



Be Committed

Esther

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
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**The church typically has a
serious lack of commitment.**



Why is that so?



**How
committed
are you to
God's
work?**

Why should you
be committed
to God?



Background to Esther

NEVER GIVE UP



The Postexilic Era

295
296
560

 Temple work

Prophets:

Haggai
Zechariah

Malachi

605

586

539

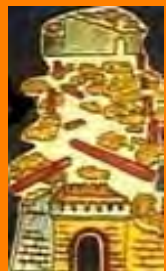
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

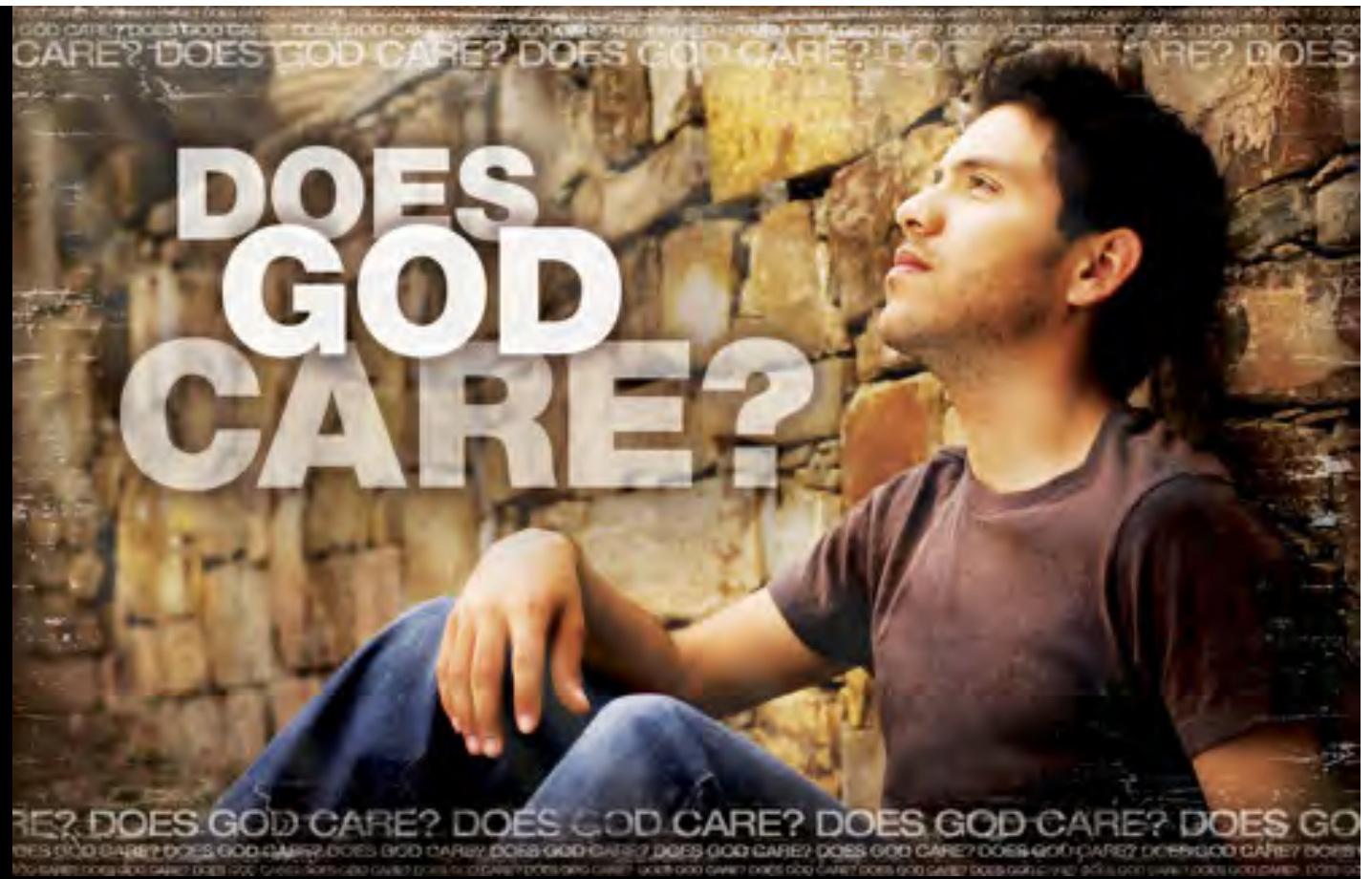
Cyrus

Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

***Does God
Care
About
Those
Left
Behind?***



***Most of the Jews never returned
to the land of Israel even in the
Post-Exilic Period***

Map of the Persian Empire

317

Barry J. Beitzel, *Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*, 150-51



*The Persian Empire in the 5th century BC
extended "from India and Ethiopia" (Esther 1:1)*

**The boundaries of the empire that Cyrus II initiated
and Darius I consolidated stretched from Greece to India**

Correlation with Ezra

289

Restoring the Temple and People

Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)

Temple

People

Zerubbabel

Ezra

Ezra 1–6

Ezra 7–10

50,000 Return

5,000 Return

Survival

Revival

Working

Worshipping

538-516 BC (22 Years)

458-457 BC (1 Year)

