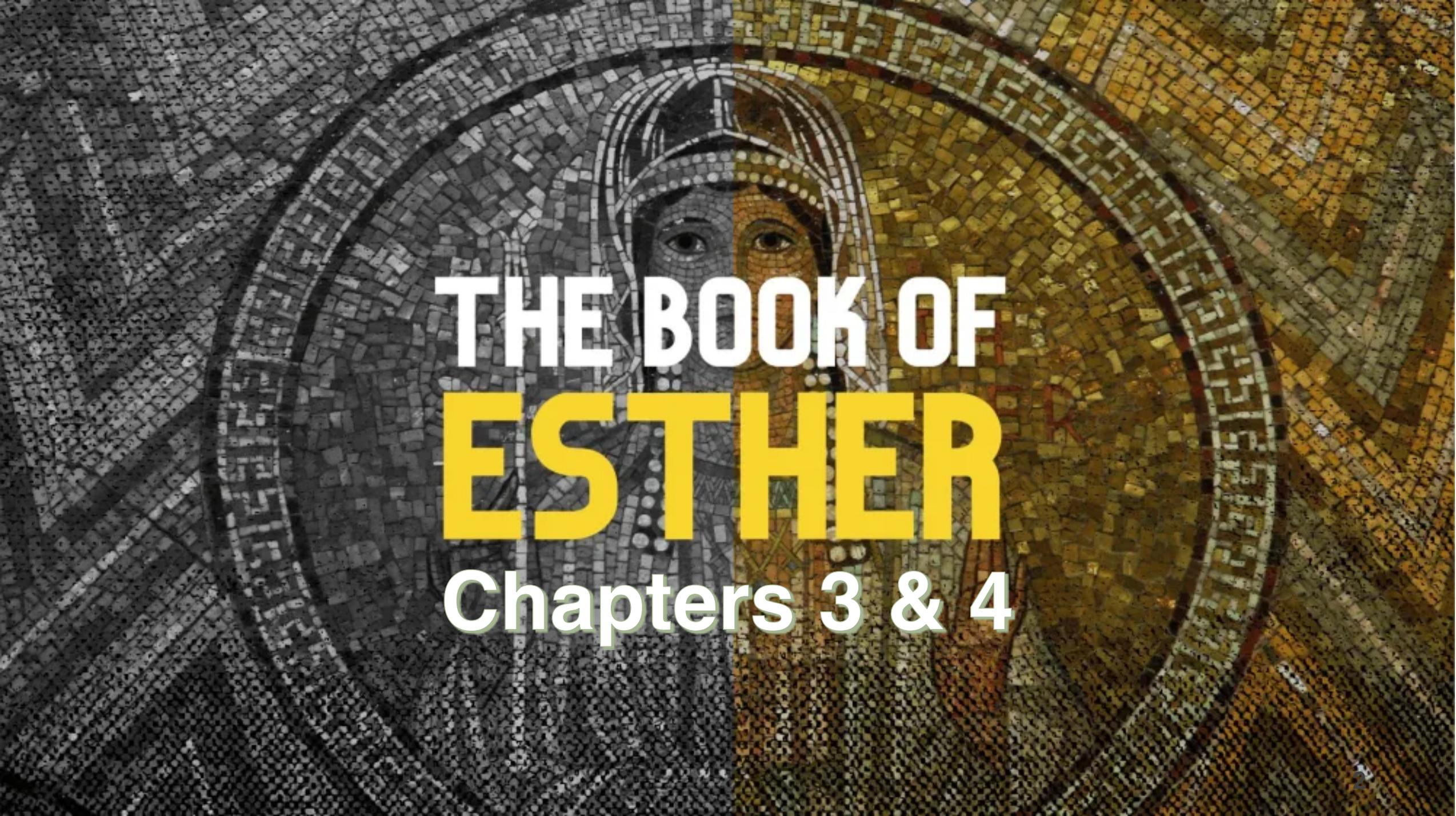


ESTHER

Dan Schuch

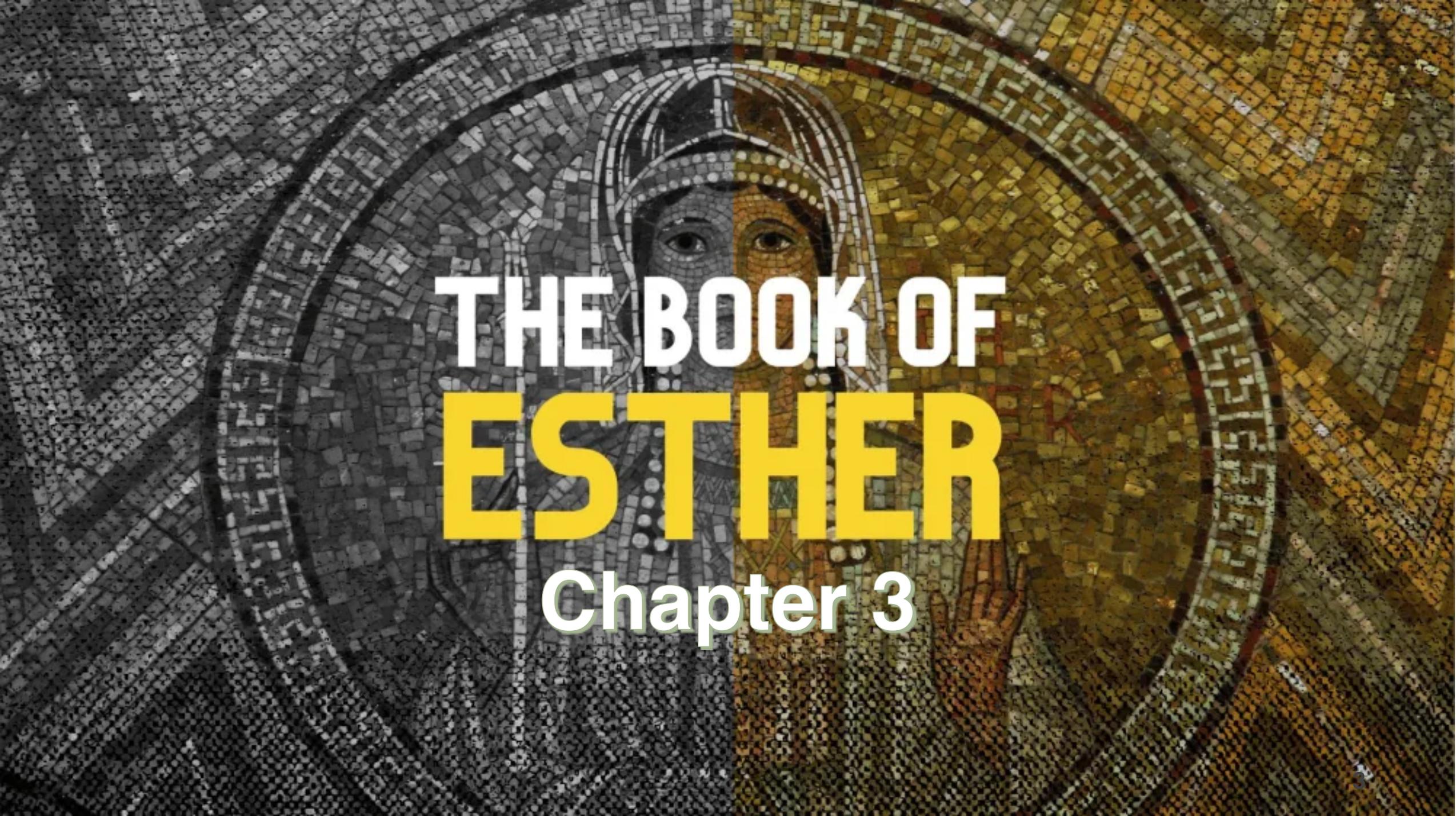
VLCC 2026





**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapters 3 & 4



**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapter 3

Haman's Plot to Destroy the Jews

¹After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. ² All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.



Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-1669). Dutch painter. Haman Recognizes his Fate, 1660-1665. The State Hermitage Museum. Saint Petersburg. Russia.

