

2

Isaiah 35:8

A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.

3

Highway of Holiness

The highway of holiness is God's pre-prepared passageway where we are separated, made morally and spiritually pure from the world, saved from the power of sin, as we travel toward heaven.

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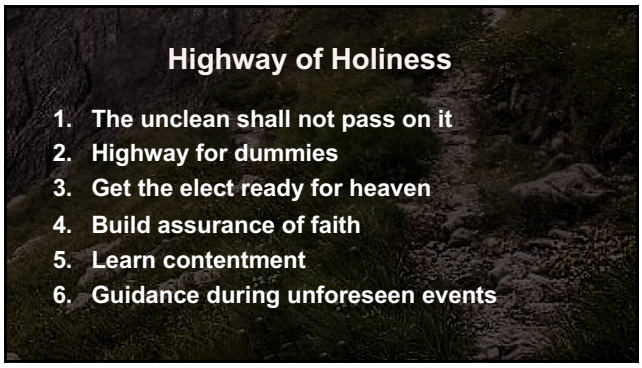
Highway of Holiness
1. The unclean shall not pass on it
2. Highway for dummies
3. Get the elect ready for heaven
4. Build assurance of faith
5. Learn contentment
6. Guidance during unforeseen events

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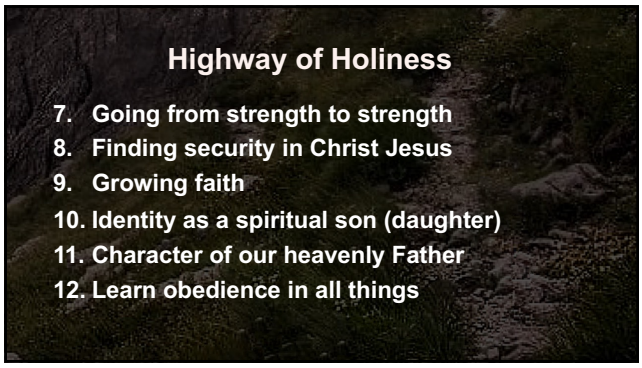
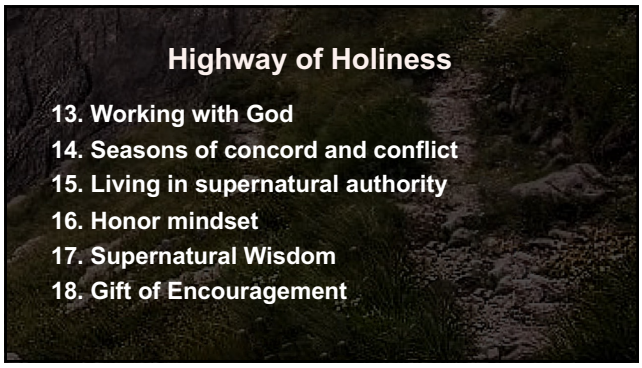

Highway of Holiness
7. Going from strength to strength
8. Finding security in Christ Jesus
9. Growing faith
10. Identity as a spiritual son (daughter)
11. Character of our heavenly Father
12. Learn obedience in all things

6


Highway of Holiness
13. Working with God
14. Seasons of concord and conflict
15. Living in supernatural authority
16. Honor mindset
17. Supernatural Wisdom
18. Gift of Encouragement

7

Encouragement

inspiring someone with courage, spirit, or hope, or providing support that helps them to continue or improve.

8

God Helps Us Delight in Him

1. **Beauty**
2. **Orchestration**
3. **Power**

9

Orchestration

divine providence coordinates people, events, or circumstances toward His purpose.