External Opposition: Samaritans

Internal Opposition: Intermarriage

Return
1–2

Rebuilding
3–6

Return
7–8

Restoration
9–10

Decree
1

Returnees
2

Begins
3

Opposed
4:1–6:12

Ends
6:13-22

Qualifications
& Provisions
7

Returnees
& Protection
8

Inter-
marriage
& Lament
9

Divorces
Carried Out
10

Esther: *Queen of Persia*



Esther Book Chart

308

Extermination Plot Foiled

Plot Planned

Chapters 1–4

Threat

Providence Prepared

Persecution

Grave Danger

Feasts of Ahasuerus

Esther Exalted

1:1–2:18

Haman Plots

2:19–4:17

**Mordecai over
Haman**

5:1–8:2

**Jews over
Enemies**

8:3–9:32

**Mordecai over
Persia**

10

Plot Foiled

Chapters 5–10

Triumph

Providence Enacted

Preservation

Great Deliverance

Feasts of Esther & Purim

Persia

10 Years (483-473 BC)



Reverberate

Key Verse

(Mordecai to Esther)

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief & deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you & your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"
(Esther 4:14).



**"...for
such a
time as
this"**



**"...for
such a
time as
this"**

Summary Statement

An extermination of the Jewish nation plotted by Haman reverts upon his own head through God's providence through Mordecai & Esther to encourage postexilic Israel of God's continued commitment to the Abrahamic Covenant.

Synthesis

Extermination plot foiled

1–4 Plot planned—threat

5–10 Plot foiled—triumph

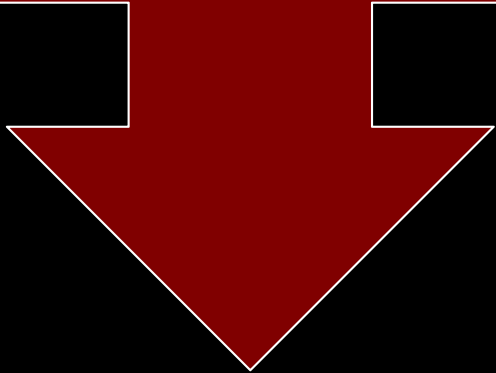
A man in a black t-shirt and dark pants stands with his arms crossed on a rocky outcrop. To his left is a large, ornate cross with intricate carvings. The background is a dramatic sky with blue and white clouds. The overall tone is inspirational and religious.

Why should you
be **committed**
to God?

2 REASONS

Why be committed to God?

**God's work
faces **threats**
(Esther 1–4).**



Esther 1

Map of the Persian Empire

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**The boundaries of the empire that Cyrus II initiated
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King Xerxe's Unreasonable Command to Queen Vashti



Vashti Upset



Rise of Esther

Confusion 1-2

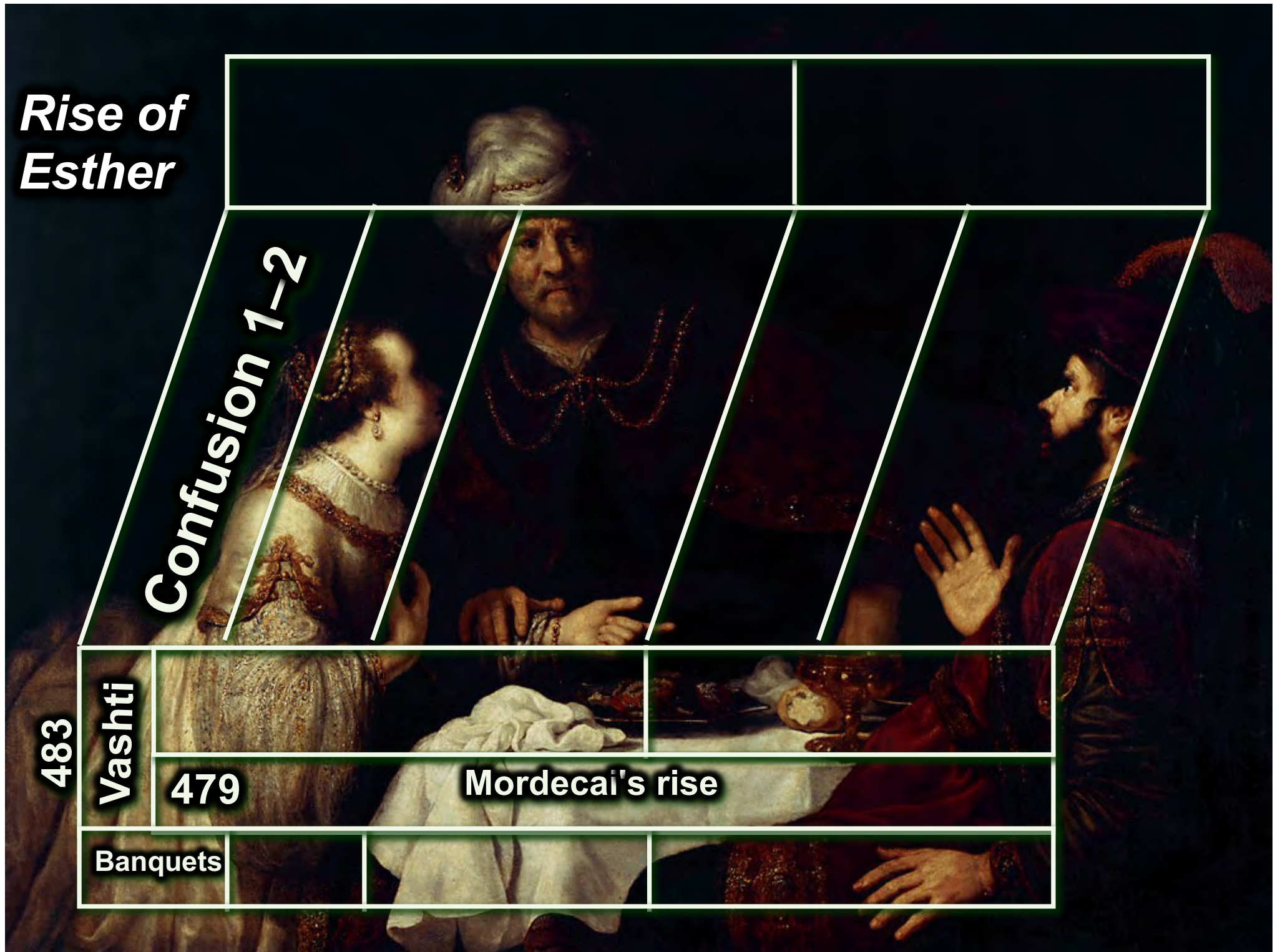
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Vashti

