



DANUBE  
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

# ESTHER

The Hiddenness of  
God

In a Great Reversal

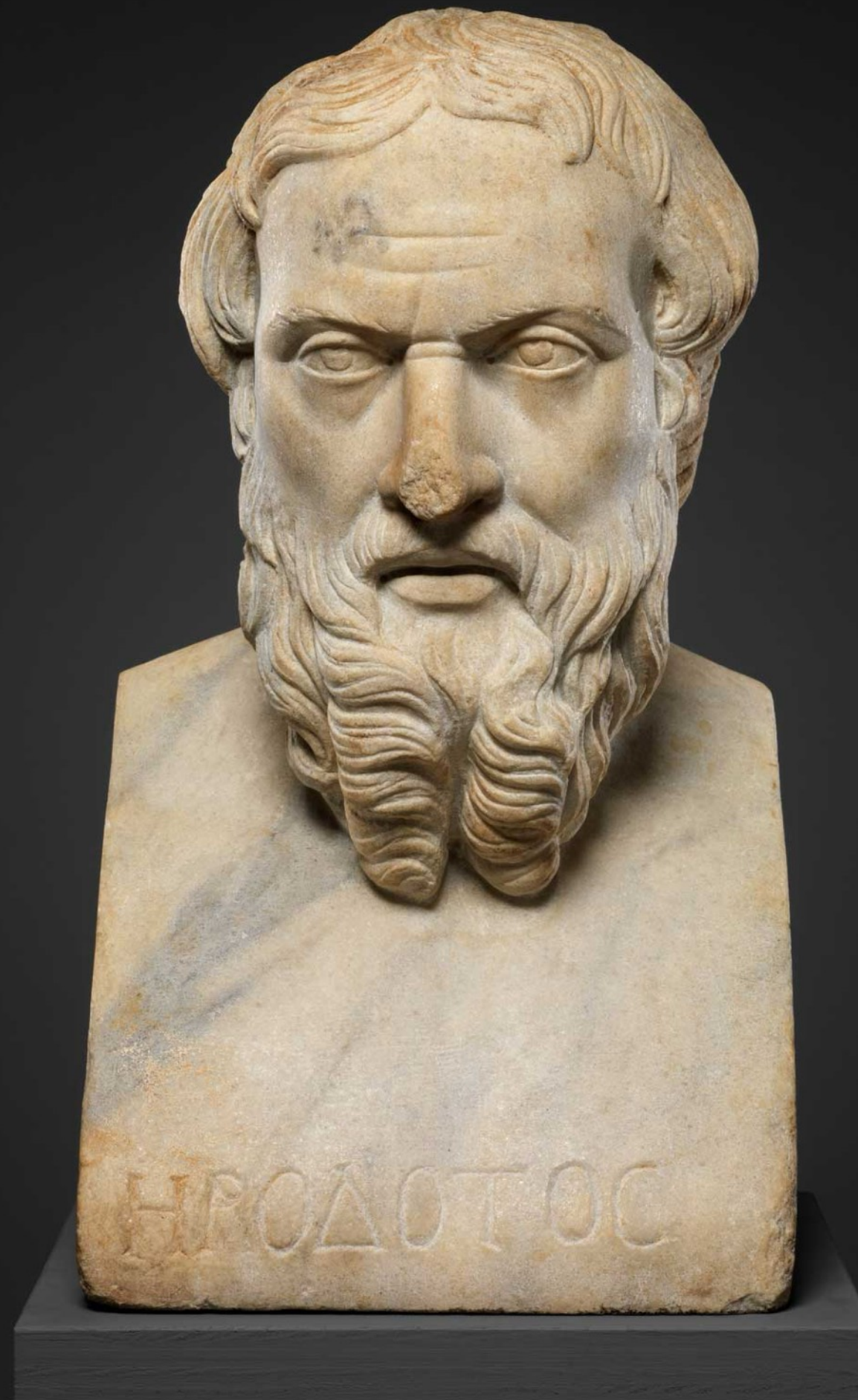




Map 4-1  
*Ways of the World, First Edition*  
 © 2009 Bedford/St. Martin's



