

Esther

Extermination Plot Foiled



Key Word

**308
39**

Providence

Esther

Theme

308

Extermination Plot Foiled

Esther

Key Verse

308

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

Esther

Kingdom Statement

39

God's **providence** in averting
Israel's destruction showed his rule
over all nations.

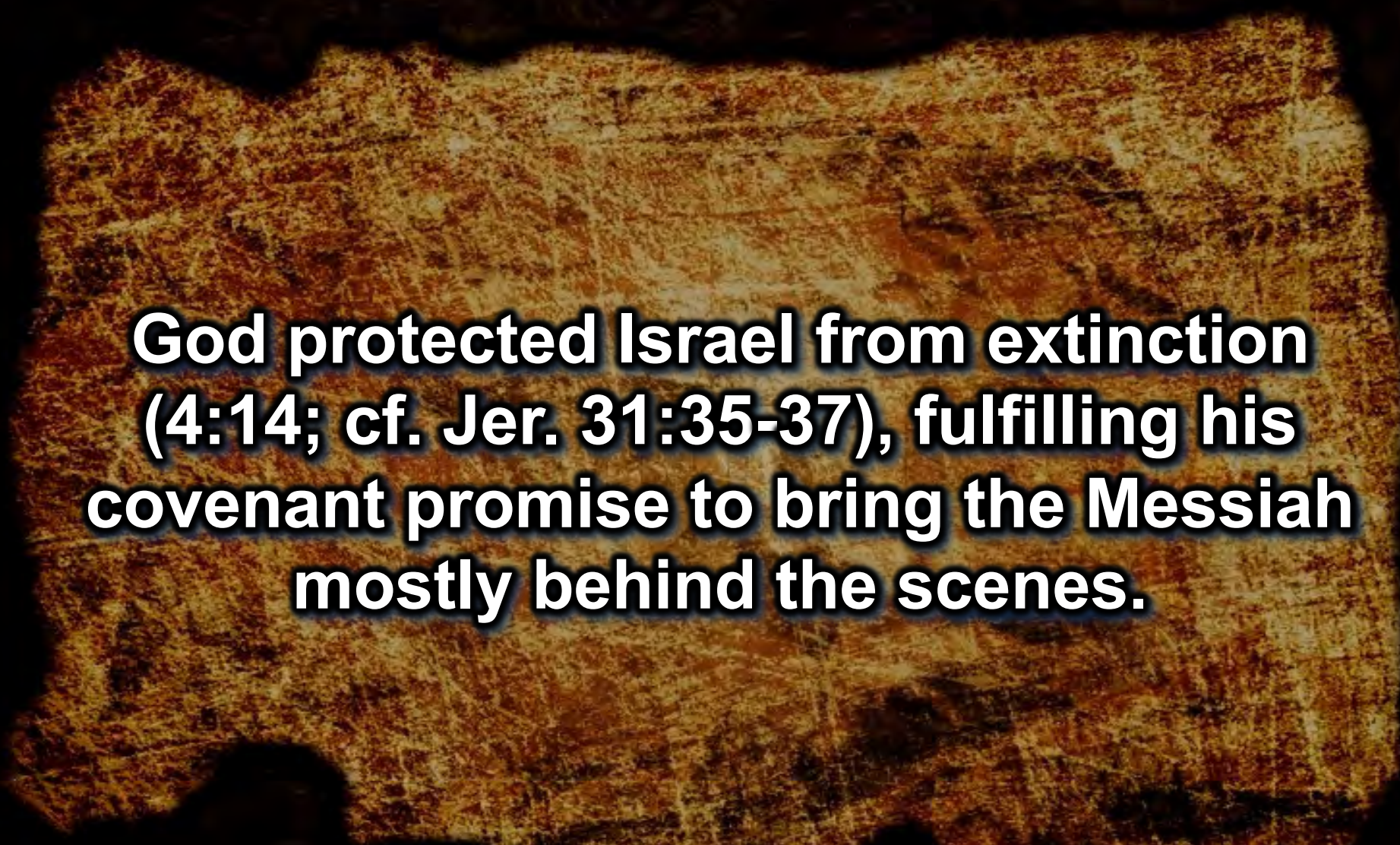
Esther



Summary Statement

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

Esther



**God protected Israel from extinction
(4:14; cf. Jer. 31:35-37), fulfilling his
covenant promise to bring the Messiah
mostly behind the scenes.**

Esther

Redemption

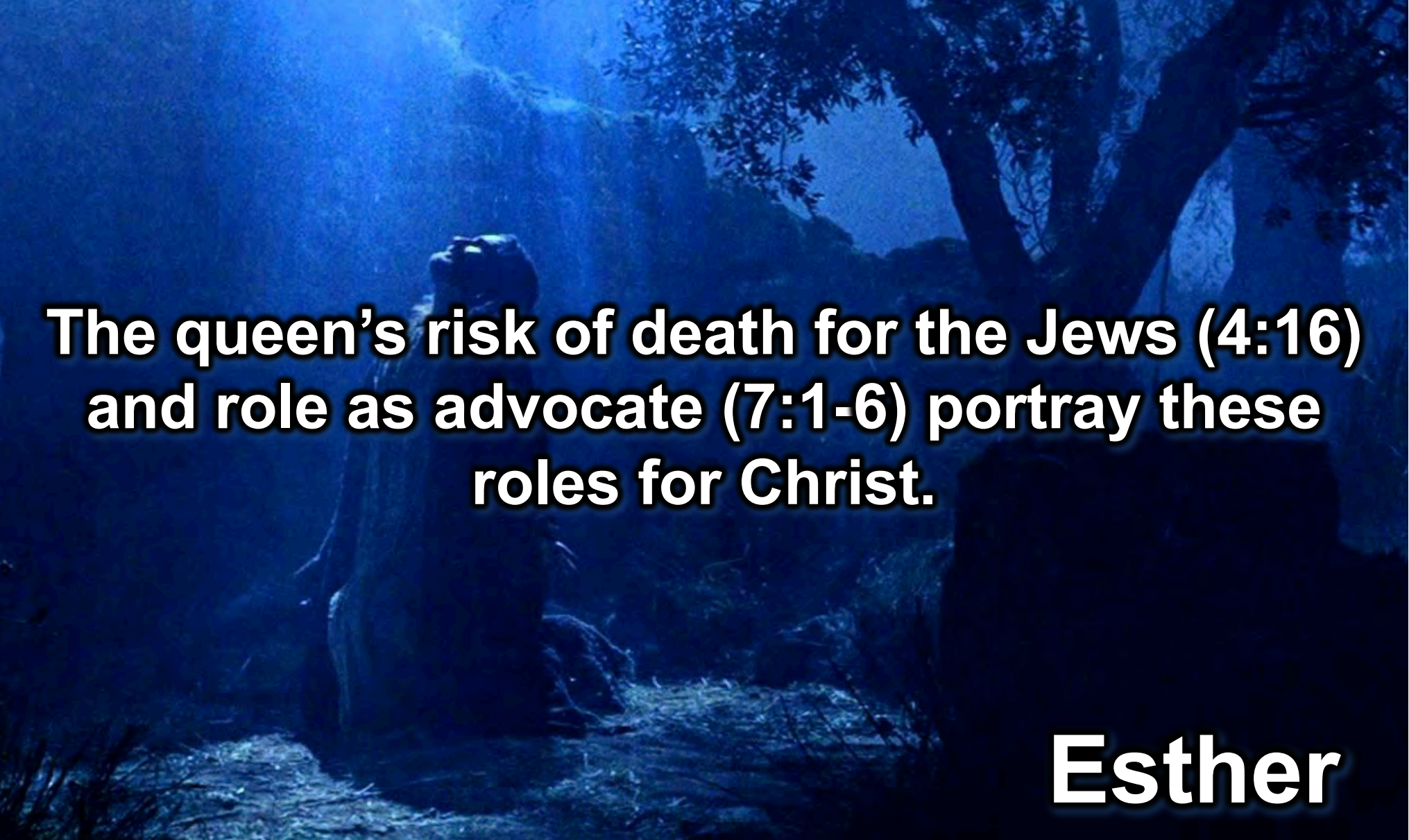
42b

A wooden cross is centered in the image, set against a dramatic sky with warm, orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of dark wood and has a metal plate at the intersection.

**All efforts to destroy God's redemptive plan
by annihilating his redemptive people Israel
will fail, as did Haman's.**

Esther

Messiah



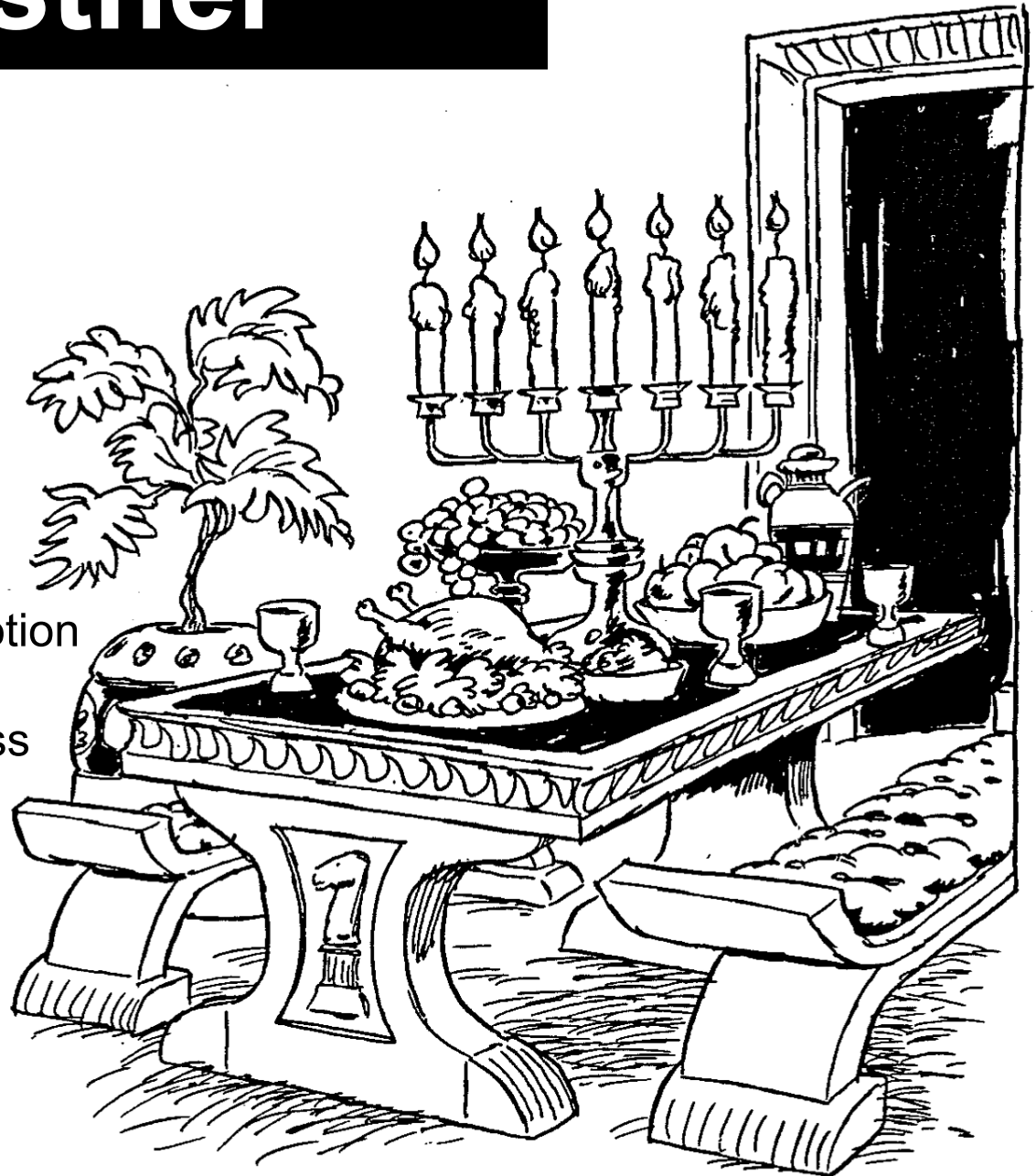
**The queen's risk of death for the Jews (4:16)
and role as advocate (7:1-6) portray these
roles for Christ.**

Esther

Plot Planned		Plot Foiled	
Chapters 1–4		Chapters 5–10	
Threat		Triumph	
Providence Prepared		Providence Enacted	
Persecution		Preservation	
Grave Danger		Great Deliverance	
Feasts of Ahasuerus		Feasts of Esther & Purim	
Esther Exalted 1:1–2:18	Haman Plots 2:19–4:17	Mordecai over Haman 5:1–8:2	Mordecai over Persia 10
Persia			
10 Years (483-473 BC)			

Esther

- 1 **P**ersian decree against Vashti
- 2 **U**ncle Mordecai saves king
- 3 **R**evenge plotted by Haman
- 4 **I**ntercession made to Esther
- 5 **M**aking dinner for Ahasuerus
- 6 **F**avor shown to Mordecai
- 7 **E**sther requests her life
- 8 **A**hasuerus gives Mordecai promotion
- 9 **S**ons of Haman hanged
- 10 **T**estimony of Mordecai's greatness