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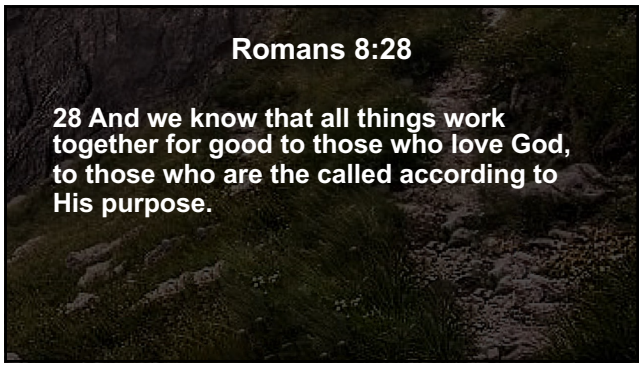
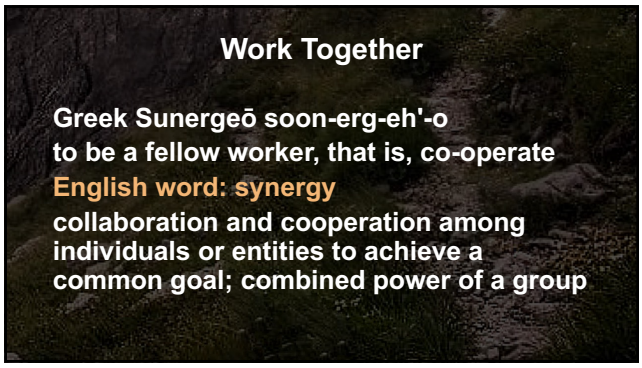

Romans 8:28
28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

11


Work Together
Greek Sunergeō soon-erg-eh'-o
to be a fellow worker, that is, co-operate
English word: synergy
collaboration and cooperation among individuals or entities to achieve a common goal; combined power of a group

12


Work Together
God
Elect
Friendlies
Wicked
Devil

13

Historical OT Books

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1&2 Samuel
1&2 Kings
1&2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

14

Background

- Times of restoration during Nehemiah and Ezra
- Children of Israel are still in exile in Babylon
- Daniel is similar to the book Esther
- Raised to prominence by attracting favor of God and then given favor with the king
- Esther had charm and influence without prophetic awareness of her true calling

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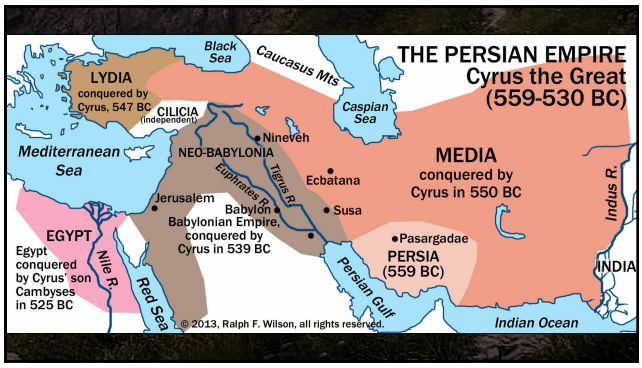

16

Where is God in Esther?

One of the most notable features of Esther is that it never uses any of the direct titles or names of God. The absence of His explicit name does not imply His absence from the unfolding events. Instead, His sovereignty becomes evident in the sequence of events that Esther and Mordecai did not initiate or control that drive the story forward.

17

Orchestration of God

Event	Purpose
Queen Vashti's removal	Set the stage for Esther's unexpected ascent to the throne (Esther 1-2)
Esther's favor	Esther finds favor is more than mere luck considering the empire-wide search for a queen. (Esther 2:8-17)
Mordecai's Discovery	Mordecai uncovers a plot against the king, saving the monarch, yet the reward is delayed until precisely the right moment to vindicate him publicly (Esther 6:1-3).

18

Esther 4:1-16

1 When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

19

Sackcloth



20

Esther 4:1-16

3 And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

21

Esther 4:1-16

4 So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them.

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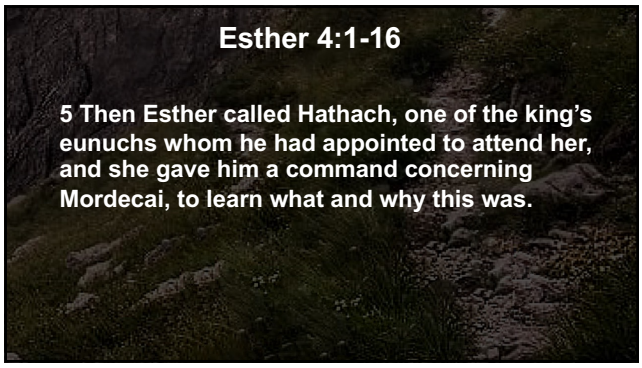
Esther 4:1-16
5 Then Esther called Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this was.