**HERODOTUS**







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# MARATHON 490 BC



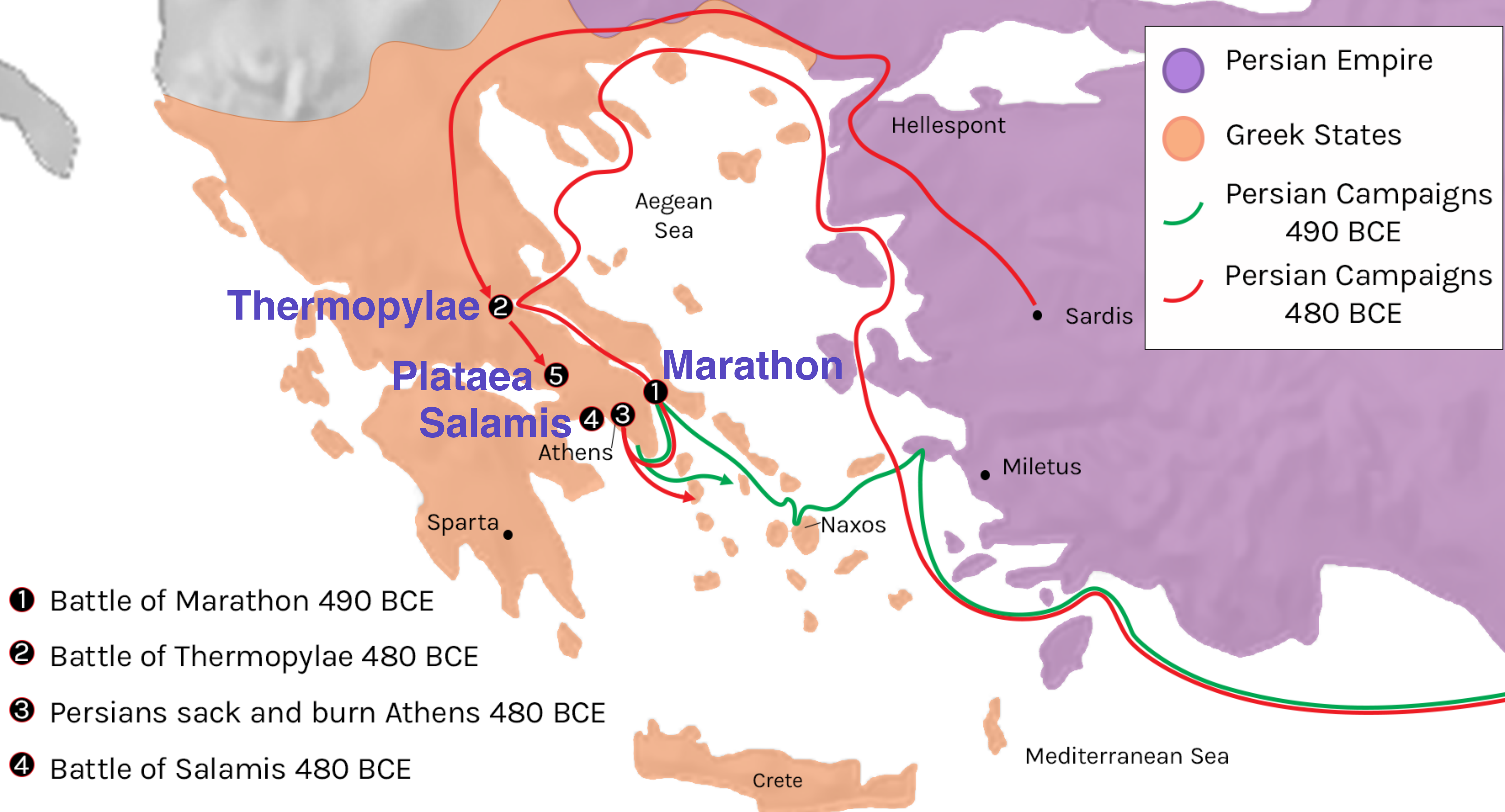


**Chapter 1:3**  
**AHASUERUS**



**483 BC**





-  Persian Empire
-  Greek States
-  Persian Campaigns 490 BCE
-  Persian Campaigns 480 BCE