³The members of the royal staff at the King's Gate asked Mordecai, "Why are you disobeying the king's command?" ⁴When they had warned him day after day and he still would not listen to them, they told Haman in order to see if Mordecai's actions would be tolerated, since he had told them he was a Jew.



The Triumph of Mordecai, attrib. Abraham van den Hecken the Younger, between 1635 and 1655

⁵When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down or paying him homage, he was filled with rage. ⁶And when he learned of Mordecai's ethnic identity, it seemed repugnant to Haman to do away with Mordecai alone. He planned to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout Ahasuerus's kingdom.



Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-1669). Dutch painter. Haman Recognizes his Fate, 1660-1665. The State Hermitage Museum. Saint Petersburg. Russia.

7In the first month, the month of Nisan, in King Ahasuerus’s twelfth year, the pur—that is, the lot—was cast before Haman for each day in each month, and it fell on the twelfth month, the month Adar. 8Then Haman informed King Ahasuerus, “There is one ethnic group, scattered throughout the peoples in every province of your kingdom, keeping themselves separate. Their laws are different from everyone else’s and they do not obey the king’s laws. It is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them.



⁸If the king approves, let an order be drawn up authorizing their destruction, and I will pay 375 tons of silver to the officials for deposit in the royal treasury.”

¹⁰The king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. ¹¹Then the king told Haman, “The money and people are given to you to do with as you see fit.”



¹²The royal scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and the order was written exactly as Haman commanded. It was intended for the royal satraps, the governors of each of the provinces, and the officials of each ethnic group and written for each province in its own script and to each ethnic group in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the royal signet ring.



¹³Letters were sent by couriers to each of the royal provinces telling the officials to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jewish people— young and old, women and children—and plunder their possessions on a single day, the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month.



14A copy of the text, issued as law throughout every province, was distributed to all the peoples so that they might get ready for that day. **15**The couriers left, spurred on by royal command, and the law was issued in the fortress of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, while the city of Susa was in confusion.



Esther & Ruth

REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

IAIN M. DUGUID

Mordecai refused to pay homage to the newly appointed visor, Haman. . . Haman was an Agagite. He was thus a descendent of Agag the Amalekite, the ancient tribal enemy of the Jews. When Israel came out of Egypt, the Amalekites attacked them in the wilderness, for which God cursed them and condemned them to extinction (Exodus 17:8-16). Because of that assault, God declared that there would be a lasting immunity between the two peoples, and He committed Himself to blot out all remembrance of Amalek from the face of heaven.

6And when he learned of Mordecai's ethnic identity, it seemed repugnant to Haman to do away with Mordecai alone. He planned to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout Ahasuerus's kingdom.

Have we seen this type of behavior before?



esther

IT'S
TOUGH
BEING A
WOMAN

BETH
MOORE



What on earth makes a person think he or she has the right to take thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of human lives?

(based from Esther 3:6)