Be Committed

Esther

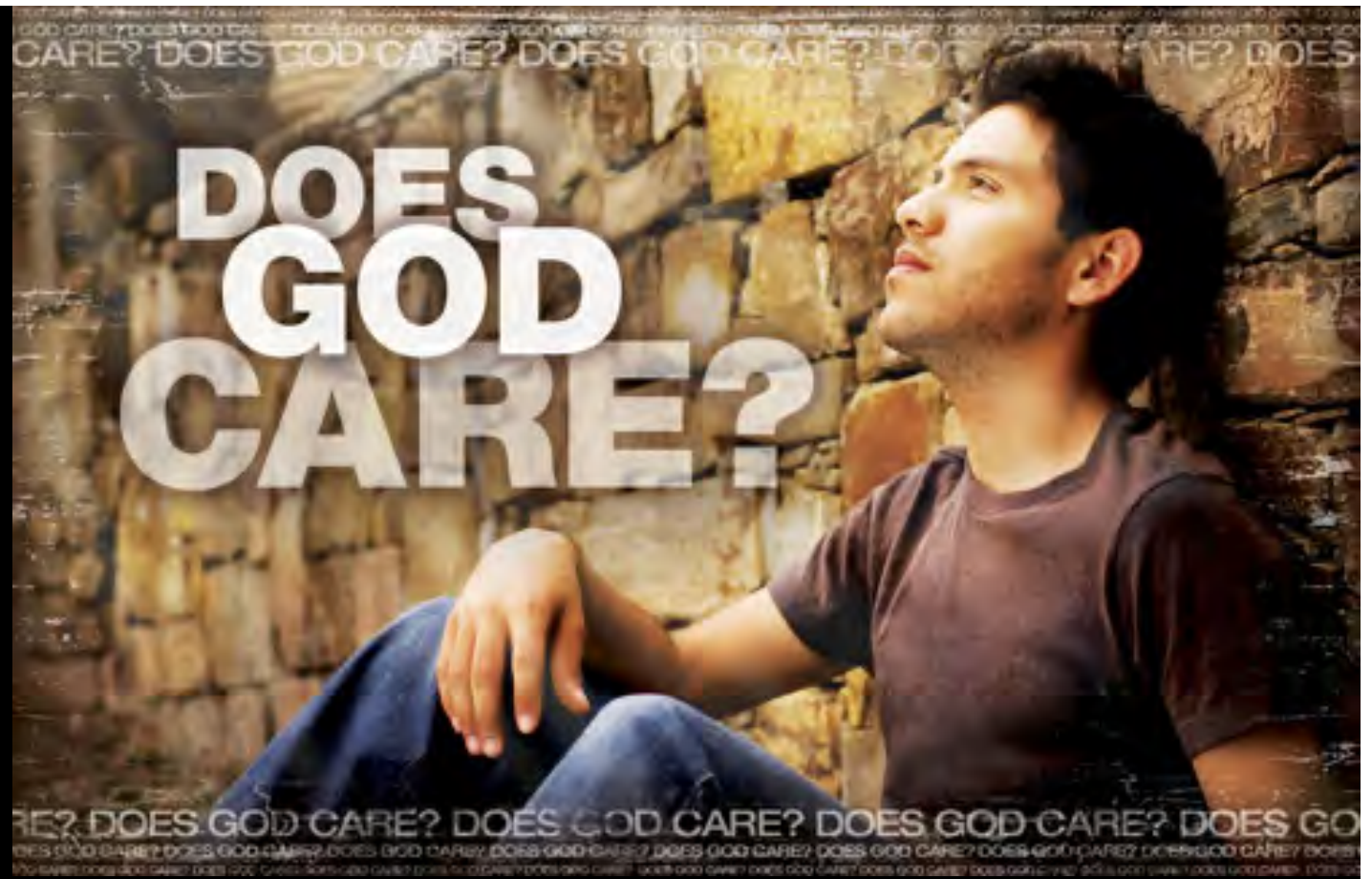
**Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org**

**The church typically has a
serious lack of commitment.**



Why is that so?

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



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

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 text "Why should you be committed to God?" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Why should you
be committed
to God?

Esther

The Postexilic Era

295
296
560

 Temple work

Prophets:

Haggai
Zechariah

Malachi

605

586

539

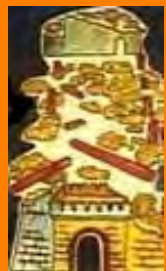
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

Cyrus

Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

The Bible's Chiasm

Repeated Patterns in Reverse Order

**Christ's
Redemption**

**Christ's
Rule**

**Man's
Rule
Lost at
Fall**

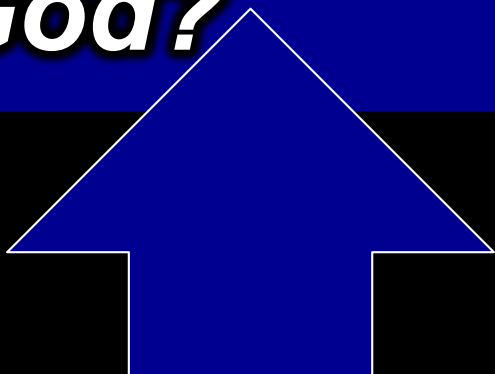
**Man's
Rule
Restored at
Millennium**

Creation

**New
Creation**



Why be committed to God?



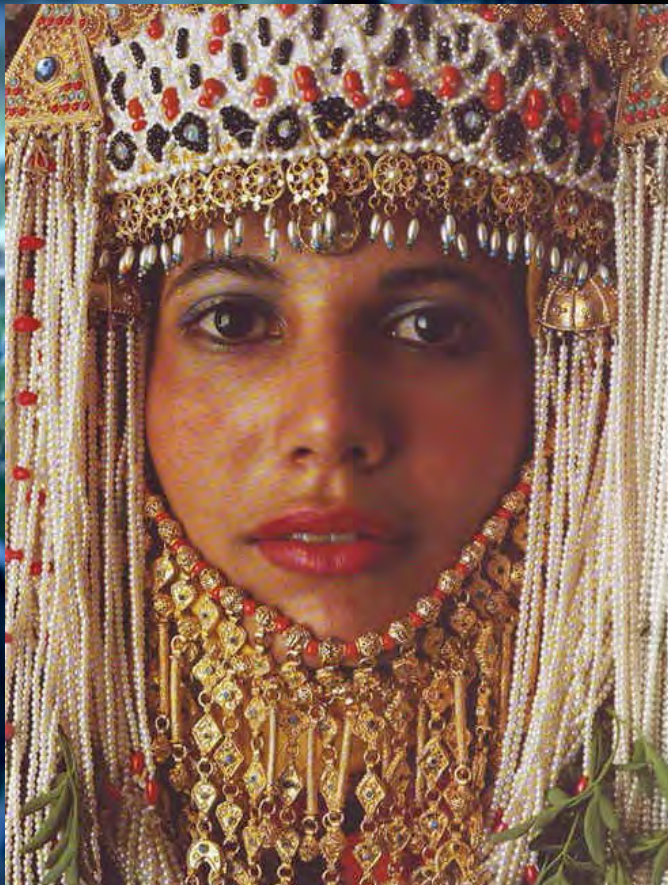
**God's work
faces **threats**
(Esther 1–4).**

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

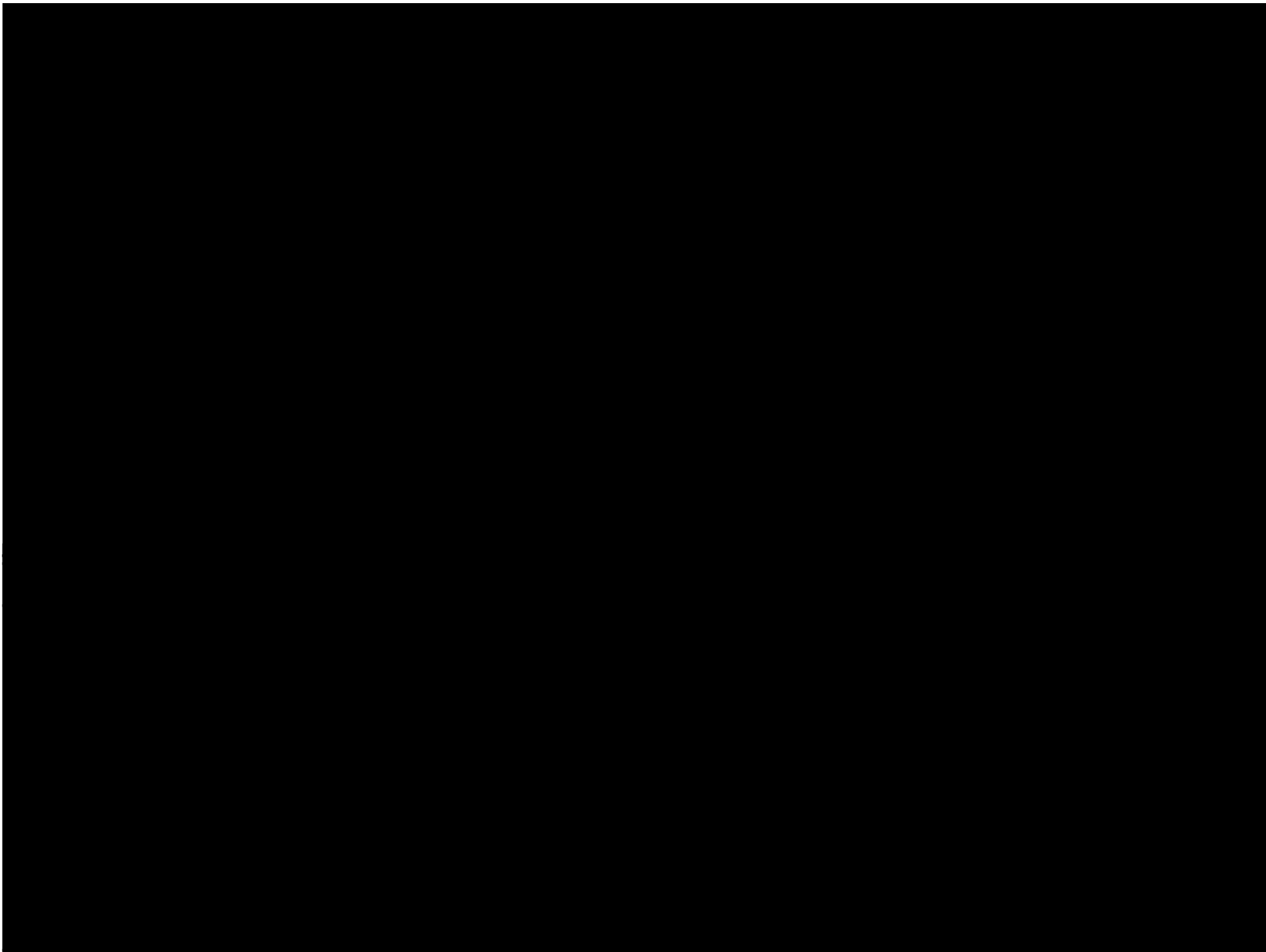
**MAIN IDEA:
Despite Satan's threats,
God will triumph.**

WHAT TO DO?

308



Use your
providentially
placed position
to help
God's people



REVIEW QUIZ on Ezra-Nehemiah

1. The book of Ezra's two main characters are _____ and _____.
2. The book of Nehemiah's two main characters are _____ and _____.
3. The book of Ezra focuses on rebuilding the _____, Nehemiah focuses on rebuilding the _____. Both deal with reforming the _____.

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2. The book of Nehemiah's two main characters are Ezra and Nehemiah.
3. The book of Ezra focuses on rebuilding the Temple, Nehemiah focuses on rebuilding the walls. Both deal with reforming the people.