- 1** Battle of Marathon 490 BCE
- 2** Battle of Thermopylae 480 BCE
- 3** Persians sack and burn Athens 480 BCE
- 4** Battle of Salamis 480 BCE
- 5** Battle of Plataea 479 BCE







# 300 SPARTANS LEONIDES





Greek Camp

AHASUERUS

PERSEUS

SALAMIS





A composite image featuring a cutout of the Greek general Themistocles in the foreground. He is depicted with a beard, wearing a blue plumed helmet, a gold breastplate, and a blue chiton. He holds a large, round shield with a blue background, a white owl, and the letters 'A G E'. The background is a detailed digital reconstruction of an ancient Greek fleet of triremes on the water, with many ships and a large crowd of soldiers on the decks.

# THEMISTOCLES

The Greek fleet



# Book of Esther

**People**

**1 - 2**

**Plot**

**3 - 8**

**Purim**

**9 - 10**

**Grave Danger**

**Great Deliverance**



# ESTHER

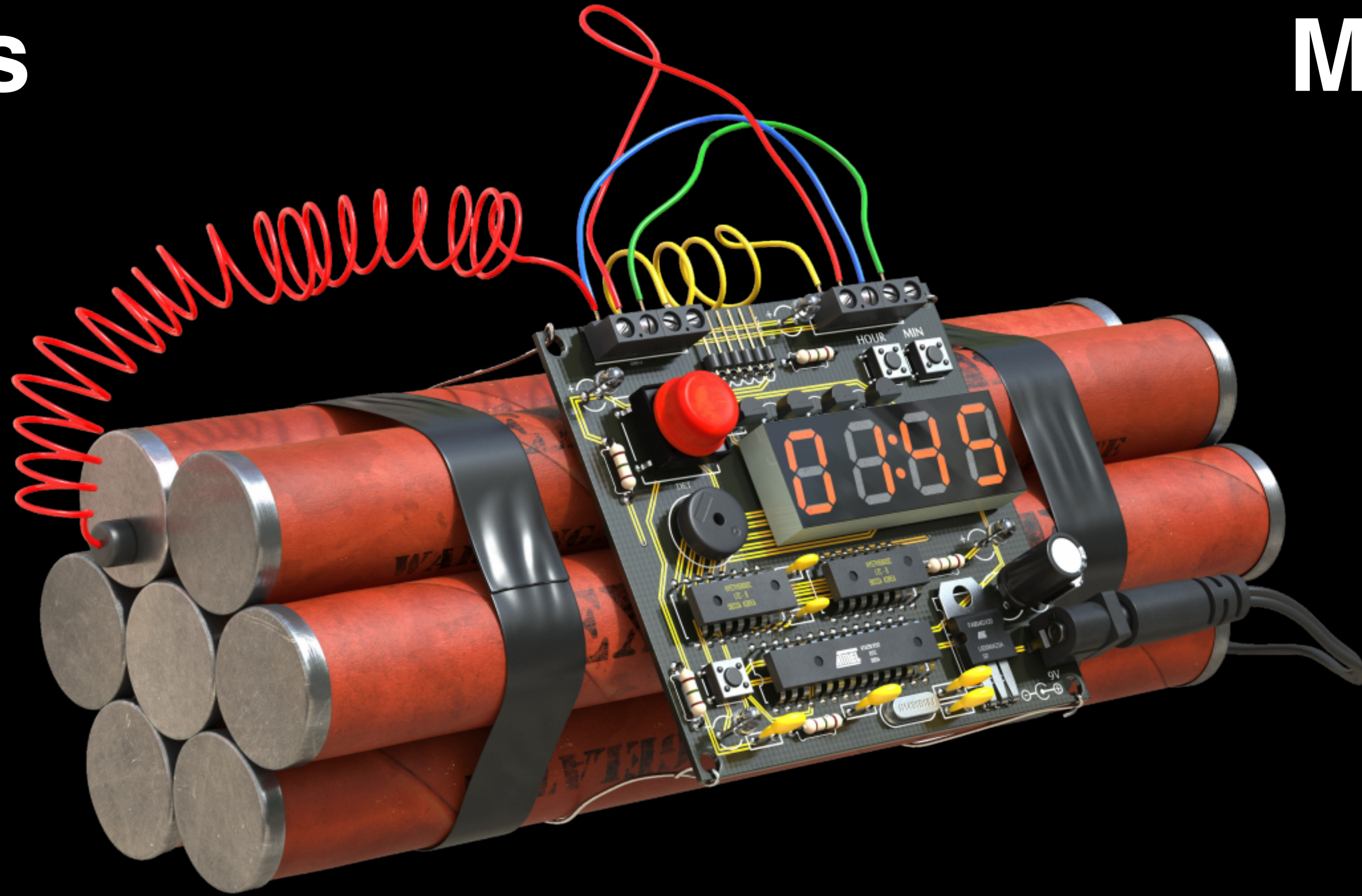
MISSION. IMPOSSIBLE  
MISSION. IMPOSSIBLE