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

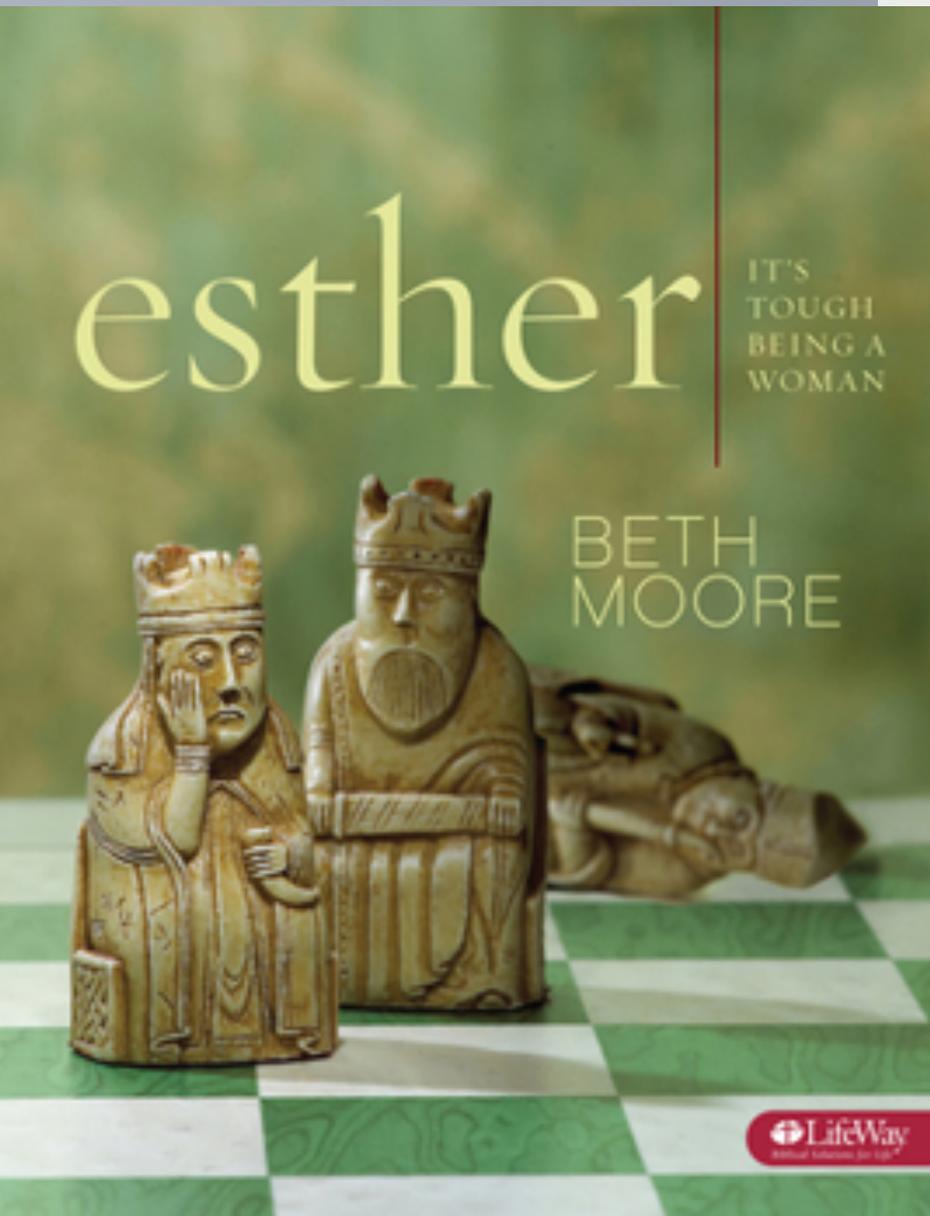
ESTHER



Profiles in Character from

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

The way of revenge is a broad and slippery road that often leads to our downfall. The narrow way of honesty and forgiveness is steep but at the end is life and freedom. Which path are you taking? If you're headed the wrong way, just remember, God allows U-turns (Psalm 51:10; Acts 3:19)



Have you ever known a person who got mad and never got over it? Some people never do get glad. They simply stay mad. We don't want to be among them no matter how we've been provoked. Anger that doesn't quickly subside always ends up burning innocent people.

(based from Esther 3:5)