**Where
does
Esther fit
in OT
history?**



Esther



Jesus

David

Abraham

Flood

Today

Kings

Church

Tribes

3	2	1	0	1	2
0	0	0		0	0
0	0	0		0	0
0	0	0		0	0

Creation

**New
Creation**

Timeline

Exodus-
1 Samuel

2 Samuel –
Esther

Jesus

Genesis

David

Abraham

Flood

Today

Kings

Church

Tribes

Creation

New
Creation

3	2	1	0	1	2
0	0	0		0	0
0	0	0		0	0
0	0	0		0	0

Kingdom Era

United
Kingdom

1050-930

Divided
Kingdom

930-722

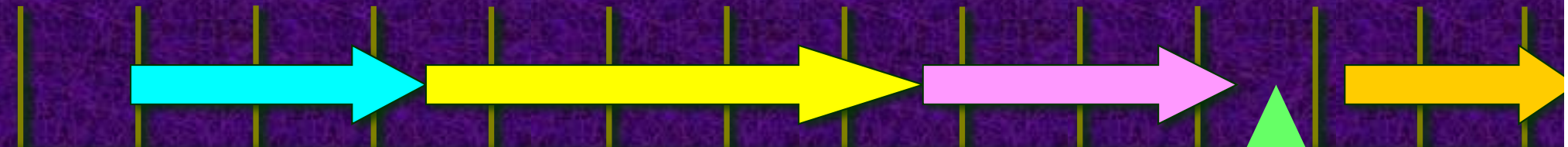
Solitary
Kingdom

722-586

Ezra-Nehemiah

Post-
Exile

536-425



1	1	1												
1	0	0	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	6		5	5	4
0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0		5	0	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0



Exile 606-536

Postexilic Era

**United
Kingdom**

1050-930

**Divided
Kingdom**

930-722

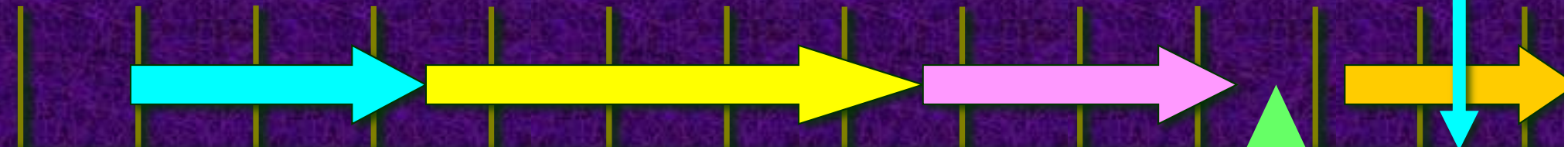
**Solitary
Kingdom**

722-586

**Post-
Exile**

536-425

Esther



1	1	1												
1	0	0	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	6		5	5	4
0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0		5	0	5
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Exile 606-536

**Where is
Esther in
the post-
exilic
period?**

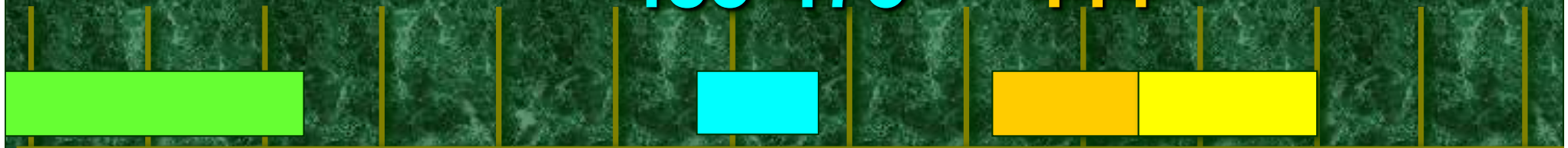


Chronology of the Returns

Zerubbabel
537-516

Nehemiah
444-430

Esther **Ezra**
483-473 **457-444**



5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4	3	2	1	0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Buddha 560-477

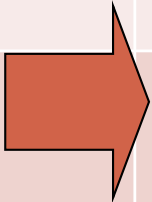
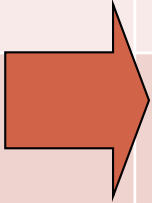
Socrates

Confucius
551-479

470-399

Plato 427-347

Nebuchadnezzar's Six Deportations to Babylon

Size	Date	King of Judah	Number taken	Key Captives	Results/ Comments
1 Minor	605 BC	Jehoiakim	Few (Dan 1:3)	Daniel, 3 friends & nobility & royalty	Tribute imposed. Egypt powerful.
2 Moderate	598 BC	Jehoiakim	3023 (Jer. 52:28)		Minor deportation
3 Major 	597 BC	Jehoiachin	10,000 (2 Kings 24:14)	Jehoiachin, Ezekiel, Mordecai	Neb. deports many; installs Zedekiah
4 Minor	587 BC	Zedekiah	832 (Jer. 52:29)		Before destruction
5 Major 	586 BC	Zedekiah	ca. 10,400 (2 Kings 25:11)	Zedekiah	Jerusalem & temple destroyed
6 Minor	582 BC		745 (Jer. 52:30)		4 years after Jerusalem's destruction

Two 70-Year Exiles

560

People Exile

605 586 539 536 516

Temple Exile

"This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for **seventy years**.¹² Then, after the **seventy years** of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins," says the Lord. I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever"
(Jeremiah 25:11-12).

Chronology of the Persian Period

313

John H. Walton, Chronological and Background Charts of the OT, 2d ed., 70

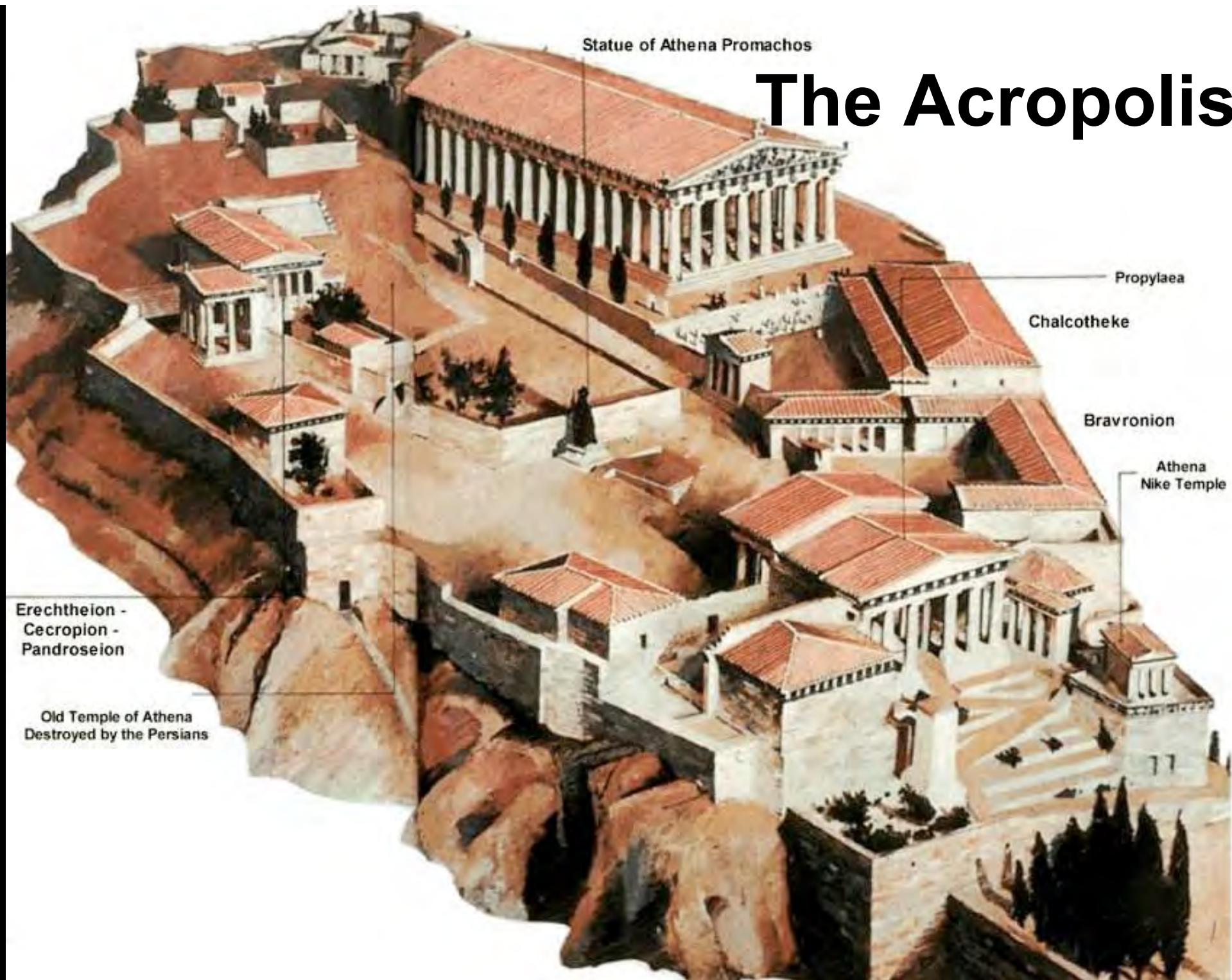
PERSIAN KING	DATES	BIBLICAL CORRELATION	GREEK CORRELATION
CYRUS	539-530	Return of Zerubbabel & Jeshua (Ezra 1–3)	
CAMBYSES	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	
DARIUS I	522-486	Haggai & Zechariah prophesy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5–6)	Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon (490)
XERXES	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1–9)	Persians defeat Greeks at Thermopylae (480) but reversed at Salamis (480), Herodotus 485-425
ARTAXERXES I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7–10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1–2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	Golden Age (461-431) Pericles (460-429) Athens rules

The Pinnacle of Greek History



**Democracy & Building the
Parthenon**

The Acropolis



A Target for Persia...



