
- Qom:
  - ◆ Command and military sites (explosions confirmed)
- Karaj Missile production facilities
  - ◆ Defense and military sites
- Kermanshah System Advanced SA-65 air defense system
  - ◆ Western military sites
- Tabriz:
  - ◆ Military sites and IRGC

- Shiraz:
  - ◆ Military sites (reported by Iranian media)
- Ilam:
  - ◆ Defense infrastructure
- Lorestan/Khorramabad:
  - ◆ Military sites
- Bushehr:
  - ◆ Port + possible nuclear or oil-related facilities
- Minab (Hormozgan province, south):
  - ◆ Girls' primary school (strike confirmed – 40 to 53 civilian deaths according to IRNA)
- Asaluyeh (Persian Gulf port):
  - ◆ Critical oil and port facilities
- Other confirmed nuclear sites:
  - ◆ Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (Fordo)

- Other confirmed nuclear sites:
  - ◆ Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (Fordo)
  - ◆ Natanz Enrichment Complex
- Other mentions: Hamedan (explosions reported)
- Jask (civilian casualties mentioned). Several Gulf port cities and ballistic missile sites (not all publicly named or geolocated).



**BREAKING** ●●

The IDF has issued an evacuation warning to Iranian civilians in Persian, urging people near weapons production and military facilities in cities including Isfahan to leave those areas immediately amid ongoing strikes.