# ESTHER

Jews

Mordecai





## Esther 8:1-8

**1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. 2 And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. 3 Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. 4 When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, 5 Esther rose and stood before the king. And she said, If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. 6 For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred? 7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews. 8 But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked.**



## Esther 8:15-17

**15 Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. 16 The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. 17 And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.**



## Esther 9:1,2; 20-23

**Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them. 2 The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples.**



## Esther 9:1,2; 20-25

**20 And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21 obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, 22 as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor. 23 So the Jews accepted what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them. 24 For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them. 25 But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.**



# **A Great Reversal**

**I. The Decree of Deliverance** (Esther 8)

**II. The Day of Victory** (Esther 9:1-19)

**III. The Feast of Purim** (Esther 9:20-32)

## **Application:**

**The Hiddenness of God**

**Life's Reversals**



# A Great Reversal

## I. The Decree of Deliverance (Esther 8)

**1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. 2 And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.**

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# I. The Decree of Deliverance (Esther 8)

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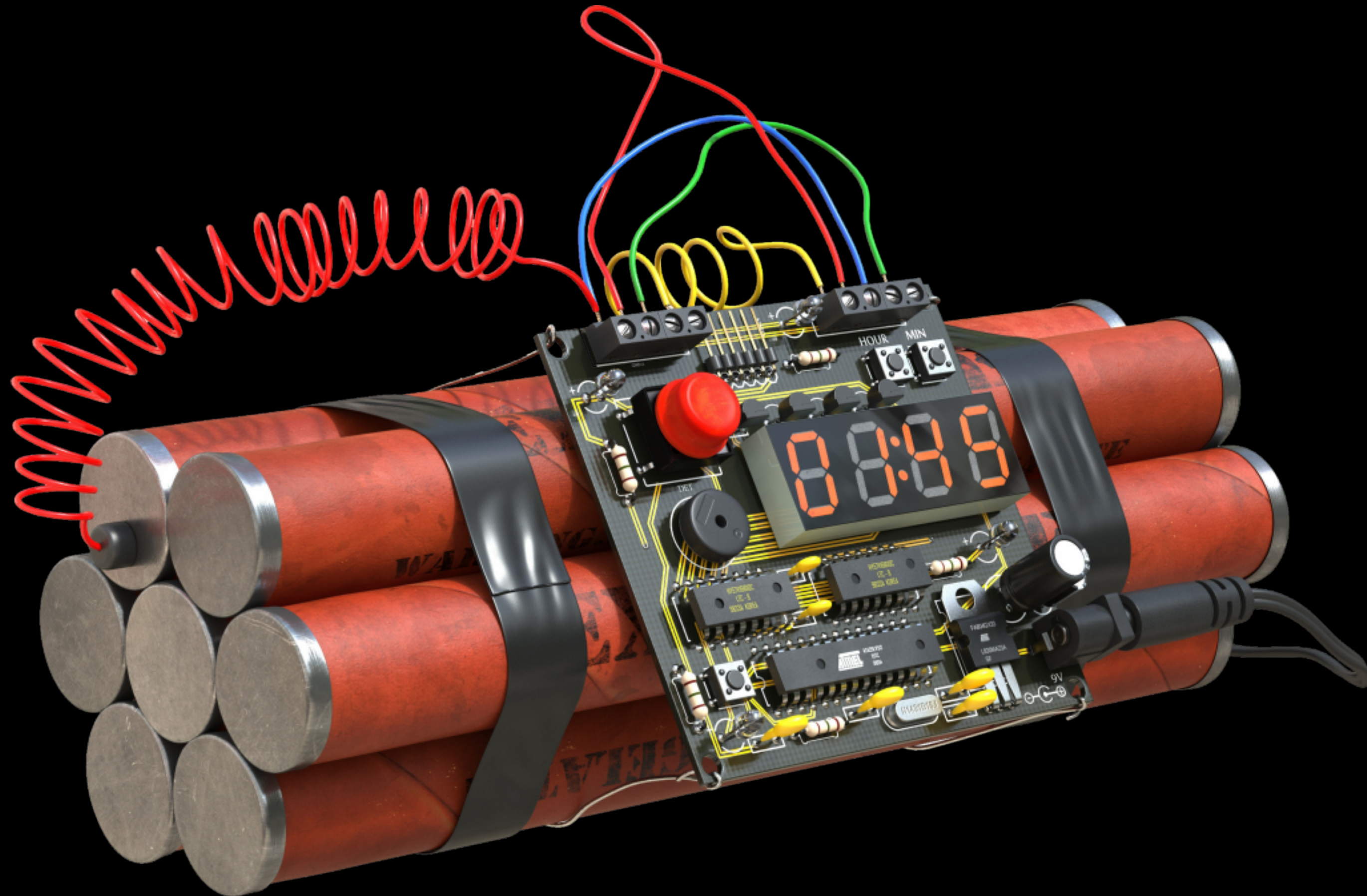
## I. The Decree of Deliverance (Esther 8)

**10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud, 11 saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods.”**



# A Great Reversal

## I. The Decree of Deliverance (Esther 8)





# **A Great Reversal**

## **II. The Day of Victory (Esther 9:1-19)**

**Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them. 2 The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples.**

***“God brings resources that are unexpected to aid desperate people who are dependent on Him.”***

***Randy Smith***



## A Great Reversal

### III. The Feast of Purim (Esther 9:20-32)

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# **A Great Reversal**

**I. The Decree of Deliverance** (Esther 8)

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**The Hiddenness of God**

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**A Great Reversal**

**Application:**

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# **A Great Reversal**

## **Application:**

### **The Hiddenness of God**

**God's silence is not absence,  
His hiddenness is not abandonment.**

**Tim Keller**



## Literary structure of Esther

“. . . their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration” (9:22)

“The night the king could not sleep...”

6:1

Esther’s 1st banquet 5:4

Esther’s 2nd banquet 7:1

The king celebrates  
2 banquets  
1:4,5

The Jews celebrate  
2 feasts days  
9:16-18



# **A Great Reversal**

## **Application:**

### **Life's Reversals**

**“You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.”**





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