**Democracy & Building the
Parthenon**

The Acropolis Today



The Pinnacle of Greek History



**Athena (goddess of wisdom)
inside the Parthenon**

The Pinnacle of Greek History

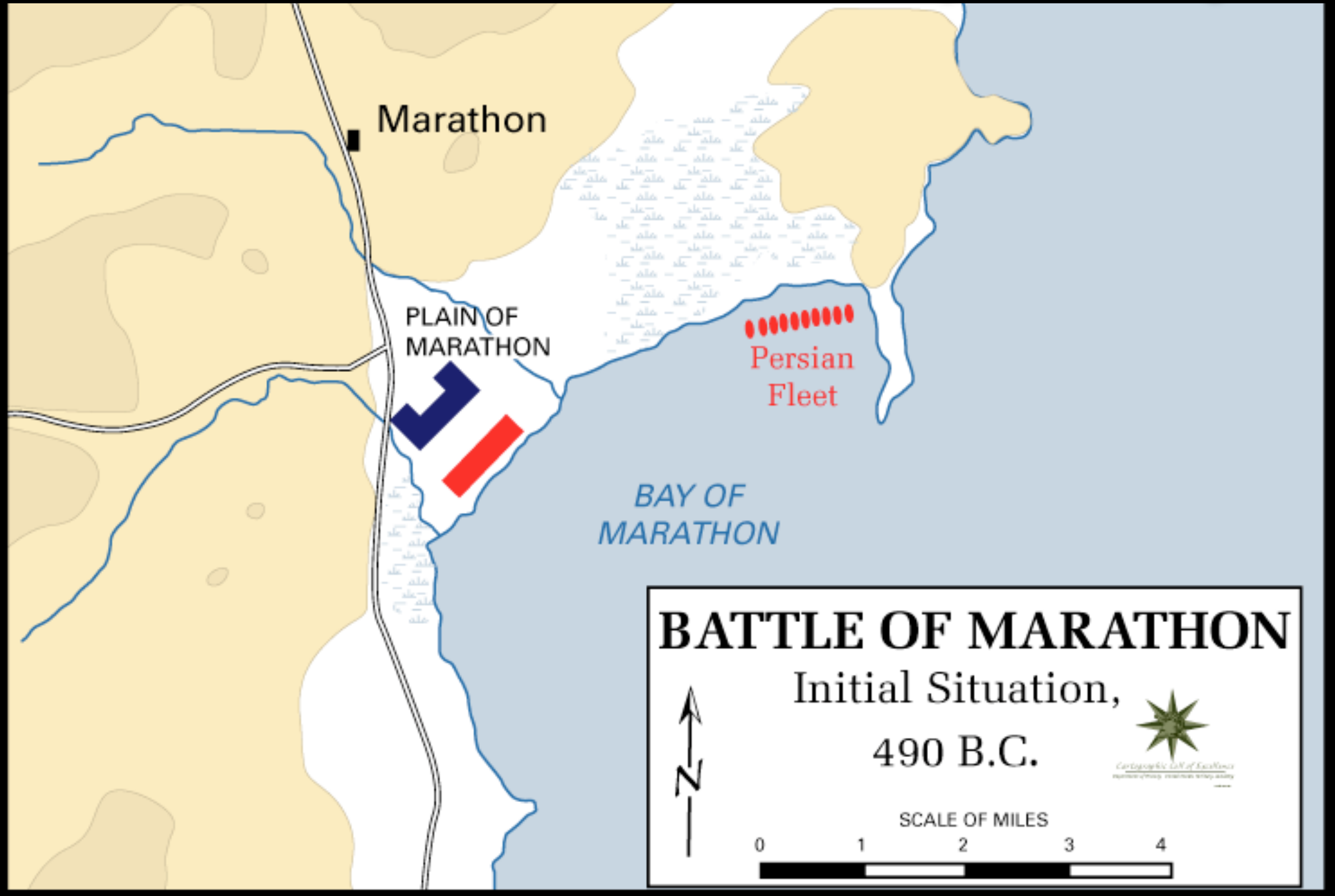


**Athena (goddess of wisdom)
inside the Parthenon**

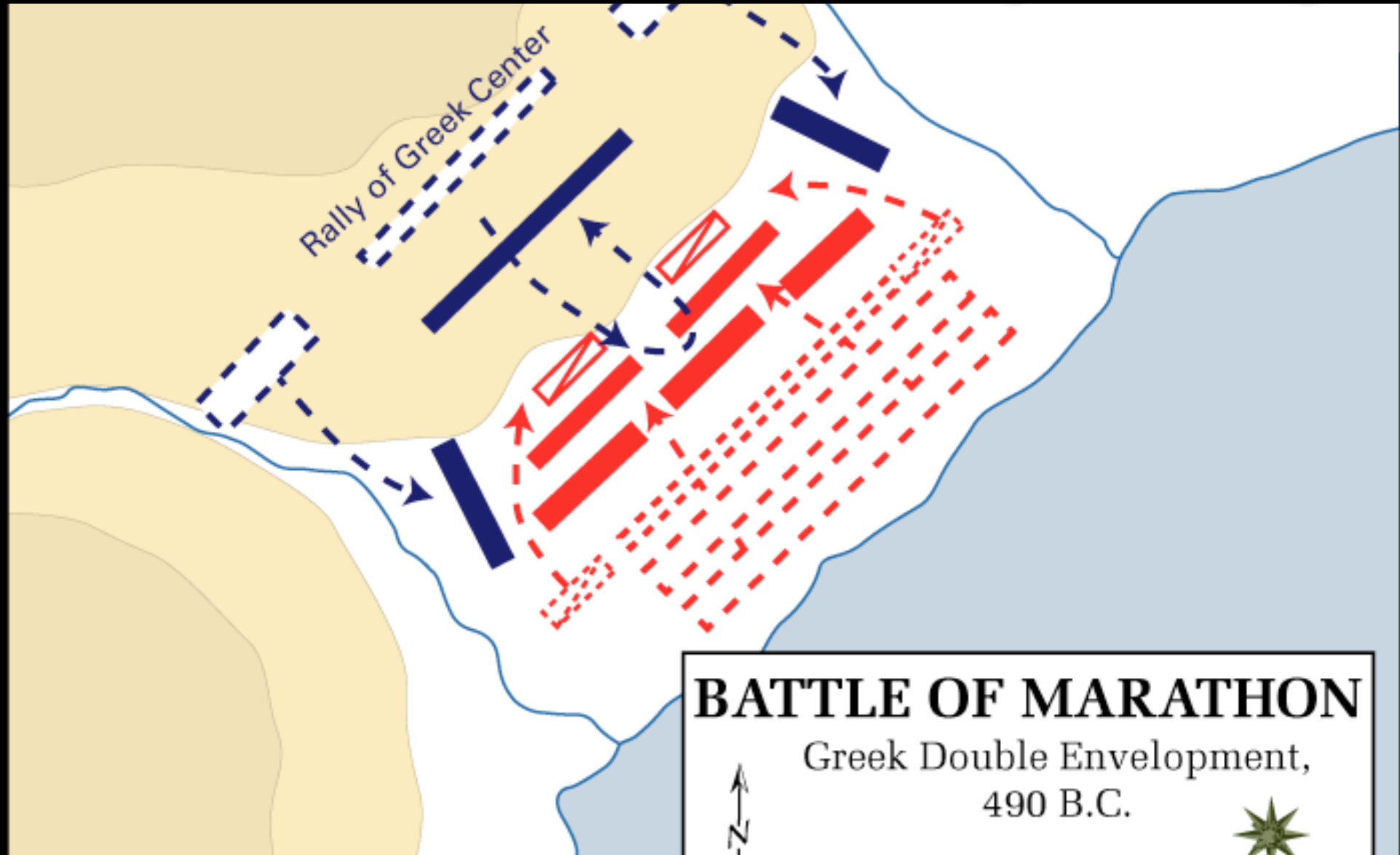
Persian Invasions of Greece (500-479 BC)



The Battle of Marathon (490 BC)



The Battle of Marathon (490 BC)



Greece defeated the Persians

The Battle of Marathon (490 BC)



The Battle of Marathon (490 BC)



Greece defeated the Persians

Persian Invasions of Greece = Frustrated Xerxes

Greeks
defeat
Persians
at
Marathon
(490)



Xerxes
7-day
banquet
where Queen
Vashti
deposed
(483)



Persians
defeat
Greeks at
Thermopylae
but reversed
at Salamis
(Sept 480)



Book of Esther 483-473

4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7
0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	9	8	7

Darius
522-486

Xerxes
486-464

The Battle of Thermopylae (480 BC)

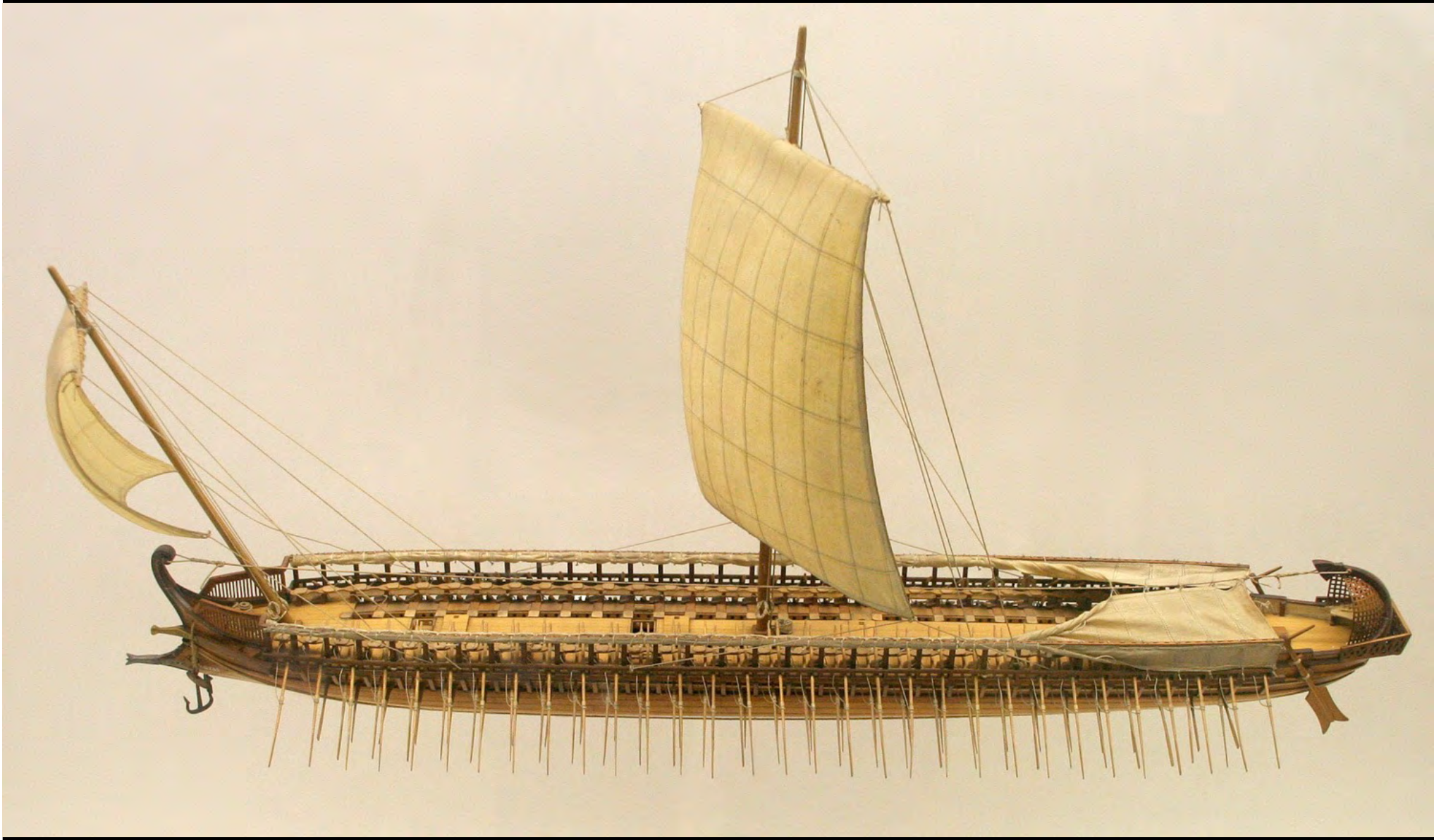
**Persian Victory
Thermopylae**



**Bay of Salamis
Greek Victory**



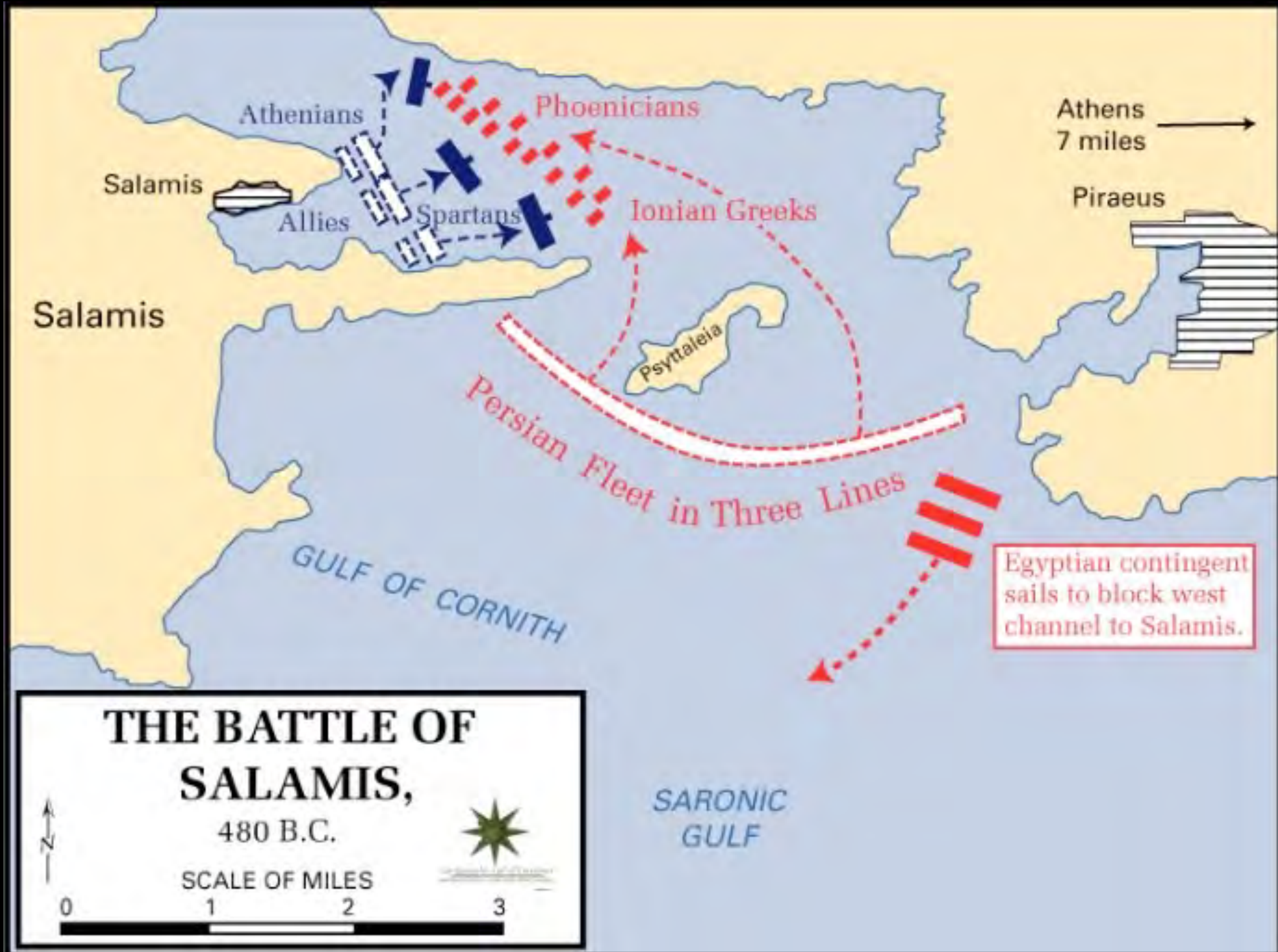
The Greek Trireme



Small but fast and deadly

The Battle of Salamis (480 BC)





The Battle of Salamis (480 BC)



**Casualties: Greeks lost 40 ships
Persians: 200-300. Victory at Salamis
ended Xerxes' invasion and preserved
Greek freedom**

Persian Invasions of Greece = Frustrated Xerxes

Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon (490)	Xerxes began to reign at Susa (486)	Xerxes 187 days of banquets where Queen Vashti deposed (483)	Persians defeat Greeks at Thermopylae but reversed at Salamis (Sept 480)	Esther became queen after a 4-year beauty contest (Dec 480 or Jan 479)
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Book of Esther 483-473

4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7
0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	9	8	7