# Operation Epic Fury





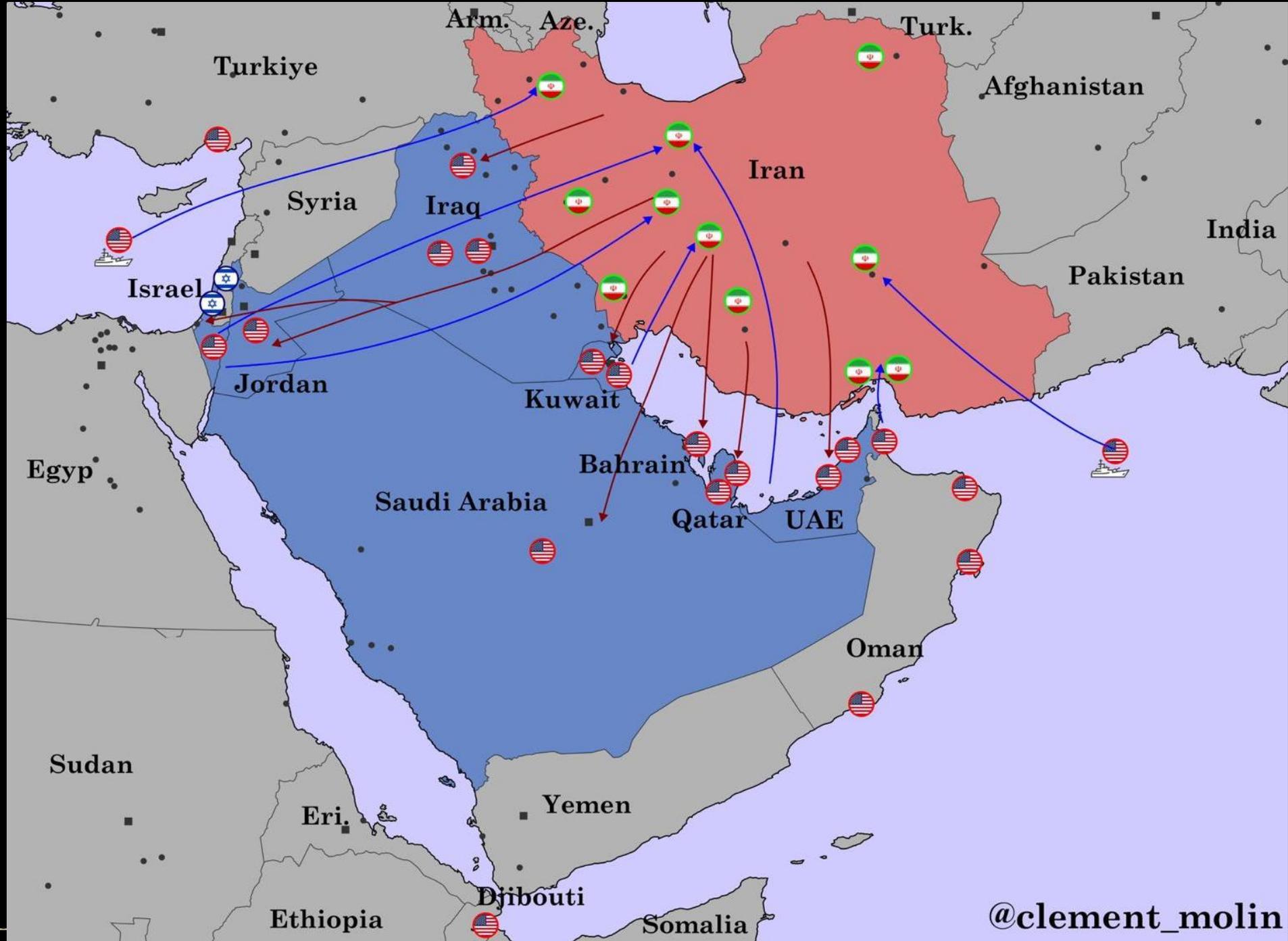
**Clément Molin**  @cle... · 10h

## WHAT IRAN TARGETED IN RETALIATION :

- Israel  (primary target – multiple waves)
  - ◆ Northern areas (Haifa Bay/Haifa district – explosions confirmed, residential building hit in Tirat Carmel)
  - ◆ Tel Aviv (missiles near the city, sirens everywhere)
  - ◆ Jerusalem and central Israel (massive barrages, massive Iron Dome interceptions)
  - ◆ Other cities with sirens: throughout the country (mainly north and central Israel)

- Bahrain  (Manama)
  - ◆ Naval Support Activity Bahrain/ 5th Fleet HQ (Juffair district – explosions and smoke seen confirmed, strike verified by multiple media outlets)
  - ◆ Coastal areas around the naval base
- Qatar  (near Doha)
  - ◆ Al Udeid Air Base (largest US base in the Middle East – priority target, massive interceptions but missiles launched at it)
- United Arab Emirates  (UAE)
  - ◆ Al Dhafra Air Base (Abu Dhabi – major US air base)
  - ◆ Residential areas in Abu Dhabi/ Dubai (missile debris) – 1 civilian killed (confirmed by Emirati media, airports closed)

- Jordan  :
  - ◆ US air bases (Muwaffaq Salti Air Base and other sites – missiles intercepted, strikes confirmed by Amman)
- Iraq: 
  - ◆ US bases in the north (including Ain al-Asad and associated sites – mentioned in IRGC statements)
  - ◆ Jurf al-Sakhar (other US installations)
- Saudi Arabia  :
  - ◆ US bases in Riyadh
- Syria  :
  - ◆ Minor missiles/drones debris/ impacts (Suwayda – 4 civilians killed according to local reports)



@clement\_molin

WHAT'S THE WORD?

A sample of The Islamic Republic of Iran's belligerent and terror-actions since 1979 (compiled by Barry Denison)