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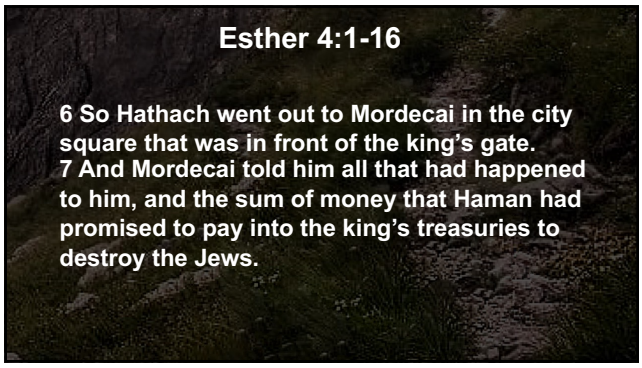
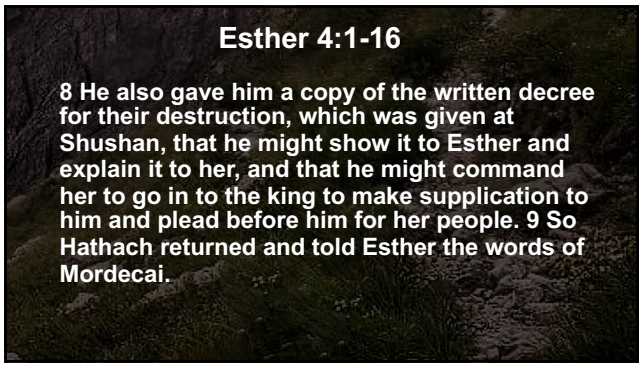

Esther 4:1-16
6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was in front of the king's gate.
7 And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews.

24


Esther 4:1-16
8 He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people. 9 So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

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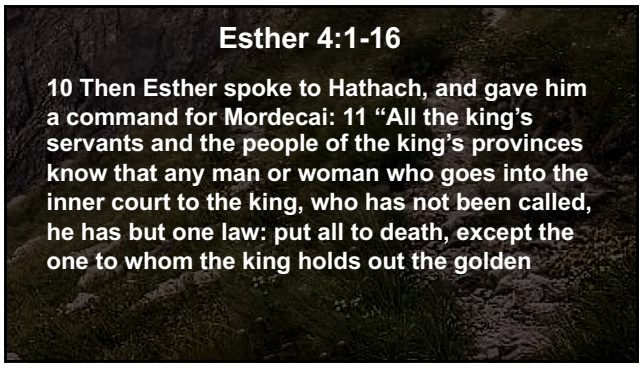
Esther 4:1-16
10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: 11 “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden

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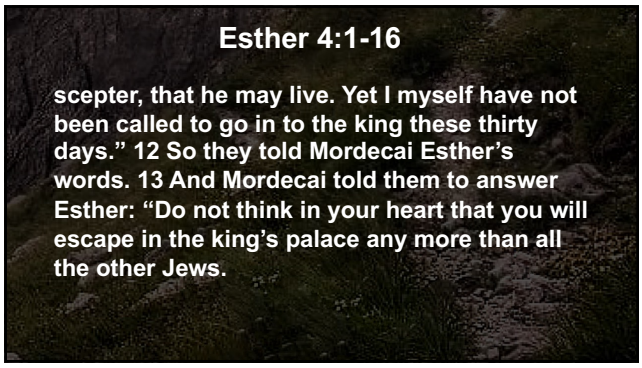
Esther 4:1-16
scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.” 12 So they told Mordecai Esther’s words. 13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews.

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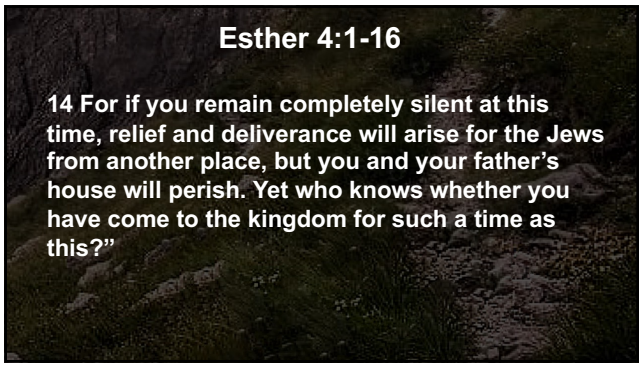
Esther 4:1-16
14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

28

Esther 4:1-16

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai:
16 “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”
17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

29

The reluctant heroine

Mordecai and others played a vital role in encouraging and exhorting a reluctant Esther to understand and accept her role as champion of the oppressed.