**Darius
522-486**

**Xerxes
486-464**

Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

232 & 342

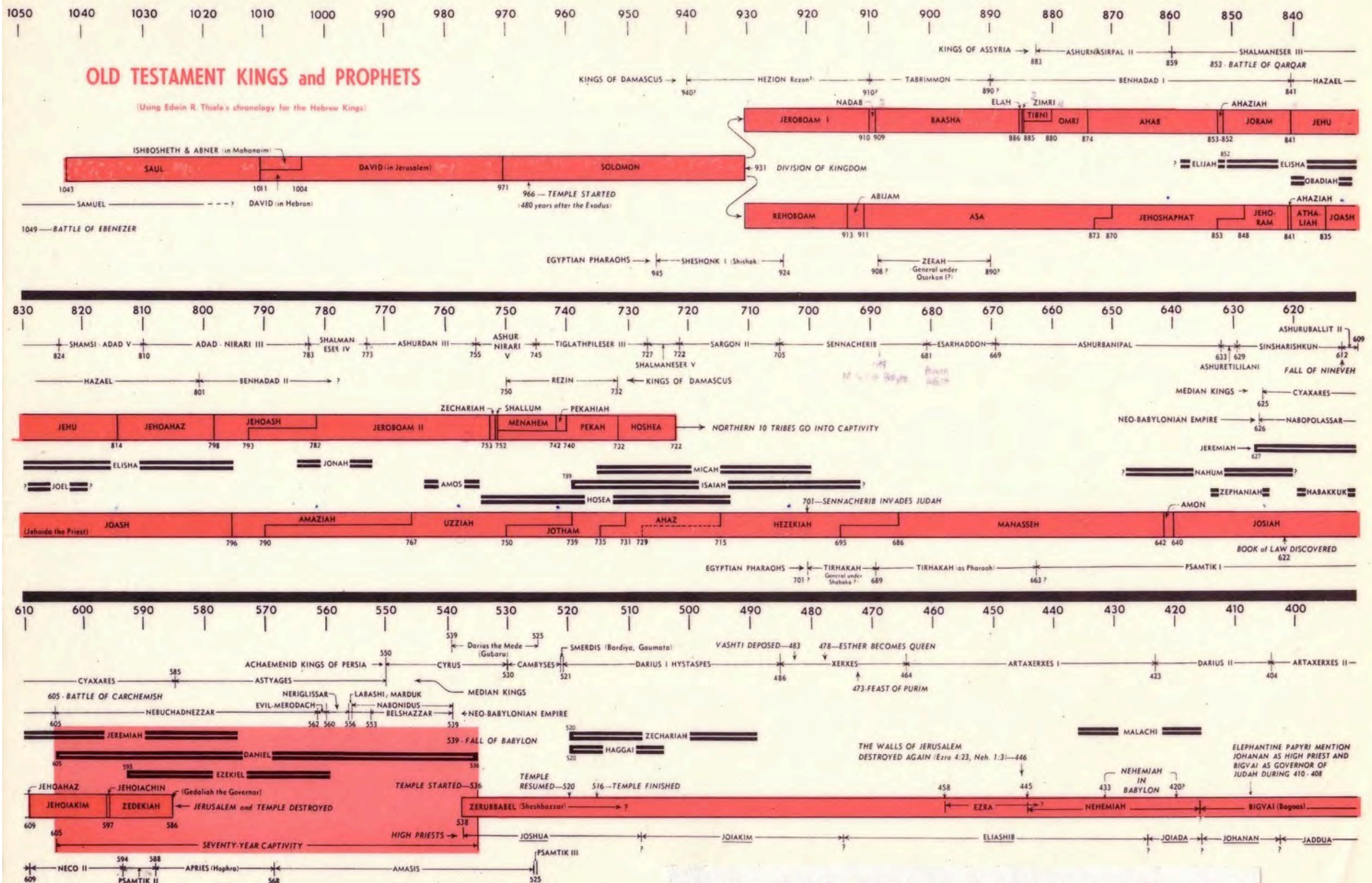


Chart of Old Testament Kings and Prophets

(John C. Whitcomb, 4th rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968, p. 2)

Chart of OT Postexilic Era 232 & 342

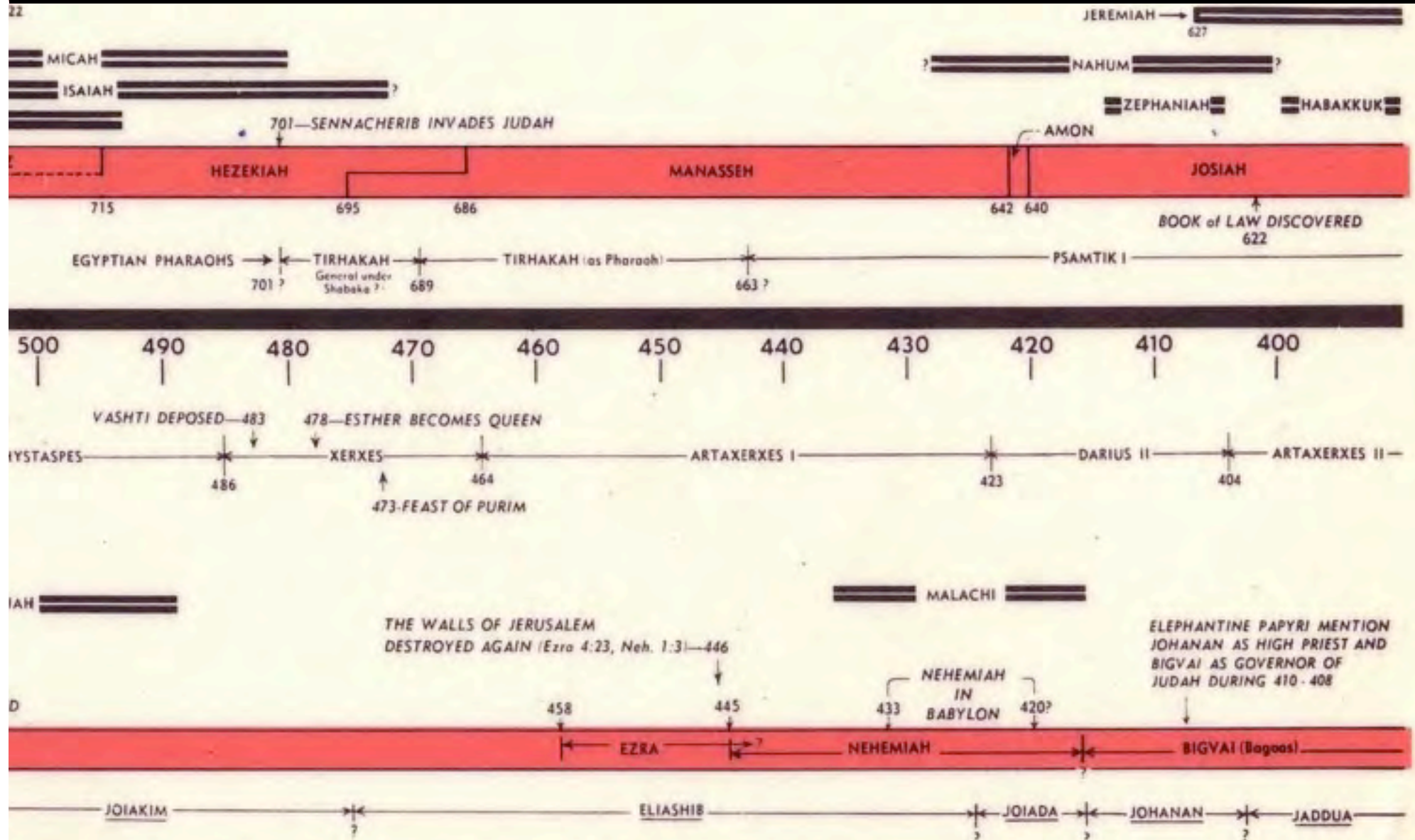
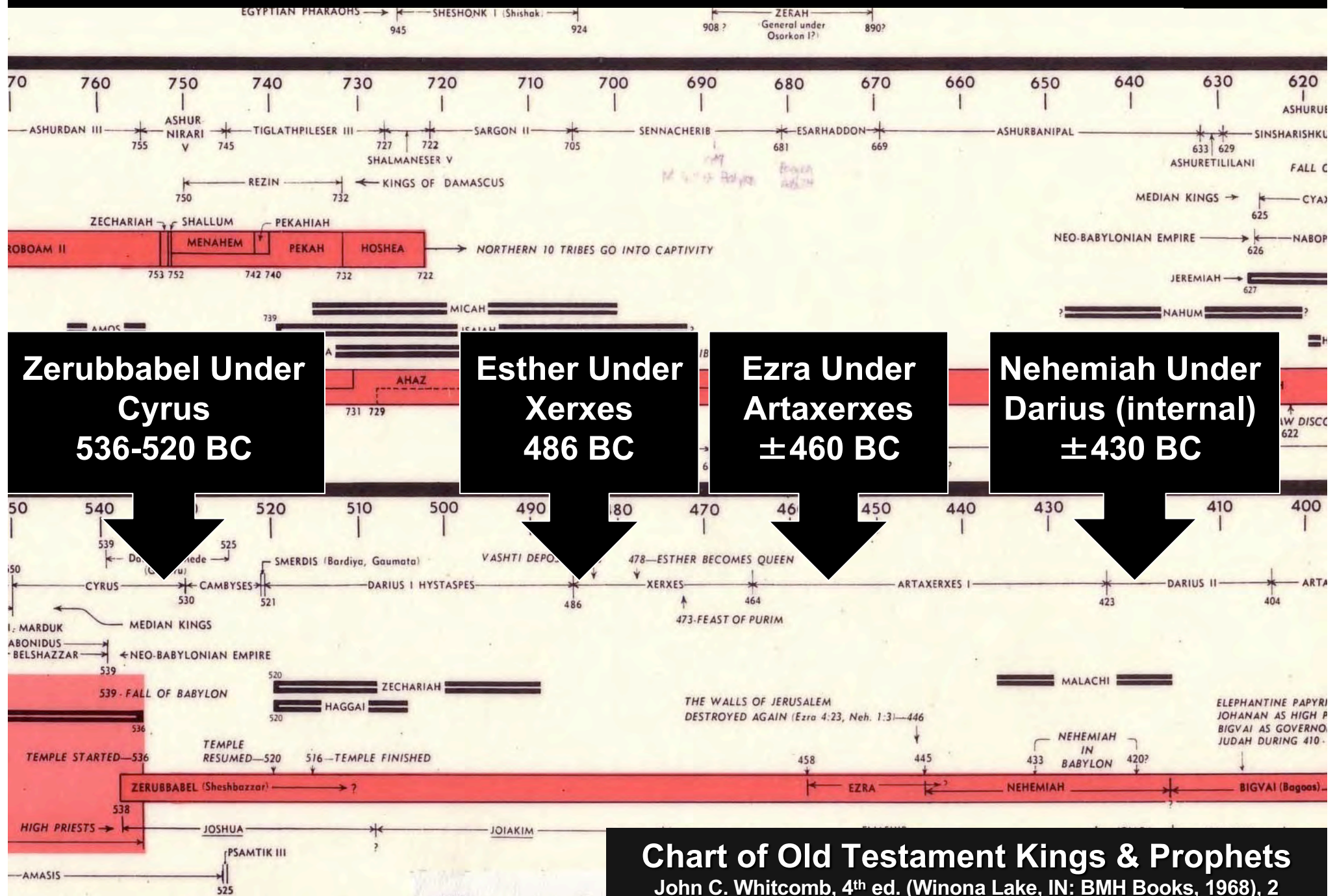


Chart of Old Testament Kings and Prophets

(John C. Whitcomb, 4th rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968, p. 2)

Opposition Timeline (Ezra 4; Esther 1; Neh 13)

232
342



Later Postexilic Era (Ezra 7–10; Neh 1–13)