- US Embassy takeover - November 4, 1979
- Beirut US Embassy bombing - April 18, 1983
- Beirut Marine barracks bombing - October 23, 1983
- Beirut French barracks bombing - October 23, 1983
- Kuwait US Embassy bombing - December 12, 1983
- Kuwait French Embassy bombing - December 12, 1983
- Kuwait bombings series - December 1983
- CIA chief kidnapping - March 16, 1984
- Beirut US Embassy annex bombing - September 20, 1984
- Lebanon hostages kidnappings - 1982-1992 (multiple Americans)
- Kuwait Airways hijacking - December 3, 1984
- El Descanso bombing - April 12, 1985
- TWA Flight 847 hijacking - June 14, 1985
- Copenhagen embassy bombings - July 1985
- Paris bombings campaign - 1985-1986
- Buckley CIA murder - June 3, 1985
- Lebanon hostages executions - 1984-1991 (multiple)
- Persian Gulf mining - 1987-1988 (US ships hit)
- Bakhtiar assassination plot - August 6, 1991
- UN peacekeeper killing - July 1989
- Buenos Aires Israeli embassy bombing - March 17, 1992
- Mykonos restaurant assassinations - September 17, 1992
- AMIA Jewish center bombing - July 18, 1994
- Alas Chiricanas Flight bombing - July 19, 1994
- Gaza bus suicide bombing - April 9, 1995
- Beit Lid suicide bombings - January 22, 1995
- Jerusalem bus suicide bombing - August 21, 1995
- Jerusalem bus suicide bombing - February 25, 1996
- Tel Aviv Dizengoff bombing - March 4, 1996
- West Bank drive-by shooting - May 13, 1996
- Khobar Towers bombing - June 25, 1996
- Jerusalem mall suicide bombings - September 4, 1997
- US embassies bombings Kenya/Tanzania - August 7, 1998
- USS Cole bombing - October 12, 2000
- Sbarro pizzeria suicide bombing - August 9, 2001
- 9/11 al-Qaeda facilitation - September 11, 2001
- Judea/Samaria shooting attack - January 15, 2002
- Hebrew University cafeteria bombing - July 31, 2002
- Riyadh compound bombings - May 12, 2003
- Jerusalem bus suicide bombing - June 11, 2003
- Gaza diplomatic convoy bombing - October 15, 2003
- Jerusalem bus suicide bombing - August 19, 2003
- Iraq insurgency support (EFPs/IEDs) - 2003-2011
- IDF soldier border killing - August 4, 2006
- Karbala US compound raid - January 20, 2007
- Multiple Baghdad Green Zone attacks - 2008 (recurring)
- Saudi ambassador assassination plot - October 2011
- New Delhi car bombing - February 13, 2012

# Why attack Iran?

- Tbilisi bomb plot - February 13, 2012
- Bangkok bomb attacks - February 14, 2012
- Burgas bus bombing - July 18, 2012
- Shamoon cyber attack Aramco - August 15, 2012
- Operation Ababil DDoS US banks - 2011-2013
- Camp Speicher massacre involvement - June 12, 2014
- Gaza IDF tunnel attacks - July 2014 (multiple)
- West Bank drive-by shooting - October 1, 2015
- UK bomb factory discovery - 2015
- Denmark terror cell dismantling - 2016
- Paris rally bomb plot - June 2018
- France assassination plot foiled - October 2018
- Saudi Aramco oil drone strikes - September 14, 2019
- Kirkuk K-1 base rocket attack - December 27, 2019
- US Embassy Baghdad storming - December 31, 2019
- Ain al-Asad missile strike - January 8, 2020 (direct Iran)
- South Africa US ambassador plot - September 2020 (alleged)
- Erbil US base rocket attack - February 15, 2021
- Al-Tanf US base drone attack - October 20, 2021
- Multiple US base drone/rocket attacks Iraq/Syria - 2021-2022 (recurring)
- Ain al-Asad rocket attacks - January 2020-March 2022 (multiple waves)
- Iraqi Kurdistan rocket barrage - September 28, 2022 (direct Iran)
- Baghdad US citizen murder - November 2022
- US government cyberattack - 2022 (alleged)
- John Bolton assassination plot - August 2022
- Hasakah US base drone strike - March 23, 2023 (direct Iran)
- October 7 Hamas assault on Israel - October 7, 2023
- Hezbollah border rocket/artillery barrages - October 8, 2023-present (ongoing)
- Houthi Red Sea shipping attacks/seizures - November 19, 2023-present (ongoing)
- Erbil US consulate/base drone attack - December 25, 2023
- Syrian US base attacks - October 2023-present (170+ incidents)
- Jordan Tower 22 drone strike - January 28, 2024
- Kosher restaurant arson attack - 2024 (alleged)
- Synagogue arson attack - 2024 (alleged)
- Iranian direct missile/drone barrage on Israel - April 13-14, 2024
- Eilat port/Houthi missile/drone strikes - December 2023-2025 (recurring)
- Multiple Iraqi militia attacks on US Iraq/Syria - October 2023-February 2024 (160+ incidents)
- Hezbollah intensified barrages northern Israel - July-August 2024 (escalation)
- Sharmahd dissident execution - October 2024
- Iranian direct missile barrage on Israel - October 1, 2024
- Trump assassination plot - November 2024 (alleged)
- Middle East attacks surge - October 2023-November 2024 (proxies)
- Alinejad assassination plot - March 2025 (alleged, planned earlier)
- Sweden assassination plot - April 2025 (alleged)
- Yemen telecom espionage cyber - March 2025
- Iraqi/Kurdish networks espionage - June 2025 (persistent)
- Syria/Iraq US base attacks resumption - June 2025 (post-escalation)
- Houthi resumed shipping attacks - 2025 (sporadic)
- Killing of tens of thousands of own citizens who were protesting regime in January 2026
- Launching missiles at Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Jordan, Israel in February 2026