479

Mordecai's rise

Banquets



Outline

311-312

- I. (Chs. 1–4) Haman's plot to exterminate the Jewish people becomes known to Mordecai and Esther, whom God has strategically placed, to inform Israel that apart from God it could not exist as a nation.



Esther 2

The Beauty Contest



The Beauty Contest



Mordecai the Jew (Esther 2:5)



Mordecai's Young Cousin Esther

(2:7)





Mordecai Counsels Esther



Did Esther act honorably?

All the King's Men



Esther

Confusion 1-2



483

Vashti

479

Mordecai's rise

Banquets

Eavesdropping

Esther 3

Haman the Agagite (Esther 3:1-2)



Esther

Confusion 1-2

Conspiracy 3-4

483

Vashti

Haman's rise

479

Banquets

Fasting



Esther 4

Key Verse

(Mordecai to Esther)

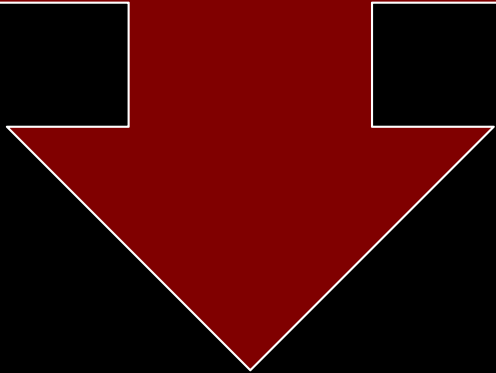
"For if you remain silent at this time, relief & deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you & your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"
(Esther 4:14).

Why should you
be committed
to God?



Why be committed to God?

**God's work
faces **threats**
(Esther 1–4).**



**We are secure in our
relationship with God—but
that doesn't mean there are
no attacks!**



We are at war.

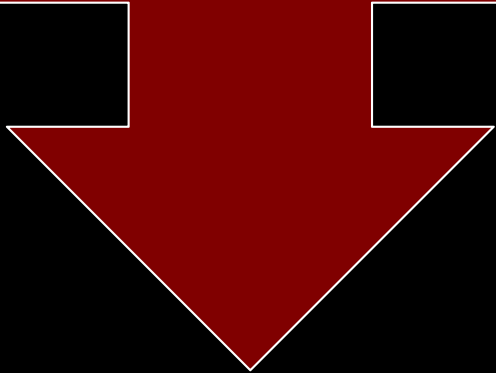


Crossroads



Why be committed to God?

**God's work
faces **threats**
(Esther 1–4).**



**God's work
will **triumph**
(Esther 5–10).**



- I. (Chs. 1–4) Haman's plot to exterminate the Jewish people becomes known to Mordecai and Esther, whom God has strategically placed, to inform Israel that apart from God it could not exist as a nation.
- II. (Chs. 5–10) Haman's extermination plot reverts upon his own head through God's providential workings in Mordecai and Esther to encourage postexilic Israel of God's continued commitment to the Abrahamic Covenant.



Esther 5

Esther

**Grave
Danger**

Confusion 1–2

Conspiracy 3–4

Courage 5–7

483

Vashti

Haman's rise & fall

479

Mordecai's rise

Banquets

Fasting

Banquets

Courage 5–7

Esther Risked Her Life for the Jews (5:2)



Esther 5:1-8





**Esther
invited
Haman
and the
king to
eat (5:4)**

Esther 5:9-14





"a **gallows** built...
seventy-five feet
tall"

(5:14 NIV, NAU)