232
342

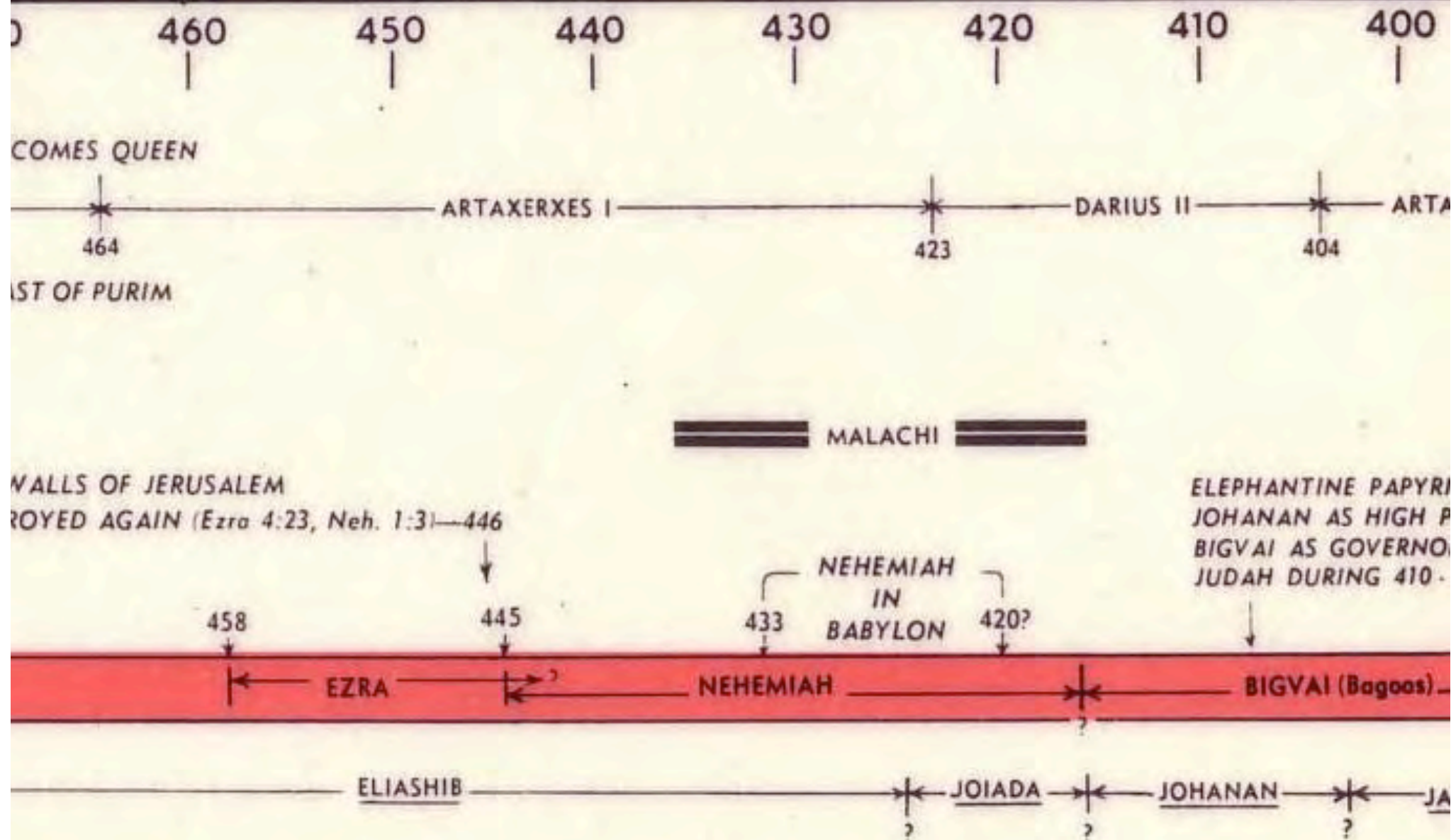


Chart of Old Testament Kings & Prophets

John C. Whitcomb, 4th ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2

Key Dates Related to the Book of Esther

314

Reference	Date	Event
—	486	<i>Xerxes' reign began</i>
1:3	483 (3rd year of Xerxes)	<i>Xerxes 7-day banquet for his nobles & officials where Queen Vashti was deposed</i>
—	482-479	<i>Xerxes led disastrous campaigns against Greece, esp. at navy Battle of Salamis (480); recorded by Greek historian Herodotus (7.8)</i>
2:16	Dec 479 or Jan 478	<i>Esther became queen after a 4-year beauty contest</i>
3:7	Early April 474	<i>In the 5th year of Esther's reign, Haman & the astrologers (5:10, 14; 6:12-13) cast the pur (lot) to determine the day to exterminate the Jews 11 months later (7 March 473)</i>
3:12	April 17, 474 (13th of Nisan)	<i>Xerxes' 1st edict (to destroy the Jews) informed everyone of the fateful day; royal secretaries wrote it out in the various languages of the empire</i>

Part 1: Feasts & Jews Threatened

- A. Greatness of King Xerxes (1:1-4)**
- B. Feasts of King & Queens (1:5–2:18)**
- C. Mordecai Averts King's Death (2:21-23)**
- D. Promotion of Haman (3:1-6)**
- E. Haman's Plot & Letters (3:7-15)**
- F. Mordecai & Esther's Risky Appeal (4:1–5:4)**

Part 2: Mordecai Honored/Haman Hanged

G. Esther's 1st Banquet for King & Haman (5:5-8)

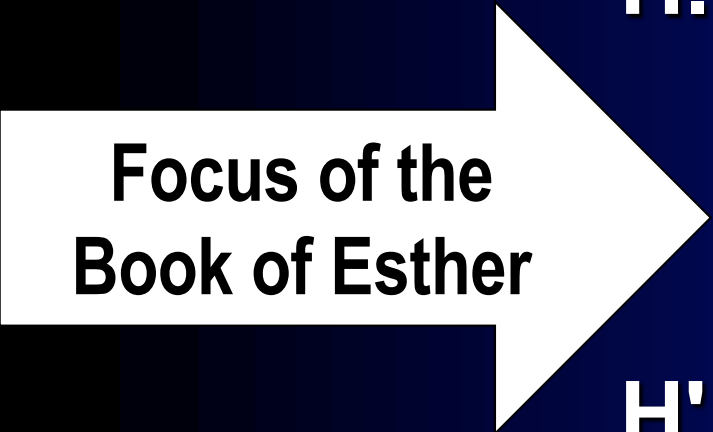
H. Words of Haman's Wife & Friends (5:9-14)

I. Mordecai Honored by Haman (6:1-11)

H'. Words of Haman's Wife & Friends (6:12-14)

G'. Esther's 2nd Banquet for King & Haman (7:1–8:2)

F'. Esther's Risky Appeal (8:3-7)



**Focus of the
Book of Esther**

Part 3: Jews Saved & Feasts

E'. Haman's Plot Foiled & Mordecai's Letters (8:8-17)

D'. Promotion of Mordecai (8:15-11)

C'. Mordecai & Esther Save Jews (9:1-19)

B'. Feasts Ordered by Mordecai & Esther (9:20-32)

A'. Greatness of Mordecai (10:1-3)

External Evidence

- Jewish discussions about Esther have concerned several other issues more than authorship, which remains anonymous.
- Parallel passages & opinions of the Church & Synagogue on authorship have not been significant.

Internal Evidence

- Since the book gives no hint who wrote it, one can only guess his identity.
- The account shows such detail of Persian & Jewish life that the author must have been both Jewish & well acquainted with Persian ways.
- Some suggest Ezra, Nehemiah, or Mordecai.
- However, no one really knows who wrote the book.

Date

Since the events of the book close at 473 BC, it is reasonable to presume a composition date shortly after this—perhaps after Xerxes' reign (ending in 464 BC) but no later than 435 BC when the palace at Susa was destroyed by fire, a significant event not mentioned in Esther.

Recipients

- Esther's 1st readers constituted the postexilic communities during the time of Nehemiah & Malachi & the intertestamental period
- These providential dealings of God on their behalf would have been a tremendous source of encouragement to both Jews in Persia as well as Jews living in Israel.

- The events of Esther chronicle 10 years of the 58 year gap between Ezra 6 (516 BC) & Ezra 7 (458 BC).
- This story from 483-473 BC between the first return under Zerubbabel (538 BC) and the second under Ezra (458 BC).



- **Without Esther the Scripture would remain silent as to the state of the majority of post-exilic Jews who chose to remain in Babylon when a small remnant of their brothers returned to the land.**
- **The Books of Ezra & Nehemiah assert God's providential care over the small remnant that returned, while Esther reveals that God even graciously cared for these spiritually indifferent Jews whose priorities needed rearranging.**



Characteristics

A. Historicity

Esther has eyewitness accounts of the Persian Empire, of which little has been verified from outside sources. Only recently has Ahasuerus been identified with Xerxes who reigned over Persia from 485-465 BC.

- B. Canonicity:** The usefulness of Esther has long been debated. Maimonides taught that when the Messiah comes, every book of the Jewish Scriptures would pass away but the Law & Esther, which would remain forever. However, Martin Luther wished the book had never been written because of its many problems.
- The reasons for differing opinions on the book stem from many unique characteristics:
1. The name of God is never mentioned in the book.
 2. Esther is never quoted in the NT nor found in the Dead Sea Scrolls.
 3. It never mentions the Law or sacrifices or offerings.
 4. It never refers to prayer.
 5. The book mentions nothing spiritual.
 6. Its unique literary type has caused it to be placed within different sections in various collections of OT books.

Characteristics

C. Placement:

- Esther is the only OT book on the Jews outside of the land during the times of the Gentiles (586 BC until the return of Christ).
- This may explain why it appears as the last historical book in English Bibles, for while it precedes Nehemiah chronologically, the same conditions in the book continue during the time of the Gentiles until the deliverance of the Jews at the return of Christ.



Characteristics

D. Lessons: The Book of Esther teaches many principles like:

- 1. Satan's purpose is to destroy the Jews by use of the nations.**
- 2. God's purpose is to preserve the Jews by use of the nations.**
- 3. God works in the affairs of nations to accomplish His will to preserve His people.**
- 4. God works in the affairs of individuals to accomplish His will to preserve His people.**



Interpretive Approaches

1. *Prophetical*—Esther predicts that the Jews will be preserved while outside of the land during the times of the Gentiles.

Response: Nothing is mentioned of the "times of the Gentiles" & the account is presented in a straightforward manner as history.

2. *Allegorical*—Esther is the story of mankind.

Response: This is ambiguous & the account is presented in a straightforward manner as historical narrative.

Interpretive Approaches

3. *Typical*—Esther is a divinely intended illustration of the Christian experience in the Church Age or a type of the Millennium.

Response: While this is an ingenious view, it fails in that it reads the NT back into the OT.

Historical—Esther records God's providential care of His chosen people as evidence of His commitment to the Abrahamic Covenant. The following "Argument" section will demonstrate this to be the best option.

Title

Esther (אֶסְתֵּר, 'ester) is a Persian name derived from the Persian word for "star." The meaning is fitting since Esther is the star of this book which bears her name. Her Hebrew name, Hadassah, means "myrtle(-tree)".

Argument



- Esther records how a plot to exterminate the entire Jewish population is averted by God's providential workings through the godly Jewess, Queen Esther.
- It cites the threat to the Jews (chs. 1–4) & the triumph of the Jews over the very ones who threatened their existence (chs. 5–10).
- Chapter 9 celebrates the preservation of the nation in the Feast of Purim, which serves as an annual reminder of God's faithfulness to His people.

Spiritual Elements in Esther

No Law

No Sacrifices, No Temple

No Witnessing of God

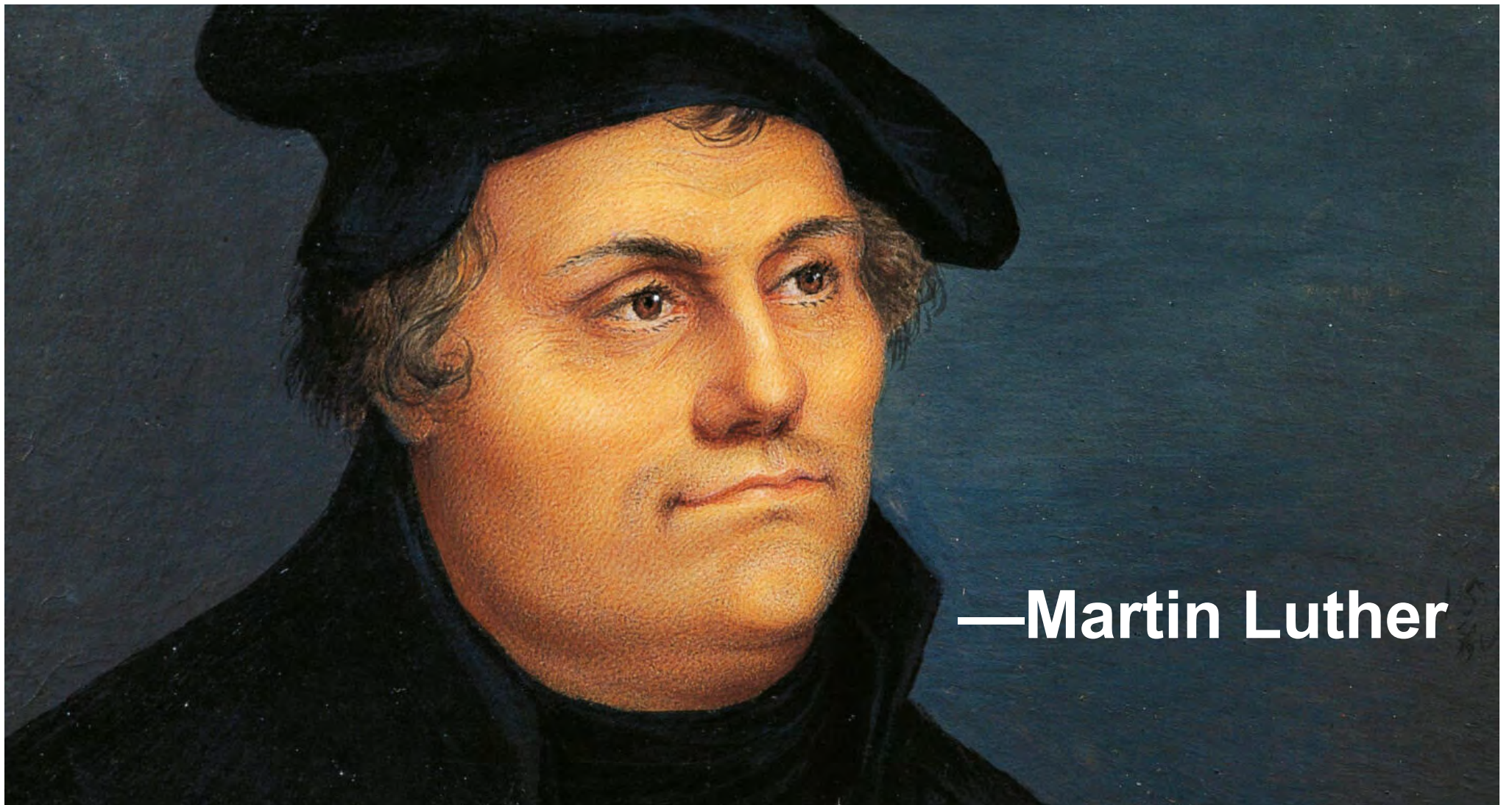
No Land of Israel, No Jerusalem

No Prayer or Seeking God

No Love, No Forgiveness

No Mention of God Himself!

= No Spiritual Elements at All!



—Martin Luther

"I am so great an enemy to the second book of the Maccabees, and to Esther, that I wish they had not come to us at all, for they have too many heathen unnaturalities."