A partial list of  
the terrorist,  
murderous plots  
and attacks  
planned and  
conducted by  
the Iranian  
regime against  
targets around  
the world

1979-2026

WHAT'S THE  
WORD?

## Controlling the skies: IDF, US close to air supremacy over Iran after dropping 1,200 bombs

Israel strikes Iran's Tharallah headquarters used to suppress, murder protesters • IDF targets Islamic regime bases, ballistic missile apparatus

THE JERUSALEM POST



IDF footage of strike on Iranian regime headquarters in Tehran, March 1, 2026. (CREDIT: IDF SPOKESPERSON)

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-888344>

i24 NEWS

ISRAEL-HAMA'S WAR ISRAEL MIDDLE EAST INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION

### Israel and US used AI tools, CIA intelligence in timing Iran strike - reports

WSJ says the military used Anthropic's 'Claude' after the contract cutoff, the NYT details the CIA role in tracking Khamenei

i24 NEWS 3 min read

March 01, 2026 at 12:37 AM • latest revision March 01, 2026 at 01:59 AM

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/iran-eastern-states/artc-cia-intel-on-khamenei-s-location-helped-israel-time-the-strike-report>

They waited for Iran's entire leadership to sit down in the same room and then they bombed Iran. Months of intelligence. Thousands of hours of surveillance and signal intercepts. **One variable:** the moment the Supreme Leader, the President, and senior military command gathered in a single location at the same time. That moment was 8:15 in the morning. Daylight. Every previous Israeli strike on Iran came at night. June 2025 launched in darkness. October 2024 after midnight. Iran's entire air defense doctrine is built around the assumption that Israel attacks in the dark. Israel attacked in broad daylight because **the target was not infrastructure. The target was a meeting.** – M.A. Rothman

WORLD NEWS

# Iran's supreme leader killed in major attack by US and Israel



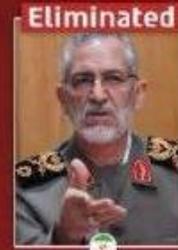
1 of 10 | Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in a major attack on Iran launched by Israel and the United States, Israeli officials told The Associated Press on Saturday. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. or Iran on his status.

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-us-explosion-tehran-c2f11247d8a66e36929266f2c557a54c>

## Iranian Terror Regime Leaders Eliminated in the Opening Salvo



**Minister of Defense**  
Aziz Nasirzadeh



**Chief of Military Bureau of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei**  
Mohamma Shirazi



**Supreme Leader's Advisor for Security Affairs and Secretary of the Defense Council**  
Ali Samkhani



**Chief of the IRGC**  
Mohammad Pakpour



**Chairman of the SPND**  
Hossein Jabal Amelian



**Former Chairman of the SPND**  
Reza Mozafari Nia



JUST IN

Former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was reportedly eliminated last night, according to reports out of Iran.

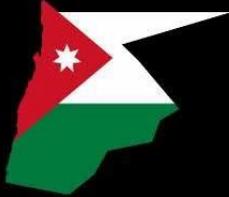
Israel Hayom.



# Countries Iran Has Attacked



Israel



Jordan



Qatar



Bahrain



Kuwait



Saudi Arabia



The UAE

The Iranian regime has attacked more Arab countries today than Israel has in its entire existence.

# Who is supposedly in charge in Iran now?

## *Inside Iran's Preparations for War and Plans for Survival*

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has entrusted Ali Larijani, the top national security official, to ensure the Islamic Republic endures any military attacks and targeted killings.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/22/world/middleeast/iran-larijani-khamenei-pezeshtkian.html>



Ali Ardashir Larijani

WHAT'S THE  
WORD?