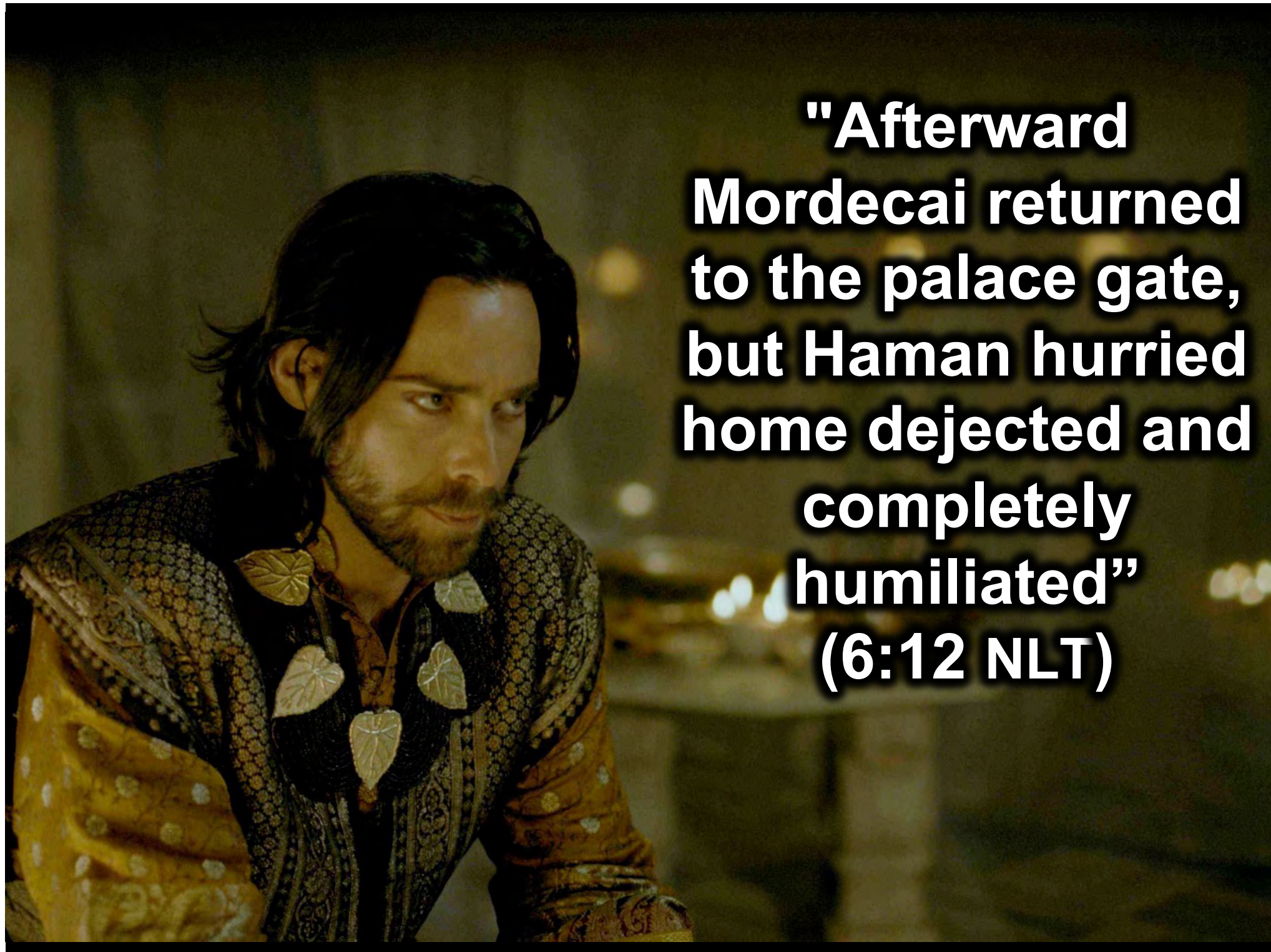
"a **sharpened pole**...
seventy-five feet
tall"

(5:14 NLT)

Esther 6

Esther 6





**"Afterward
Mordecai returned
to the palace gate,
but Haman hurried
home dejected and
completely
humiliated"
(6:12 NLT)**

Esther 7



ESTHER 7:3-4a NIV

THEN QUEEN ESTHER ANSWERED,

**"IF I HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH YOU, O KING, AND IF
IT PLEASES YOUR MAJESTY, GRANT ME MY LIFE—THIS
IS MY PETITION. AND SPARE MY PEOPLE—THIS IS MY
REQUEST. ⁴FOR I AND MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SOLD
FOR DESTRUCTION AND SLAUGHTER AND
ANNIHILATION."**

***"The adversary is this vile Haman"
(7:6)***



"That vile Haman..." (7:6)



Esther 7:8





"a **gallows** built...
seventy-five feet
tall"

(5:14 NIV, NAU)



"a **sharpened pole**...
seventy-five feet
tall"

(5:14 NLT)

Esther 8

Esther

**Grave
Danger**

**Great
Deliverance**

Confusion 1-2

Conspiracy 3-4

Courage 5-7

Vindication 8

483

Vashti

Haman's rise & fall

Jews' protection

479

Mordecai's rise

473

Banquets

Fasting

Banquets

Feasting

V-Day

Esther 9

Esther

**Grave
Danger**

**Great
Deliverance**

Confusion 1-2

Conspiracy 3-4

Courage 5-7

Vindication 8

Victory 9-10

483

Vashti

Haman's rise & fall

Jews' protection

479

Mordecai's rise

473

Banquets

Fasting

Banquets

Feasting

V-Day

Purim

"Purim is a minor holiday of the Jewish calendar based upon the account in the book of Esther. The holiday is preceded by the Fast of Esther, commemorating the period of assembly and fasting before the deliverance. On Purim, according to Talmudic practice, the Megillah (Scroll of Esther) is read in the synagogue, charity is distributed, gifts of food are exchanged, and a festive meal is eaten."