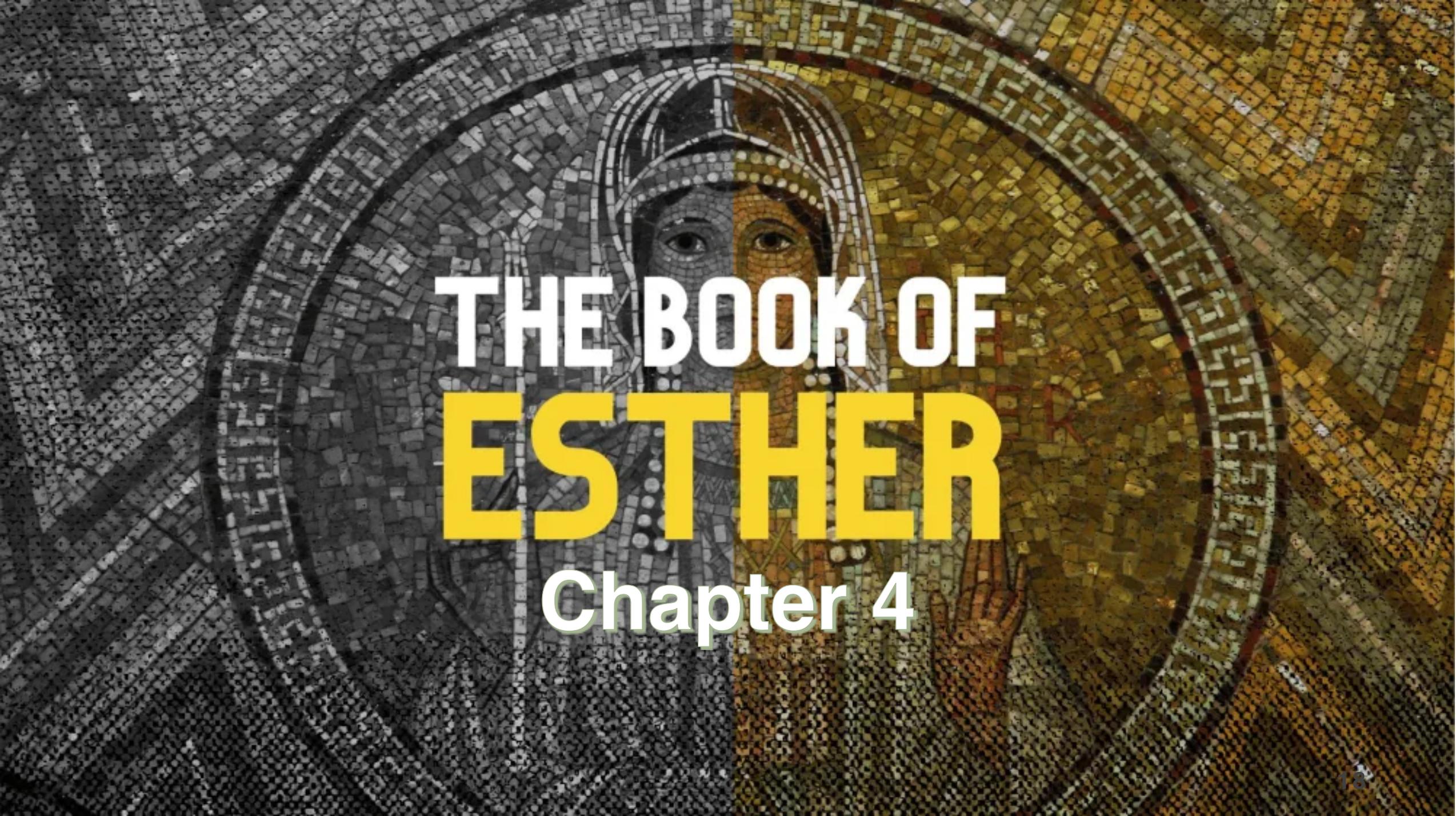
One ordinary person can make a big difference. Consider this from Charles Swindall's book on Esther:

In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of the German

In 1845 one vote brought Texas into the union

In 1923 one vote gave Adolf Hitler control over the Nazi party





**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapter 4

Mordecai Appeals to Esther

¹When Mordecai learned all that had occurred, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, went into the middle of the city, and cried loudly and bitterly. ²He went only as far as the King's Gate, since the law prohibited anyone wearing sackcloth from entering the King's Gate.



Esther and Mordechai Medium steel engraving. circa 1845 Albert Henry Payne.

³There was great mourning among the Jewish people in every province where the king's command and edict reached. They fasted, wept, and lamented, and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.



⁴Esther's female servants and her eunuchs came and reported the news to her, and the queen was overcome with fear. She sent clothes for Mordecai to wear so that he would take off his sackcloth, but he did not accept them. ⁵Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who attended her, and dispatched him to Mordecai to learn what he was doing and why.



⁶So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the King's Gate.

⁷Mordecai told him everything that had happened as well as the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay the royal treasury for the slaughter of the Jews.