Mindsets are barriers or bridges to favor

30

Born for This

1. Born to face challenges together

31

Discover our Destiny Together

Person	Role
Mordecai	Prophetic awareness, Dissident, Educator, Exhorter
Esther	Relational Influencer, Peace seeker, Role model
Haman	Hatred Driven Politician, Tyrant
Ahasuerus	Clueless Politician
Hathach	Reconciler, Communicator
Jews	Support and Encouragement

32

Obstacles part of life

For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin - real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way. Something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life.

- Fr. Alfred D'Souza

33

Born For This

1. Born to face challenges together
2. Born for a unique and vital role

34

Mordecai

1. Raised awareness of the Problem
2. Explained Relevance of the Problem
3. Compelled Esther to Own the Problem

35

Explanation - Motivation

Levels of Mordecai's Message:

1. Explanation
   - What was happening?
   - How to Respond?
2. Motivation
   - Why it is important?

36

Inspired by a Mordecai

1. Refused to allow Esther to be an orphan
2. Refused to join in attacks on the king
3. Refused to bow to the enemies of God
4. Refused to bow to public pressure
5. Refused to give up and face certain death
6. Refused to allow Esther an easy out

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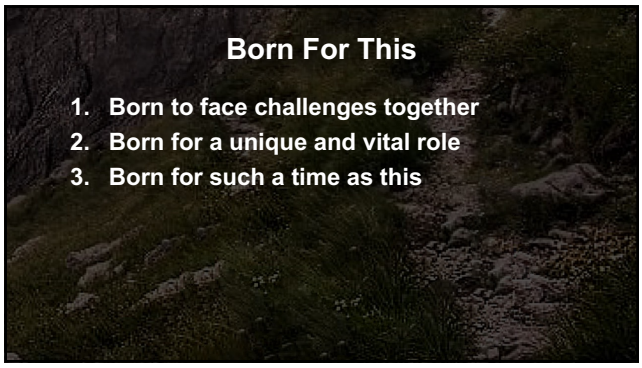
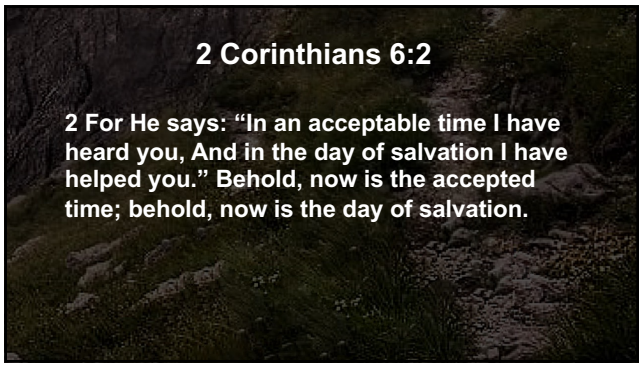

Born For This
1. Born to face challenges together
2. Born for a unique and vital role
3. Born for such a time as this

38


2 Corinthians 6:2
2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

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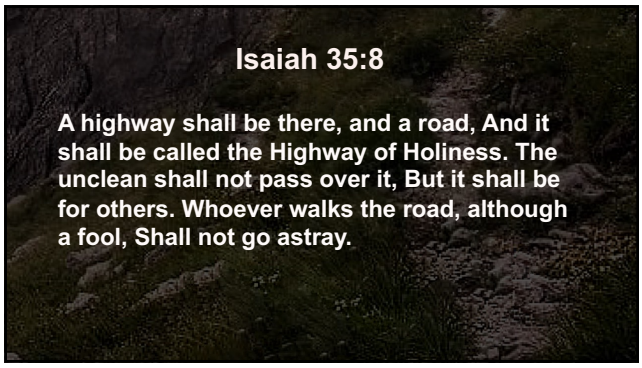
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