"Purim," in *Harper's Bible Dictionary*



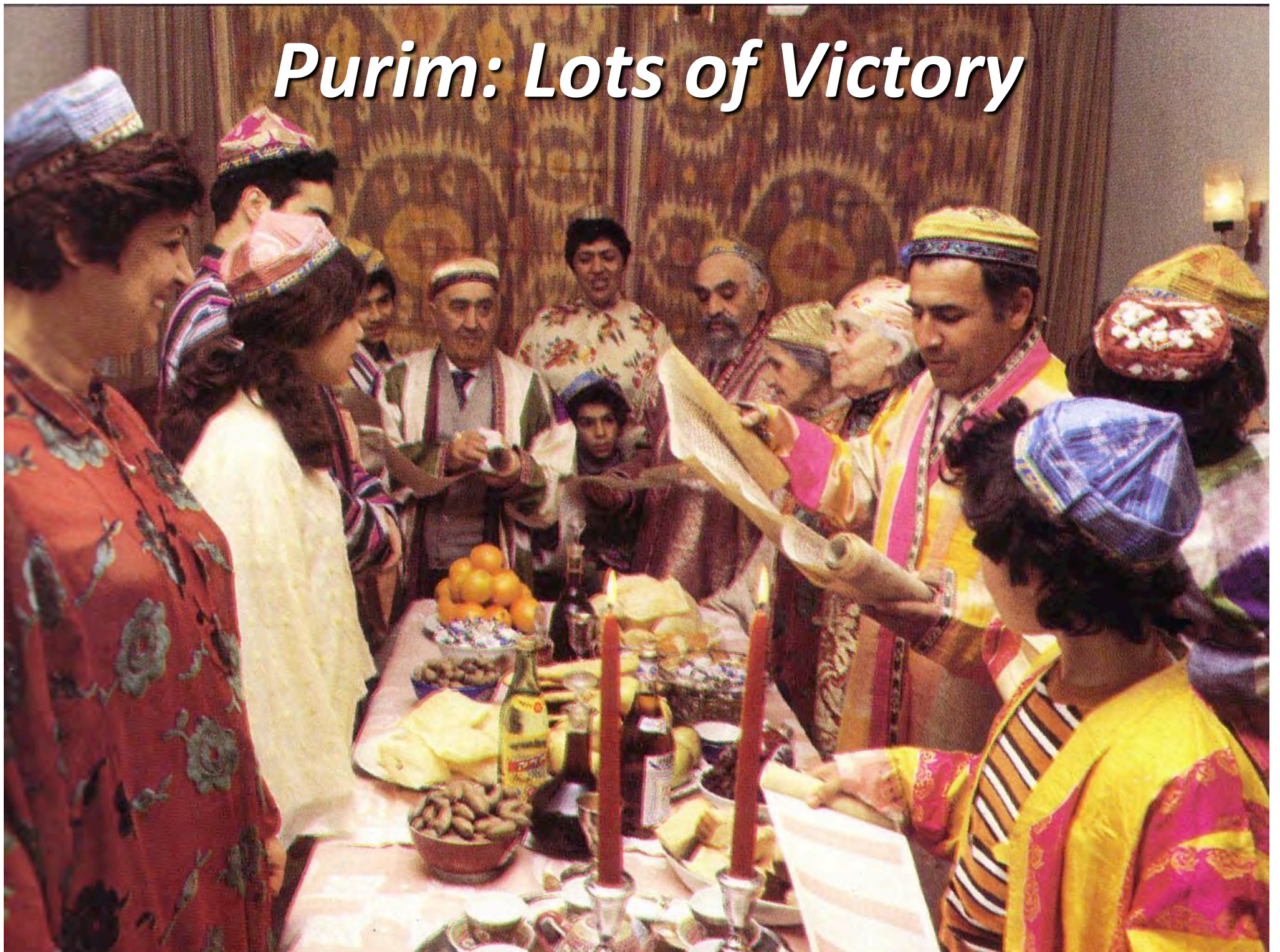
*"The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD."*

Proverbs 16:33 (NIV)