The Triumph of Mordecai, attrib. Abraham van den Hecken the Younger, between 1635 and 1655

8Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa ordering their destruction, so that Hathach might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and command her to approach the king, implore his favor, and plead with him personally for her people.

9Hathach came and repeated Mordecai's response to Esther.



The Triumph of Mordecai, attrib. Abraham van den Hecken the Younger, between 1635 and 1655

¹⁰Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to tell Mordecai, ¹¹“All the royal officials and the people of the royal provinces know that one law applies to every man or woman who approaches the king in the inner courtyard and who has not been summoned—the death penalty—unless the king extends the gold scepter, allowing that person to live. I have not been summoned to appear before the king for the last thirty days.”

¹²Esther’s response was reported to Mordecai.



¹³Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, “Don’t think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king’s palace. ¹⁴If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father’s family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.”



The Triumph of Mordecai, attrib. Abraham van den Hecken the Younger, between 1635 and 1655

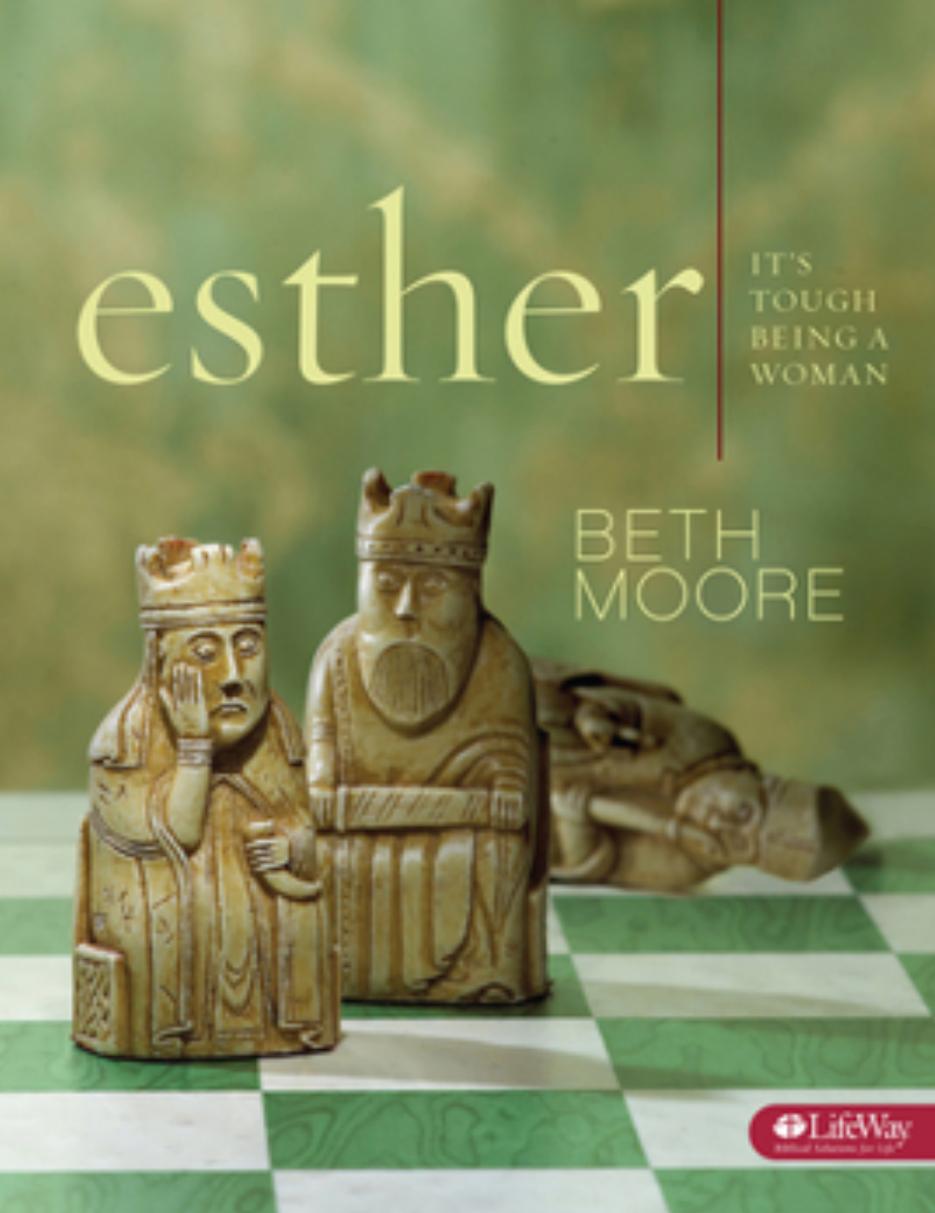
¹⁵Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶“Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish.” ¹⁷So Mordecai went and did everything Esther had commanded him.