# Who might be in charge in Iran in the future?

**Reza Pahlavi** is an Iranian political activist and dissident in exile in the United States. He is the eldest son of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last shah of Iran. He is described as one of the most prominent figures in the opposition to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. - Wikipedia



**Reza Pahlavi, Crown Prince of Iran**

**WHAT'S THE WORD?**



# Nine people killed, dozens injured following latest Iranian missile barrage

BY JERUSALEM POST STAFF AND DR. ITAY GAL

LIVE / UPDATED 5MIN AGO

## Four Israelis killed by Iran missile in Beit Shemesh; another Israeli moderately hurt in central Israel

TOI STAFF

Iran fires relentless missile barrages at civilian targets on 2nd day of war \* Large explosions rock Tehran as IDF claims control of Iran's skies \* Report says CIA pinpointed Khamenei's location, advancing war plans



<https://www.timesofisrael.com/>

## Woman killed, dozens injured as Iranian missile strikes Tel Aviv residential block

By CHARLIE SUMMERS and EMANUEL FABIAN

Victim is first person killed in Israel in renewed fighting with Iran, as first responders take 27 to hospital, including infant, after heavy damage to two apartment buildings



<https://www.timesofisrael.com/>

WHAT'S THE WORD?

**As we watch the news  
and pray, what can God's  
Word teach us today?**

Today's date on the Gregorian calendar is March 1, 2026

Today's date on the Hebrew calendar is Adar 12, 5786

**Purim פורים** is celebrated annually according to the Hebrew calendar on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar.

פורים Purim means "lots" from the Babylonian word *pur*.

We learn about the feast of Purim from the Book of Esther.

# Book of Esther

Now it took place in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus [Achashverosh] who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces, in those days as King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne which was at the citadel in Susa      Esther 1:1-2

King Ahasuerus also identified as Xerxes I who ruled over the Persian Empire from 485-464 BC. The events associated with Purim, and recorded in the Book of Esther, took place in the Persian Empire during the 5th century B.C. King Xerxes the Great (also called Ahasuerus in the Hebrew language) ruled over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from the border of India to Ethiopia. His empire included modern-day Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Turkey, Libya, Egypt, and Sudan.

Susa or Shushan, the ancient capital of Elam (the southwestern area of modern Iran), reached its height of importance as the residence and winter capital of the kings of Persia. Called 'Susa the capital' in Esther 1:2 (and Neh. 1:1), it provides the setting for the story of Esther and Mordecai. Daniel is also placed in Shushan during the reign of Belshazzar (Dan. 8:2). - Harper's Bible Dictionary



IS THE  
RD?

in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his princes and attendants, the army officers of Persia and Media, the nobles and the princes of his provinces being in his presence. And he displayed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor of his great majesty for many days, 180 days. **When these days were completed, the king gave a banquet lasting seven days for all the people who were present at the citadel in Susa, from the greatest to the least, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. Esther 1:3-5**

There were hangings of fine white and violet linen held by cords of fine purple linen on silver rings and marble columns, and couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and precious stones. Drinks were served in golden vessels of various kinds, and the royal wine was plentiful according to the king's bounty. The drinking was done according to the law, there was no compulsion, for so the king had given orders to each official of his household that he should do according to the desires of each person. **Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus. Esther 1:6-9**

**On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown in order to display her beauty to the people and the princes, for she was beautiful. But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry and his wrath burned within him.**

**Esther 1:10-12**

\* History records King Xerxes as an easily angered man who often over-reacted.