***The story lives on in
Jewish plays each year...***

Purim: Lots of Victory

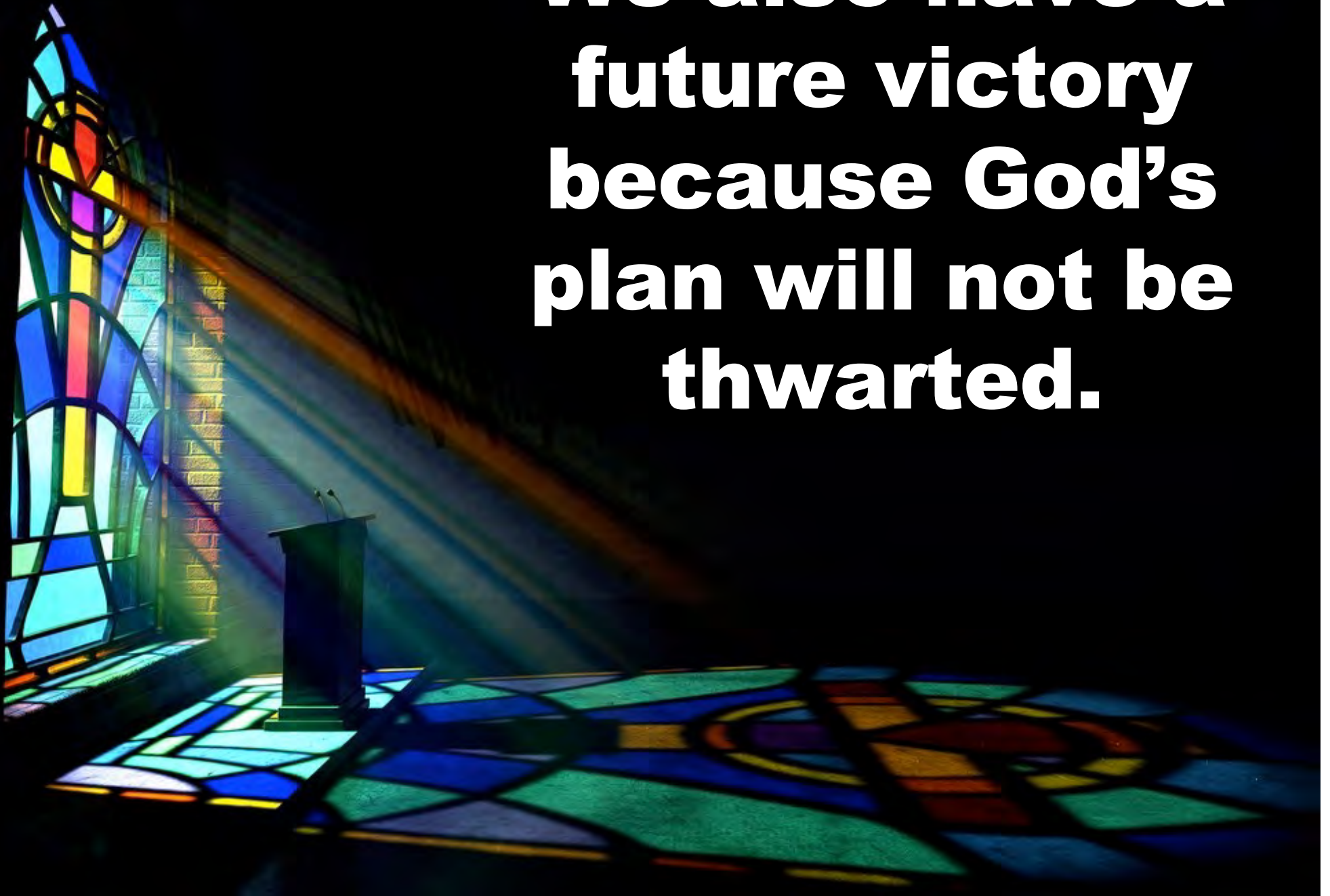


Esther 10

**We are secure in our
relationship with God—but
that doesn't mean there are
no attacks!**



**We also have a
future victory
because God's
plan will not be
thwarted.**



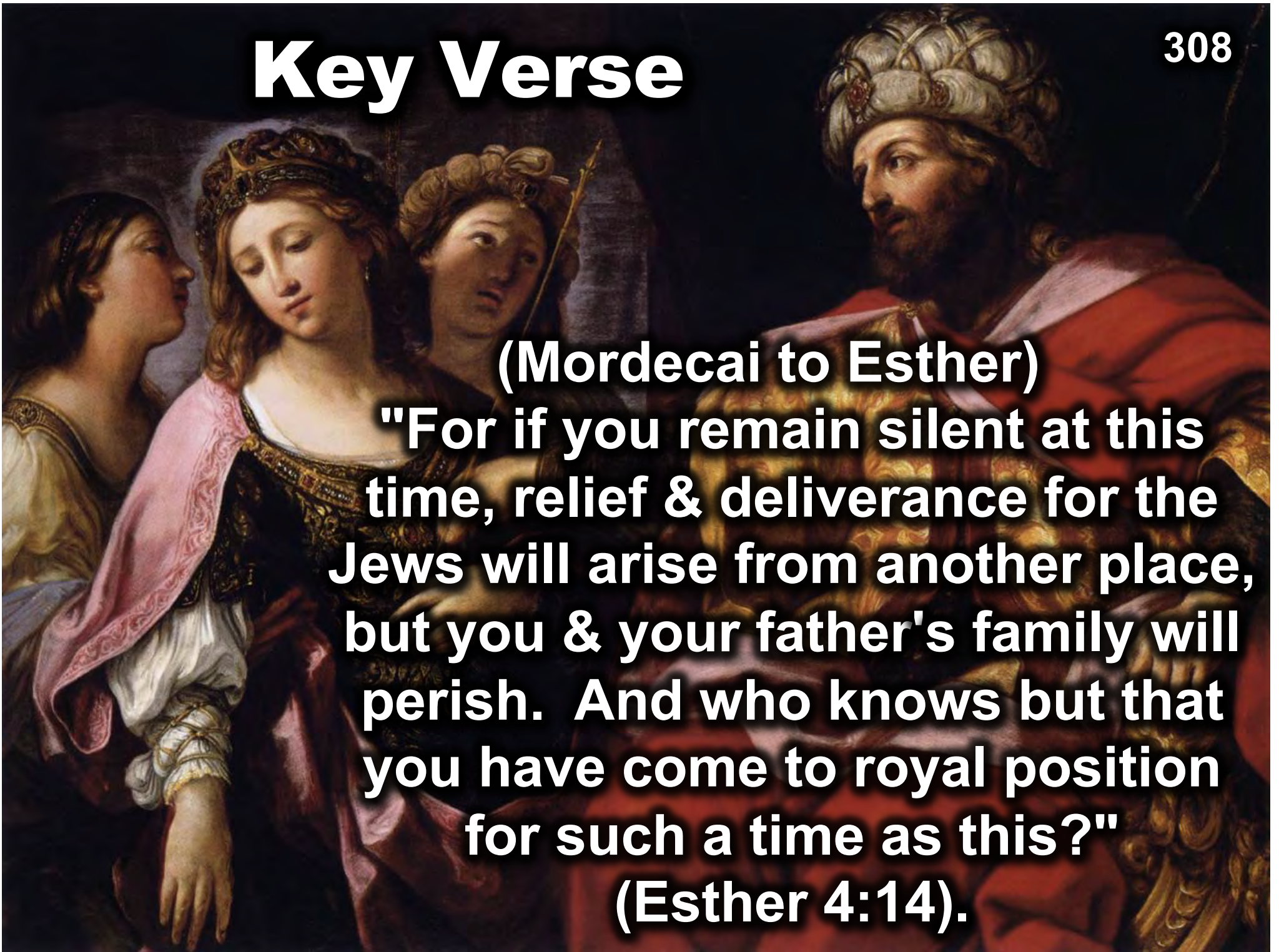
Key Verse

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(Mordecai to Esther)

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief & deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you & your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

(Esther 4:14).



**You can't thwart God's sovereign plan.
But you can be part of it.**



The Bible's Chiasm

Repeated Patterns in Reverse Order

**Christ's
Redemption**

**Christ's
Rule**

**Man's
Rule