**What does the lack of any
spiritual elements communicate?**

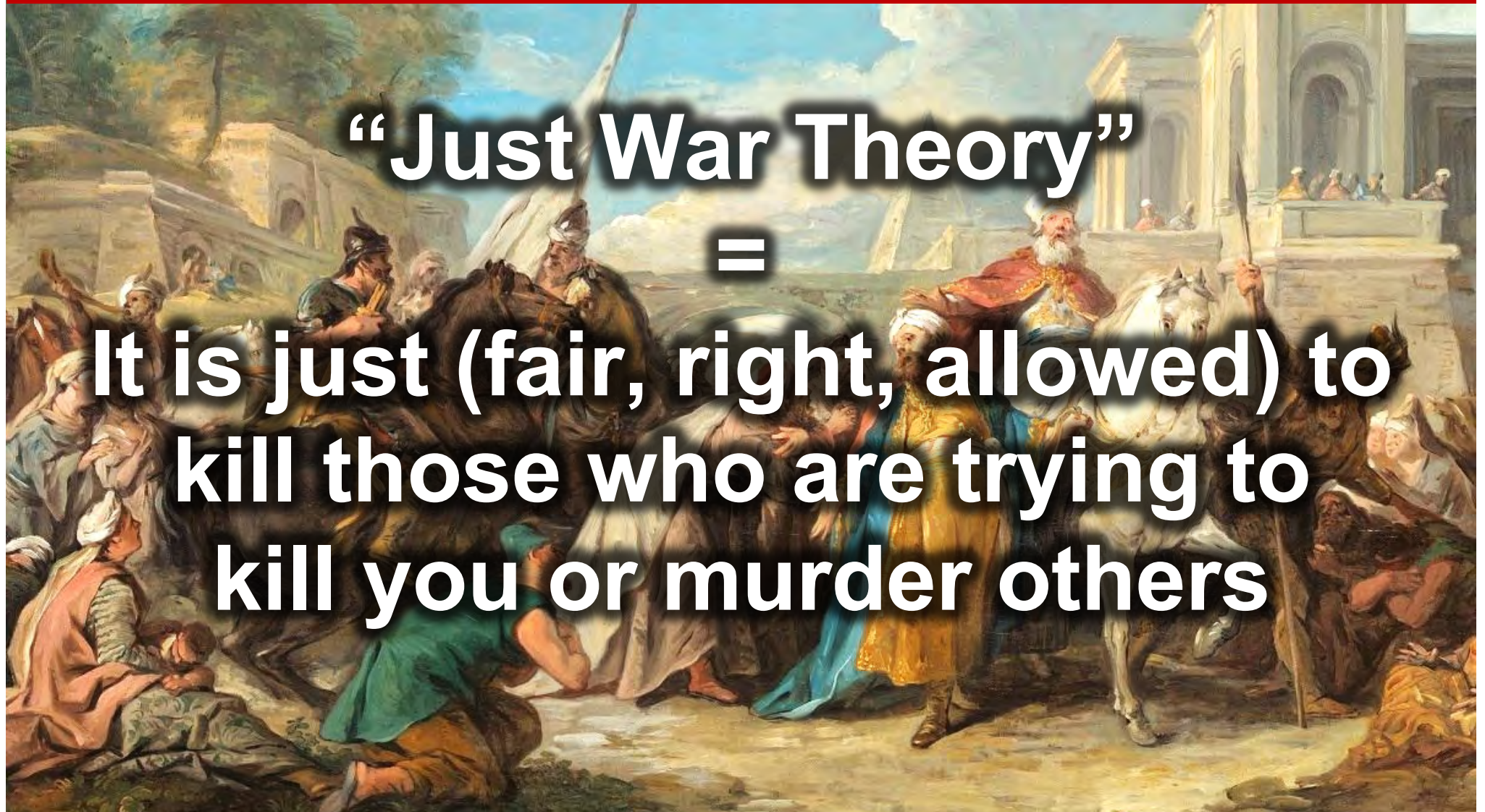
**God is
very silent but
very present**



Esther Crowned (2:17)



Was killing their enemies just?





Be Committed

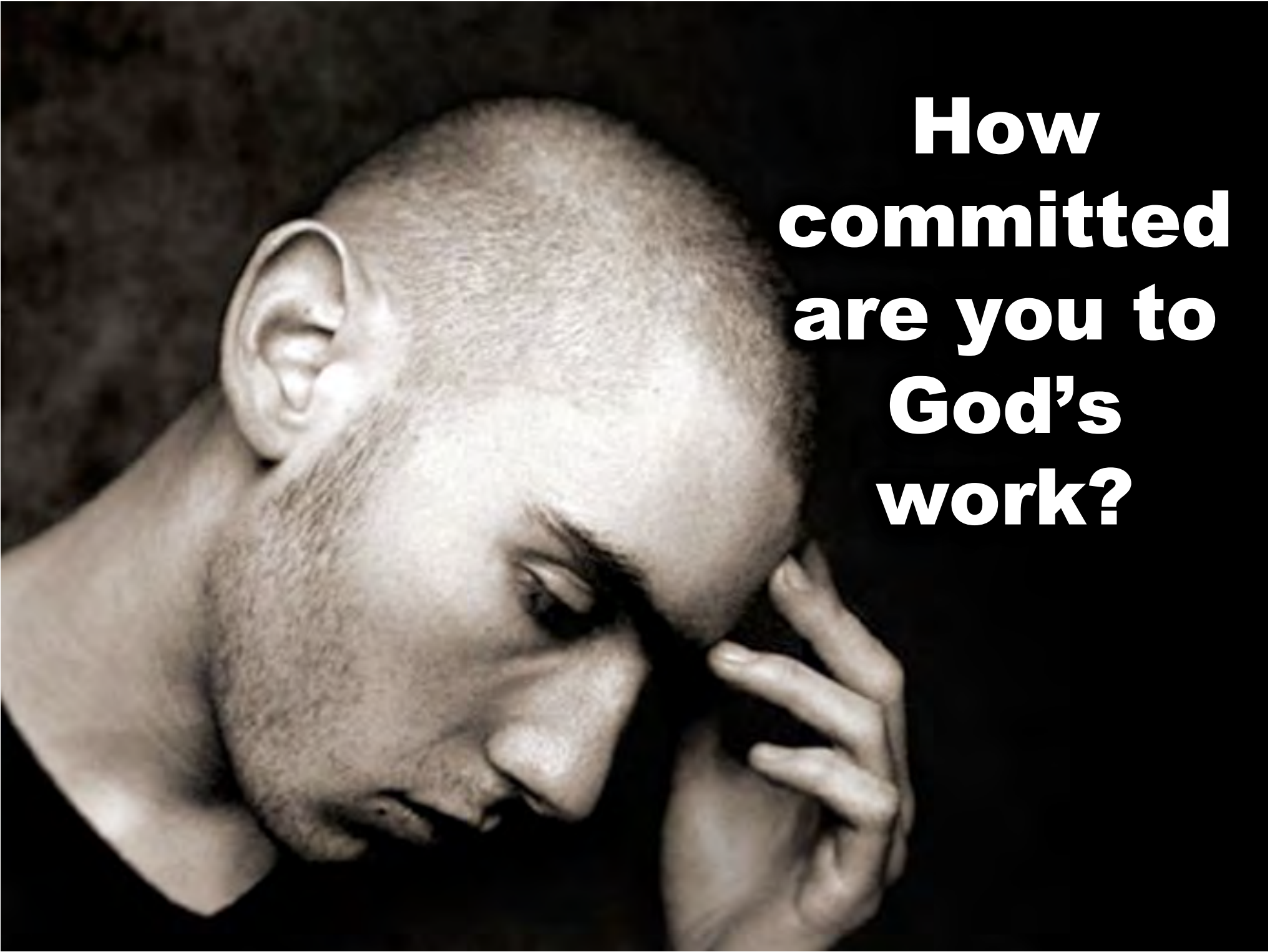
Esther

**Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org**

**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

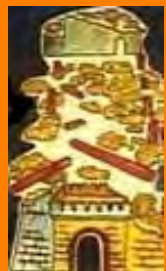
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

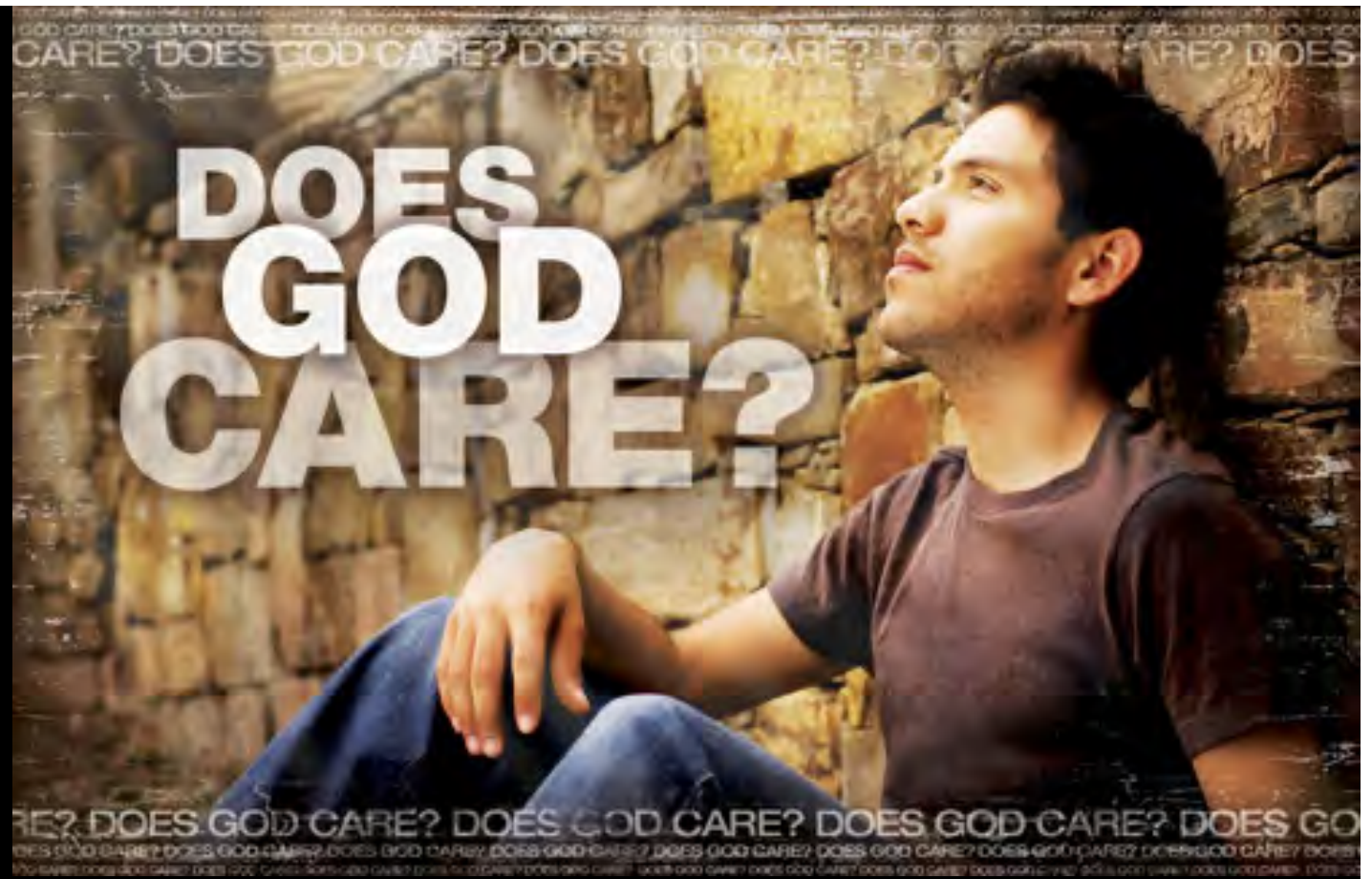
Cyrus

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)



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

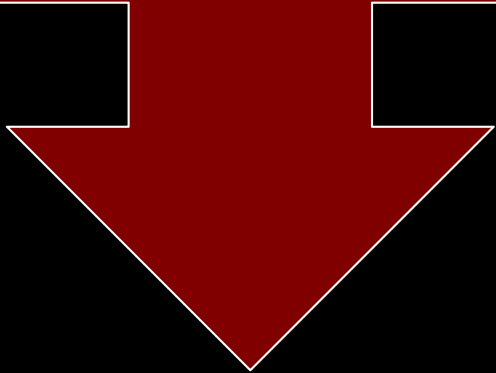
A man in a black t-shirt and dark pants stands with his arms crossed on a rocky outcrop. To his left is a large, ornate cross with intricate carvings. The background is a dramatic sky with blue and white clouds. The overall tone is inspirational and religious.