**WHAT'S THE  
WORD?**

Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times—for it was the custom of the king so to speak before all who knew law and justice and were close to him: Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media who had access to the king's presence and sat in the first place in the kingdom—“According to law, what is to be done with Queen Vashti, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?” In the presence of the king and the princes, Memucan said, **“Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king but also all the princes and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.”** Esther 1:13-16

“For the queen’s conduct will become known to all the women causing them to look with contempt on their husbands by saying, ‘King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in to his presence, but she did not come.’ This day the ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen’s conduct will speak in the same way to all the king’s princes, and there will be plenty of contempt and anger. If it pleases the king, let a royal edict be issued by him and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media so that it cannot be repealed, that Vashti may no longer come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and **let the king give her royal position to another who is more worthy than she.**” Esther 1:17-19

After these things when the anger of King Ahasuerus had subsided, **he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her.** Then the king's attendants, who served him, said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king. Let the king appoint overseers in all the provinces of his kingdom that they may gather every beautiful young virgin to the citadel of Susa, to the harem, into the custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let their cosmetics be given them. Then **let the young lady who pleases the king be queen in place of Vashti.**" And the matter pleased the king, and he did accordingly.

Esther 2:1-4

**Now there was at the citadel in Susa a Jew** [first appearance of that word in the Bible] **whose name was Mordecai**, the son of **Jair**, the son of **Shimei**, the son of **Kish**, a **Benjamite**, who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been exiled with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled. **He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had no father or mother.** Now the young lady was beautiful of form and face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

**Esther 2:5-7**

\*Hadassah is Hebrew for "myrtle." Esther is a Persian name related to the "morning star."

**WHAT'S THE  
WORD?**

So it came about when the command and decree of the king were heard and **many young ladies were gathered to the citadel of Susa into the custody of Hegai, that Esther was taken to the king's palace** into the custody of Hegai, who was in charge of the women. Now the young lady pleased him and found favor with him. So he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and food, gave her seven choice maids from the king's palace and transferred her and her maids to the best place in the harem. **Esther did not make known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make them known.** Every day Mordecai walked back and forth in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and how she fared. Esther 2:8-11

**Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her as his daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the women, advised. And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her. So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus to his royal palace in the tenth month which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Esther 2:15-17**

Then the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his princes and his servants; he also made a holiday for the provinces and gave gifts according to the king's bounty. **When the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.** Esther had not yet made known her kindred or her people, even as Mordecai had commanded her; for Esther did what Mordecai told her as she had done when under his care. In those days, **while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. But the plot became known to Mordecai and he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.** Now when the plot was investigated and found to be so, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence. Esther 2:18-23

After these events King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and established his authority over all the princes who were with him. All the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman; for so the king had commanded concerning him. **But Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage.** Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why are you transgressing the king's command?" Now it was when they had spoken daily to him and he would not listen to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for **he had told them that he was a Jew.** Esther 3:1-4

When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him who the people of Mordecai were; **therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews**, the people of Mordecai, who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. Esther 3:5-6

Haman and Mordecai have an interesting historical connection. Haman is a descendant of King Agag of the Amalekites. Mordecai is a descendant of King Saul, who failed to annihilate the Amalekites. Who were the Amalekites? They were the nation that viciously attacked Israel after their escape from Egypt and essentially chose to take on the role of arch-enemy, attacking and encouraging other nations to attack the Israelites. (Exodus 17:8; Deuteronomy 25:16-18; Judges 6:3; Judges 7:12; 1 Samuel 15:2). Haman is maintaining a generational hatred for the Jewish nation, and so Mordecai's refusal to bow is not seen as a culturally religious oddity to be tolerated (as the Persians did) but as a personal insult.

- David Nekrutman

WHAT'S THE  
WORD?

In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, **Pur**, that is the **lot**, was cast before Haman from day to day and from month to month, until the twelfth month, that is the month Adar [to choose a specific date]. Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “**There is a certain people** scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of all other people and they do not observe the king’s laws, **so it is not in the king’s interest to let them remain.**”

Esther 3:7-8

“If it is pleasing to the king, **let it be decreed that they [the Jews] be destroyed**, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king’s business, to put into the king’s treasuries.” Then the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. The king said to Haman, “The silver is yours, and the people also, to do with them as you please.” Esther 3:9-11

Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and it was written just as Haman commanded to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province and to the princes of each people, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, being written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces **to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews**, both young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to seize their possessions as plunder. Esther 3:12-13

\*It became a nation's official policy to kill all Jews

A copy of the edict to be issued as law in every province was published to all the peoples so that they should be ready for this day. The couriers went out impelled by the king's command while the decree was issued at the citadel in Susa; and while the king and Haman sat down to drink, the city of Susa was in confusion. Esther 3:14-15