Lost at
Fall**

**Man's
Rule
Restored at
Millennium**

Creation

**New
Creation**



Revelation 20:4-6 Diagrammed

4^band they came to life and reigned with Christ for a **thousand years**.



4^aThen I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand...

1000 years



5^bThis is the **first resurrection**. 6^aBlessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power...

6^bbut they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a **thousand years**.

5^aThe rest of the dead did not come to life until the **thousand years** were completed.

Why should you
be committed
to God?



Why be committed to God?

God's work
faces **threats**
(Esther 1–4)

God's work
will **triumph**

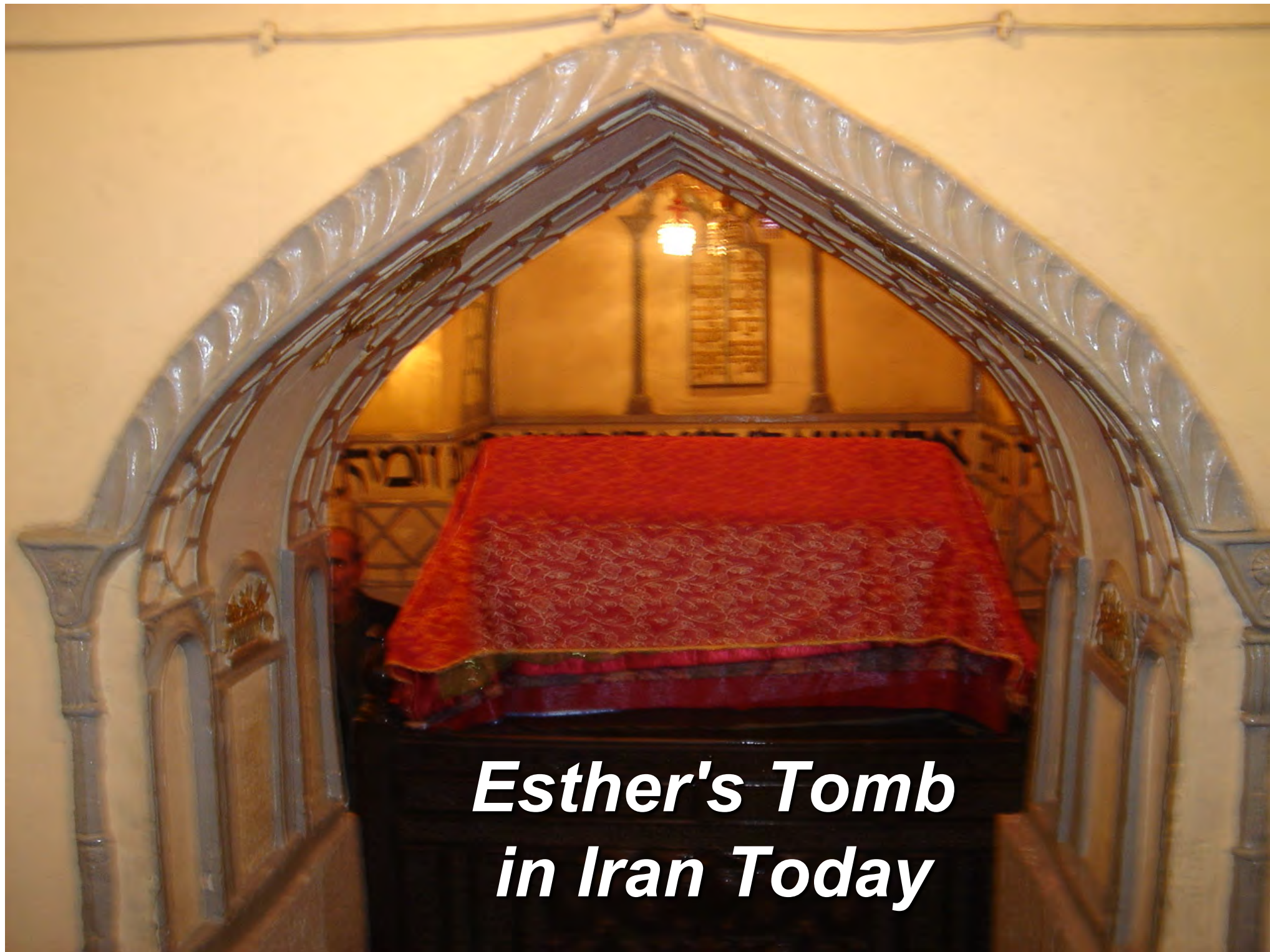
MAIN IDEA:
Despite Satan's threats,
God will triumph

WHAT TO DO?