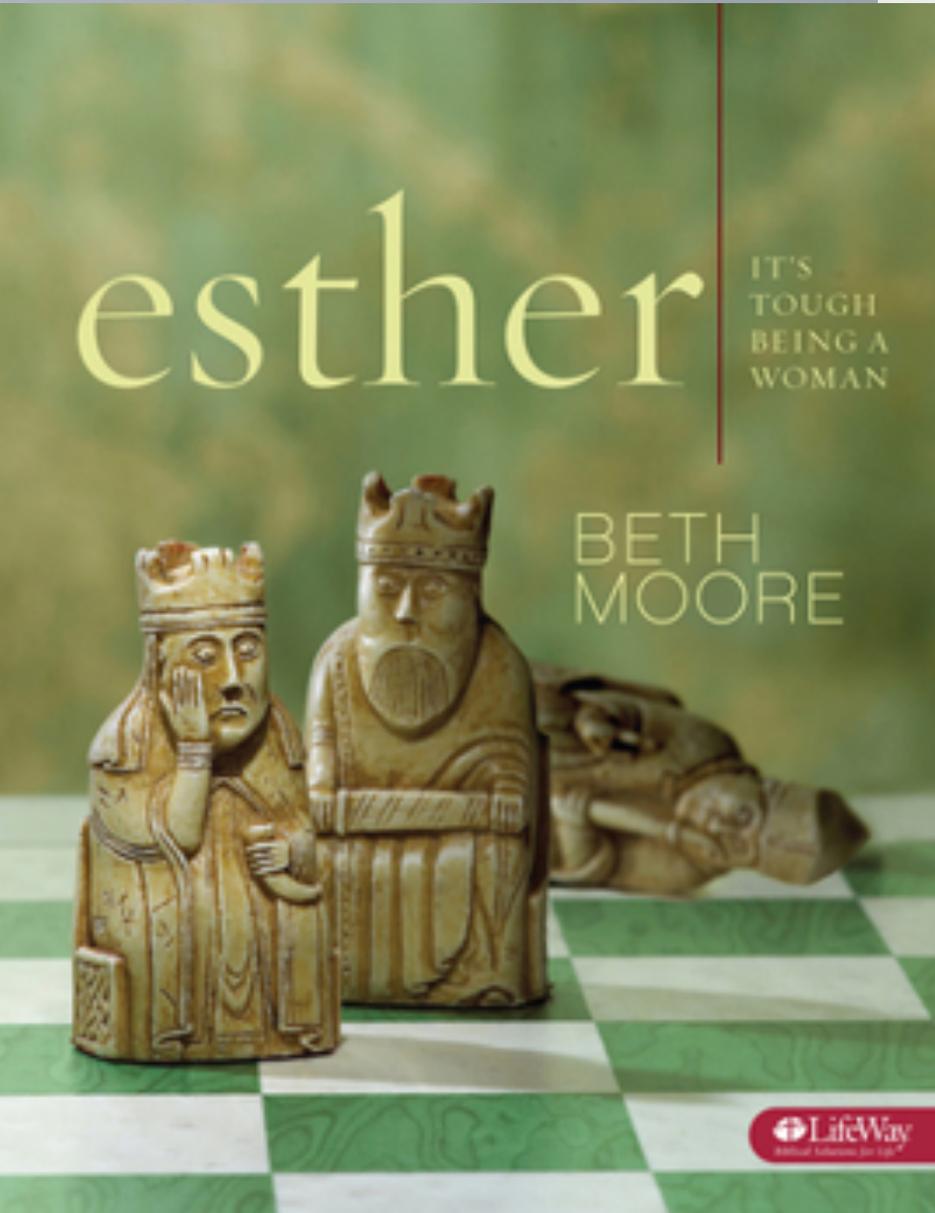
**KEEP
CALM
AND
START
DIGGING!**





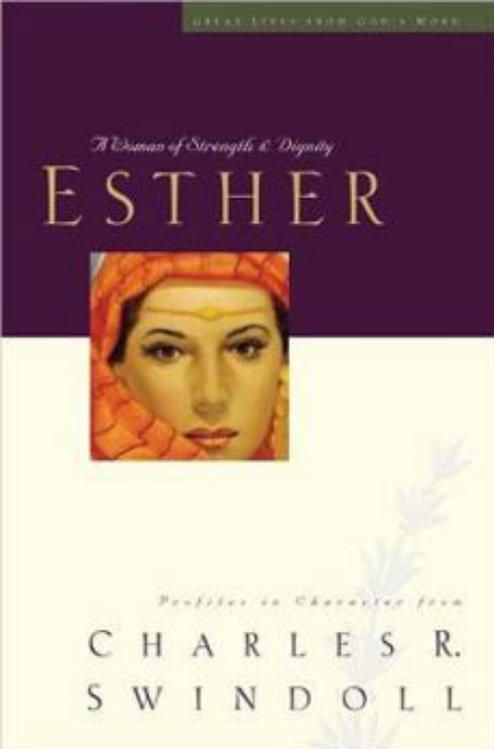
The reaction showed the Jews of Persia understood their peril to be associated with their wanderings from God. They'd become so worldly and so thoroughly assimilated into Persian culture that they'd lost their protective shield. God had told His people from the time of Moses that He'd protect them and fight their battles for them as long as they worshipped Him only. If they forgot him, He would still love them but He would not shield them. Instead, He'd use their enemies to turn His people back to Him.

(based from Esther 4:1-3)



Mordecai delivered two strong points of persuasion in verses 12 - 14. What are they?

(based from Esther 4:12-14)



The king had chosen her to be queen on the basis of her beauty; God had chosen her on the basis of her character. And now her character was rising through the occasion with heroic resolve: “if I perish, I perish.” And not only did Esther rise to heroism but to leadership as well. So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him. (v17) Notice how Esther’s entire outlook shifted in the space of this chapter. From fear to faith. From reluctance to resolve. From concern for her personal safety to the concern for the safety of her people. And from respect for Mordecai’s leadership to the emergence of her own.

THE NIV

ESTHER

APPLICATION COMMENTARY



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