**When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly. He went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. In each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes. Then Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, and the queen writhed in great anguish. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them. Esther 4:1-4**

Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king's eunuchs, whom the king had appointed to attend her, and ordered him to **go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.** So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the city square in front of the king's gate. **Mordecai told him all that had happened to him,** and the exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the **destruction of the Jews.** He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict which had been issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show Esther and inform her, and **to order her to go in to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people.** Esther 4:5-8

**Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther.** Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." They related Esther's words to Mordecai. **Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews."** Esther 4:9-13

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father’s house will perish. **And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?**” Esther 4:14

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and **fast for me**; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; **and if I perish, I perish.**” So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him. Esther 4:15-17

Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace. When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, **she obtained favor in his sight**; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter. Then the king said to her, **“What is troubling you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you.”** Esther said, “If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him.” Then the king said, “Bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desires.” So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared. Esther 5:1-5

As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, “What is your petition, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done.” So Esther replied, “My petition and my request is: if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and do what I request, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says.” Esther 5:6-8

**Then Haman went out that day glad and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate and that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai. Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house and sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh. Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the number of his sons, and every instance where the king had magnified him and how he had promoted him above the princes and servants of the king. Esther 5:9-11**

Haman also said, “Even Esther the queen let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king. **Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.**” Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, “Have a gallows fifty cubits [75 feet] high made and in the morning **ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go joyfully with the king to the banquet.**” And the advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made. Esther 5:12-14

During that night the king could not sleep so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. **It was found written what Mordecai had reported** concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. The king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace in order to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows which he had prepared for him. The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman is standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." Esther 6:1-5

So Haman came in and the king said to him, **“What is to be done for the man whom the king desires to honor?”** And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?” Then Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king desires to honor, let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and the horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown has been placed; and let the robe and the horse be handed over to one of the king’s most noble princes and let them array the man whom the king desires to honor and lead him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, ‘Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.’ ” Esther 6:6-9

Then the king said to Haman, “Take quickly the robes and the horse as you have said, and **do so for Mordecai the Jew**, who is sitting at the king’s gate; do not fall short in anything of all that you have said.” So Haman took the robe and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.” **Then Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman hurried home, mourning, with his head covered.** Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish origin, you will not overcome him, but will surely fall before him.” **While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and hastily brought Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.** Esther 6:10-14

Now the king and Haman came to drink wine with Esther the queen. And the king said to Esther on the second day also as they drank their wine at the banquet, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done.” Esther 7:1-2

Then Queen Esther replied, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my petition, and my people as my request; **for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated.** Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent, for the trouble would not be commensurate with the annoyance to the king.” Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do thus?” Esther said, “**A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!**” Then Haman became **terrified before the king and queen.** Esther 7:3-6

The king arose in his anger from drinking wine and went into the palace garden; but **Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther**, for he saw that harm had been determined against him by the king. Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the place where they were drinking wine, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who were before the king said, “Behold indeed, the gallows standing at Haman’s house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good on behalf of the king!” And the king said, “Hang him on it.” **So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided. Esther 7:7-10**

On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed what he was to her. The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. **And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.** Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept and **implored him to avert the evil scheme of Haman** the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews. The king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king. Esther 8:1-4

Then she said, “If it pleases the king and if I have found favor before him and the matter seems proper to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, **let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king’s provinces.** For how can I endure to see the calamity which will befall my people, and how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?” So King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Behold, I have given the house of Haman to Esther, and him they have hanged on the gallows because he had stretched out his hands against the Jews.” Esther 8:5-7

“Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king’s signet ring may not be revoked.” So the king’s scribes were called at that time in the third month (that is, the month Sivan), on the twenty-third day [9 months before the edict was to go into effect]; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, the satraps, the governors and the princes of the provinces which extended from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to every province according to its script, and to every people according to their language as well as to the Jews according to their script and their language. Esther 8:8-9

# Persian Empire (c. 400 B.C.)



WHAT'S THE WORD?

# Story of Ester, Mordecai and Haman

## Ancient Susa



THE  
D?