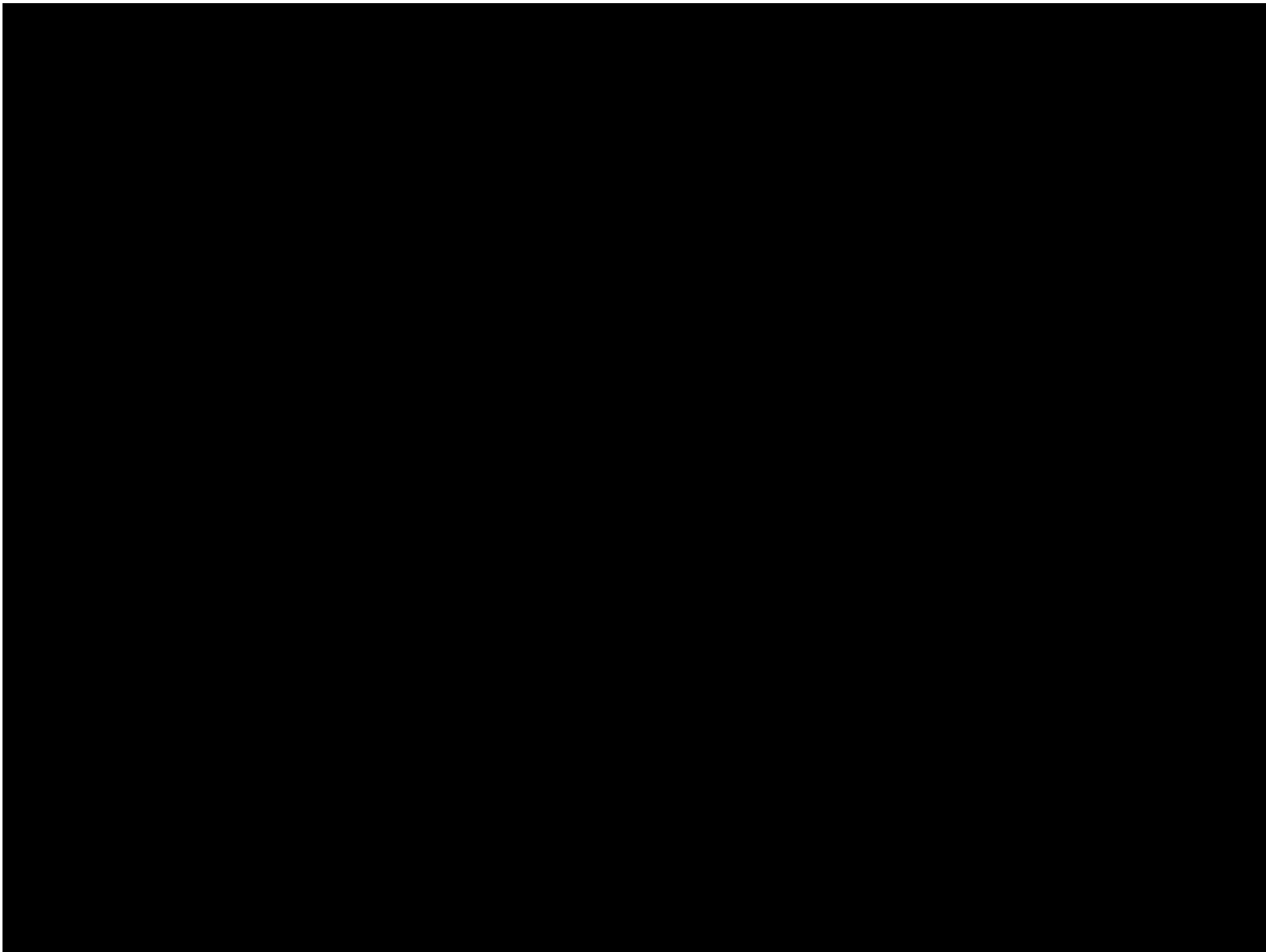
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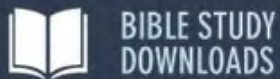
Use your
providentially
placed position
to help
God's people



***Esther's Tomb
in Iran Today***




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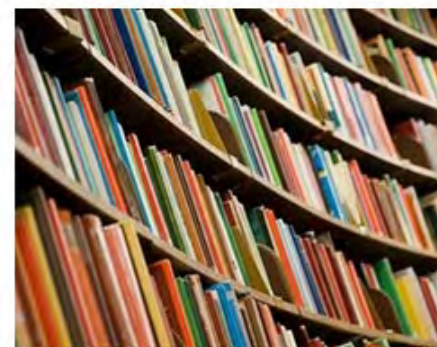
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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. The hands are weathered and the lighting is warm.

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