The author of Esther is demonstrating the workings of divine providence. God works mysteriously, patiently, and exorably through a series of “coincidental” events and human decisions, even those based on questionable motives and evil intents. All of the “chance” events in life are really working toward the end that God has ordained.

THE NIV

ESTHER

APPLICATION COMMENTARY



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

For there has never been a time in our nation's history when the government has issued a decree outlawing the church or demanding a “respect” that compromises allegiance to Christ. Unfortunately, this has not been the experience of Christians in other part of the world. One source reports that in this century alone, (*book was written in 1999*) an average of 300,000 Christians have been martyred each year.

T H E N I V

ESTHER

**APPLICATION
COMMENTARY**



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

Perhaps, like Esther, you have been brought to this moment in your life by circumstances over which you have no control, combined with flawed decisions you made along the way. Perhaps instead of living for God, you have so concealed your Christian faith that no one would even identify you as a Christian. Then suddenly you find yourself facing calamity, either in the circumstances of your life with others or just within your own inner emotional world.

THE NIV

ESTHER

APPLICATION COMMENTARY



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

Regardless of the straits you find yourself in, turn to the Lord. Rend your heart, not your garment; “fast, weep, and mourn,” and return to the Lord your God. His purposes are greater than yours. And, who knows? Perhaps you have come to your present situation for such a time as this.