He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horses, riding on steeds sired by the royal stud. **In them the king granted the Jews who were in each and every city the right to assemble and to defend their lives, to destroy, to kill and to annihilate the entire army of any people or province which might attack them**, including children and women, and to plunder their spoil, on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the **thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar)**.

A copy of the edict to be issued as law in each and every province was published to all the peoples, so that the Jews would be ready for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies. The couriers, hastened and impelled by the king's command, went out, riding on the royal steeds; and the decree was given out at the citadel in Susa. Esther 8:10-14

Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a large crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. **For the Jews there was light and gladness and joy and honor.** In each and every province and in each and every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree arrived, **there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday.** And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them. Esther 8:15-17

Now in the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar), on the thirteenth day [March 473 BC] when the king's command and edict were about to be executed, on the day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, **it was turned to the contrary [the opposite happened] so that the Jews themselves gained the mastery over those who hated them.** The Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm; **and no one could stand before them,** for the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples. Even all the princes of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and those who were doing the king's business assisted the Jews, because the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them. Esther 9:1-3

Indeed, Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai became greater and greater. Thus **the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword**, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. At the citadel in Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men, and Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder. Esther 9:4-10

On that day the number of those who were killed at the citadel in Susa was reported to the king. The king said to Queen Esther, “The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman at the citadel in Susa. What then have they done in the rest of the king’s provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall even be granted you. And what is your further request? It shall also be done.” Then said Esther, “If it pleases the king, let tomorrow also be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do according to the edict of today; and let Haman’s ten sons be hanged on the gallows.” So the king commanded that it should be done so; and an edict was issued in Susa, and Haman’s ten sons were hanged. The Jews who were in Susa assembled also on the fourteenth day of the month Adar and killed three hundred men in Susa, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder. Esther 9:11-15

Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder. This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and **on the fourteenth day they rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing**. But the Jews who were in Susa assembled on the thirteenth and the fourteenth of the same month, and they rested on the fifteenth day and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing. Therefore the Jews of the rural areas, who live in the rural towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a holiday for rejoicing and feasting and sending portions of food to one another. Esther 9:16-19

Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, **obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually, because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and it was a month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.** Esther 9:20-22

Thus the Jews undertook what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them. For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them and had cast **Pur**, that is the **lot**, to disturb them and destroy them. But when it came to the king's attention, he commanded by letter that his wicked scheme which he had devised against the Jews, should return on his own head and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. Esther 9:23-25

Therefore they called these days Purim פּוּרִים after the name of Pur. And because of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them, the Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants **and for all those who allied themselves with them**, so that they would not fail to celebrate these two days according to their regulation and according to their appointed time annually.

Esther 9:26-27

So these days were to be **remembered** and **celebrated** [**observed, actualized**] throughout every generation, every family, every province and every city; and these days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants. Then Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. Esther 9:28-29

- The word “actualized” (נִנְעָשִׂים *na'asim*) teaches that Purim is not merely a commemoration of the past. Each year, on these very days, the same spiritual energies that were revealed on the first Purim occur once again. – Rabbi Chaim Yosef David Azulai

# On what day did Israel and the United States strike Iran?

- On the Shabbat that falls before the festival of Purim, a special reading from Deuteronomy 25 is studied in addition to the regular Scripture portion. This Shabbat is also called the *Zachor* (Remembrance) reading, because it details God's command that we remember the wickedness of Amalek.

- “Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. Therefore it shall come about **when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.**”

Deuteronomy 25:17-19

- “Thus says the Lord of hosts, **‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt.’**”

1 Samuel 15:2

- Messianic Bible Project

WHAT'S THE  
WORD?

# What should followers of Jesus do today?

- Pray for Israeli civilians to be protected
- Pray for Iranian civilians to be protected
- Pray for the Iranian people to be free from their evil dictators
- Pray for American and Israeli military personnel to be protected
- Pray for American and Israeli leaders to have wisdom and courage
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem – Psalm 122:6
- Remember that God will not leave evil unpunished – Proverbs 11:21
- Remember that God's covenant with Israel is everlasting – Genesis 17:7
- Know what is going on and why
- Speak truth in wise and humble ways
- Trust in Yeshua the Messiah, Jesus our Savior