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

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**

King Xerxe's Unreasonable Command to Queen Vashti



Vashti Upset



Rise of Esther

Confusion 1-2

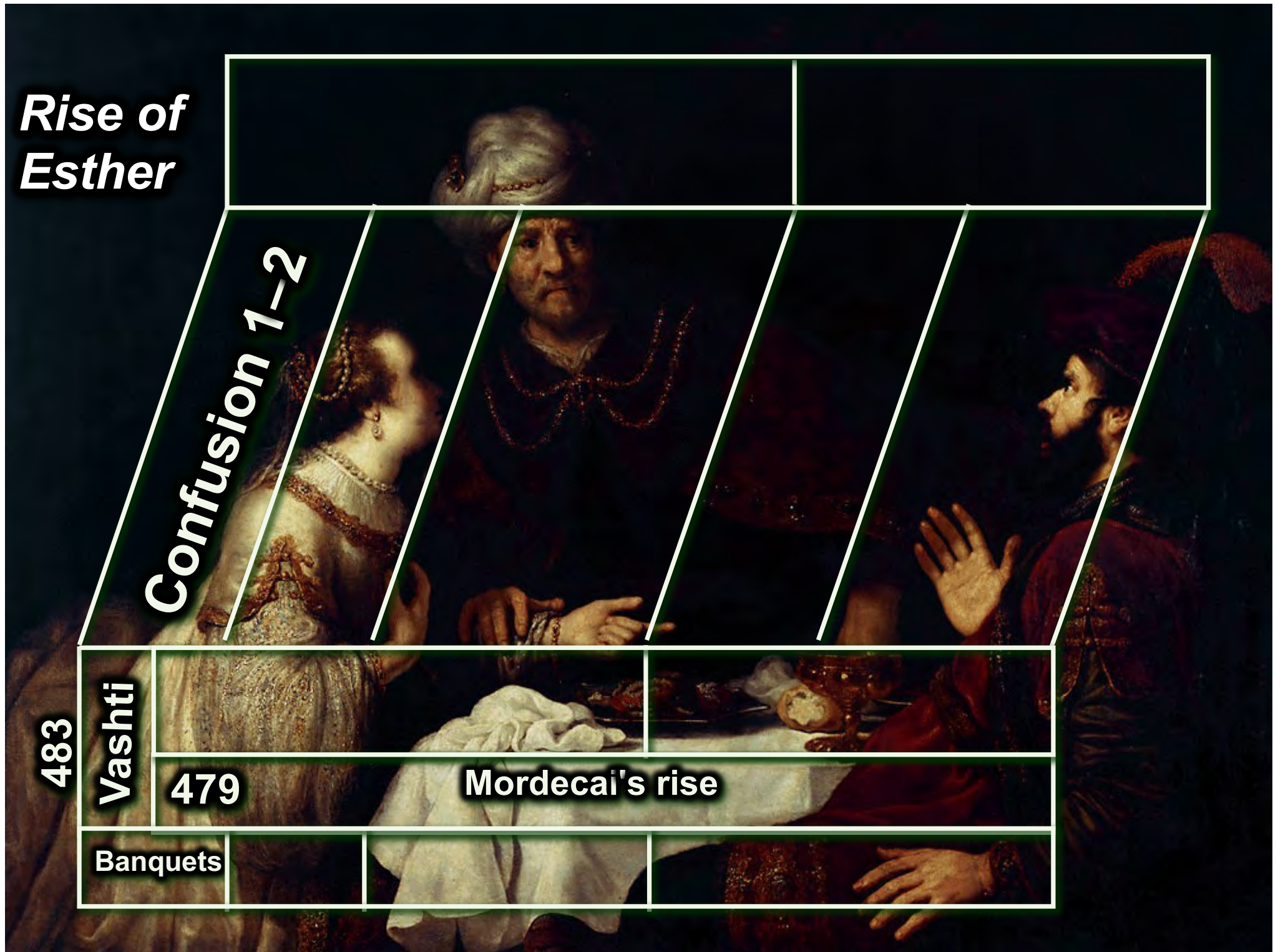
483

Vashti

479

Mordecai's rise

Banquets



Outline

311-312

- I. 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 1–4) .



Esther 2

The Beauty Contest



The Beauty Contest



Mordecai the Jew (Esther 2:5)



**Mordecai's
Young Cousin
Esther (2:7)**





Mordecai Counsels Esther (2:10)



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)

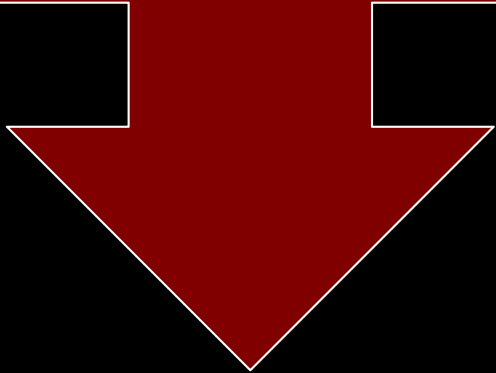
"For if you remain silent at this time, relief & deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you & your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"
(Esther 4:14).

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.

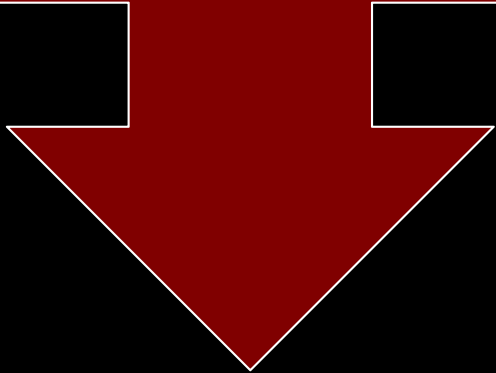


Crossroads

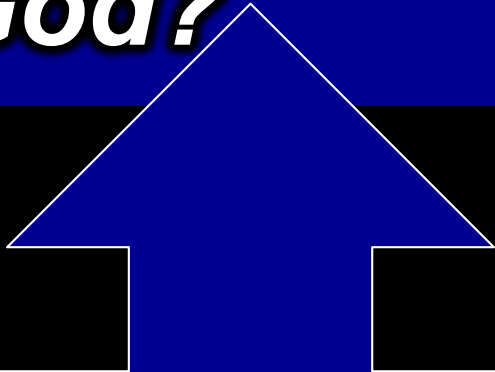


Why be committed to God?

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



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



- I. 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 1–4) .

- II. 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 5–10) .



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)



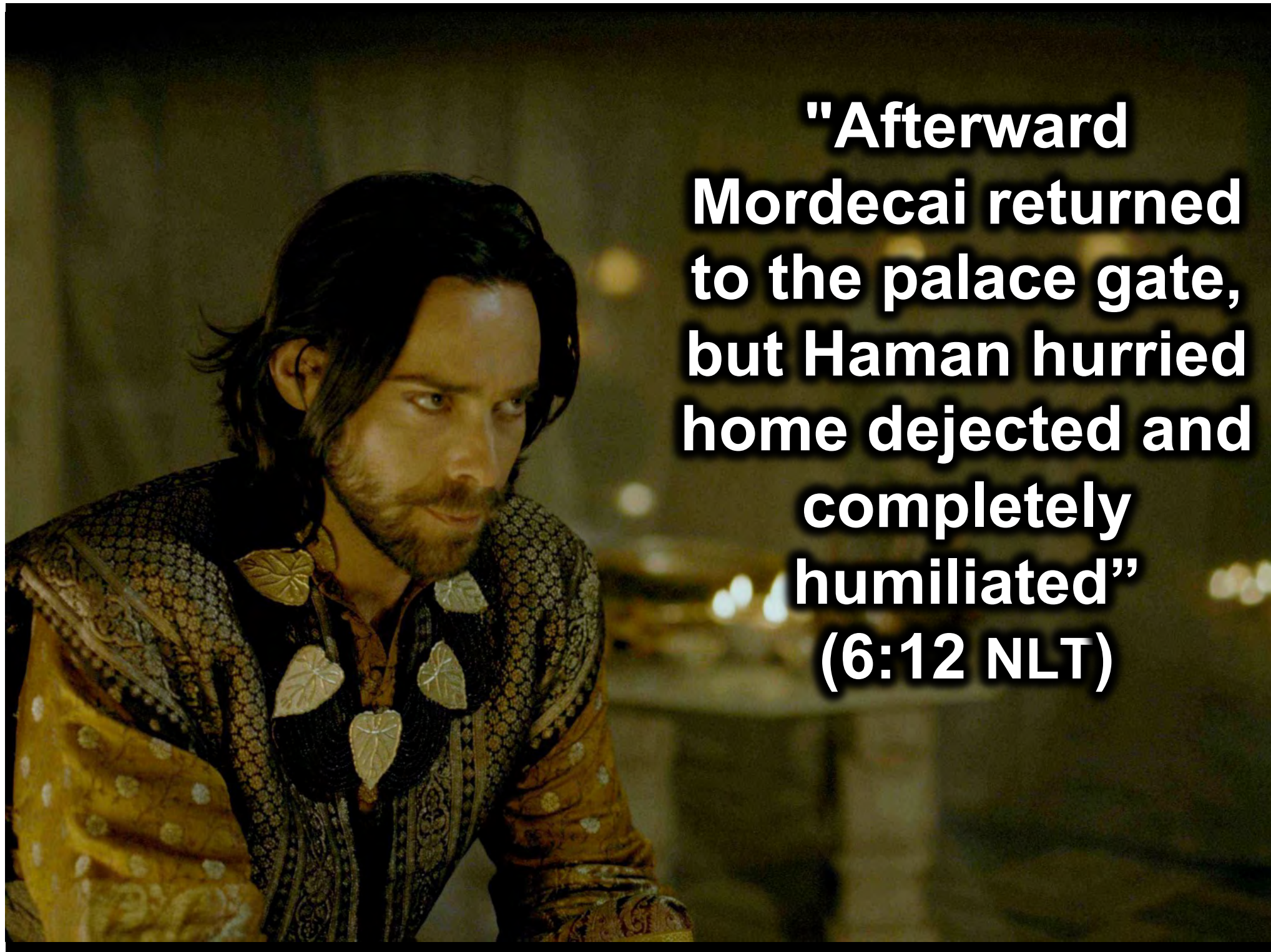
"a **sharpened pole**...
seventy-five feet
tall"

(5:14 NLT)

Esther 6

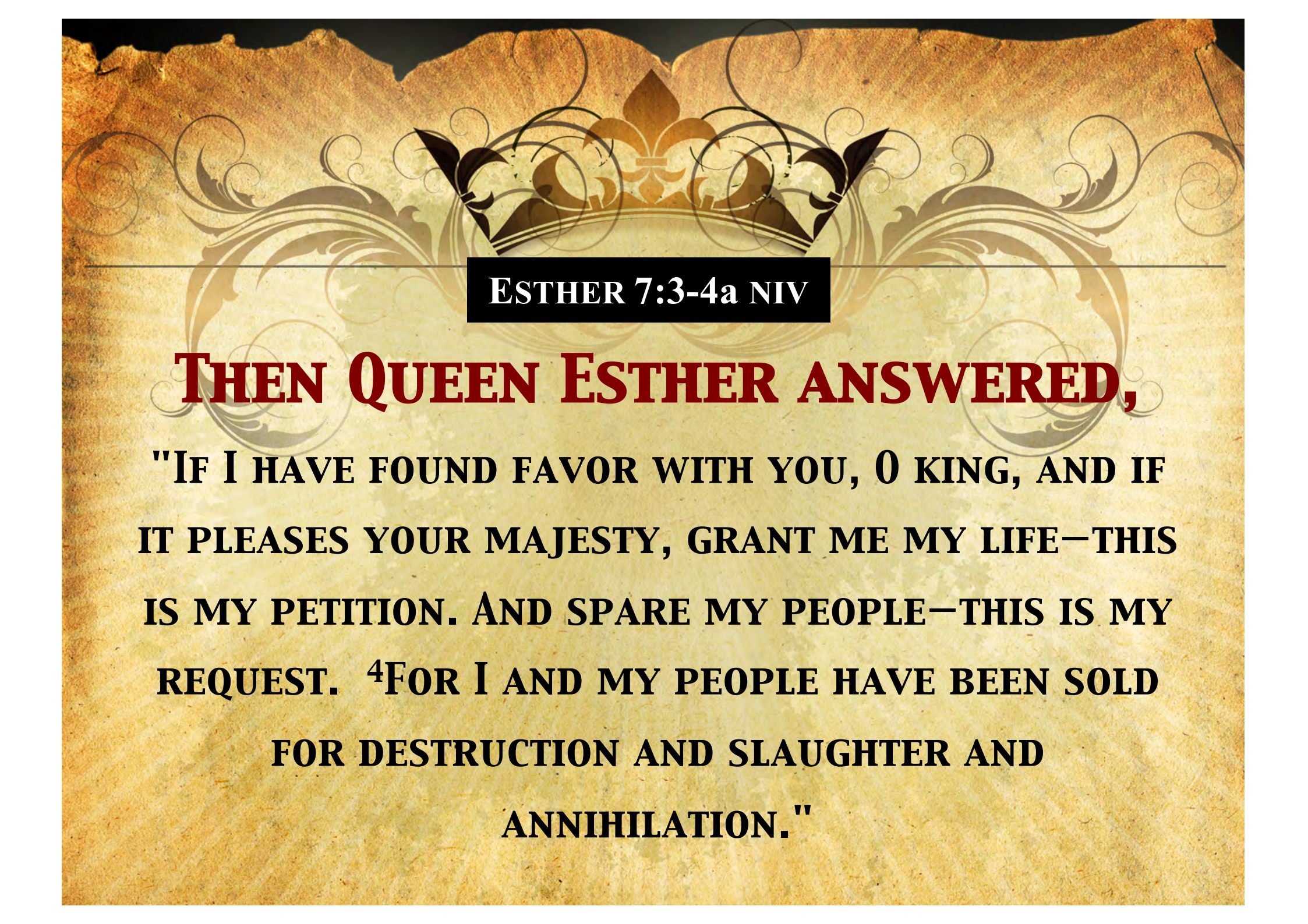
Esther 6





**"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*



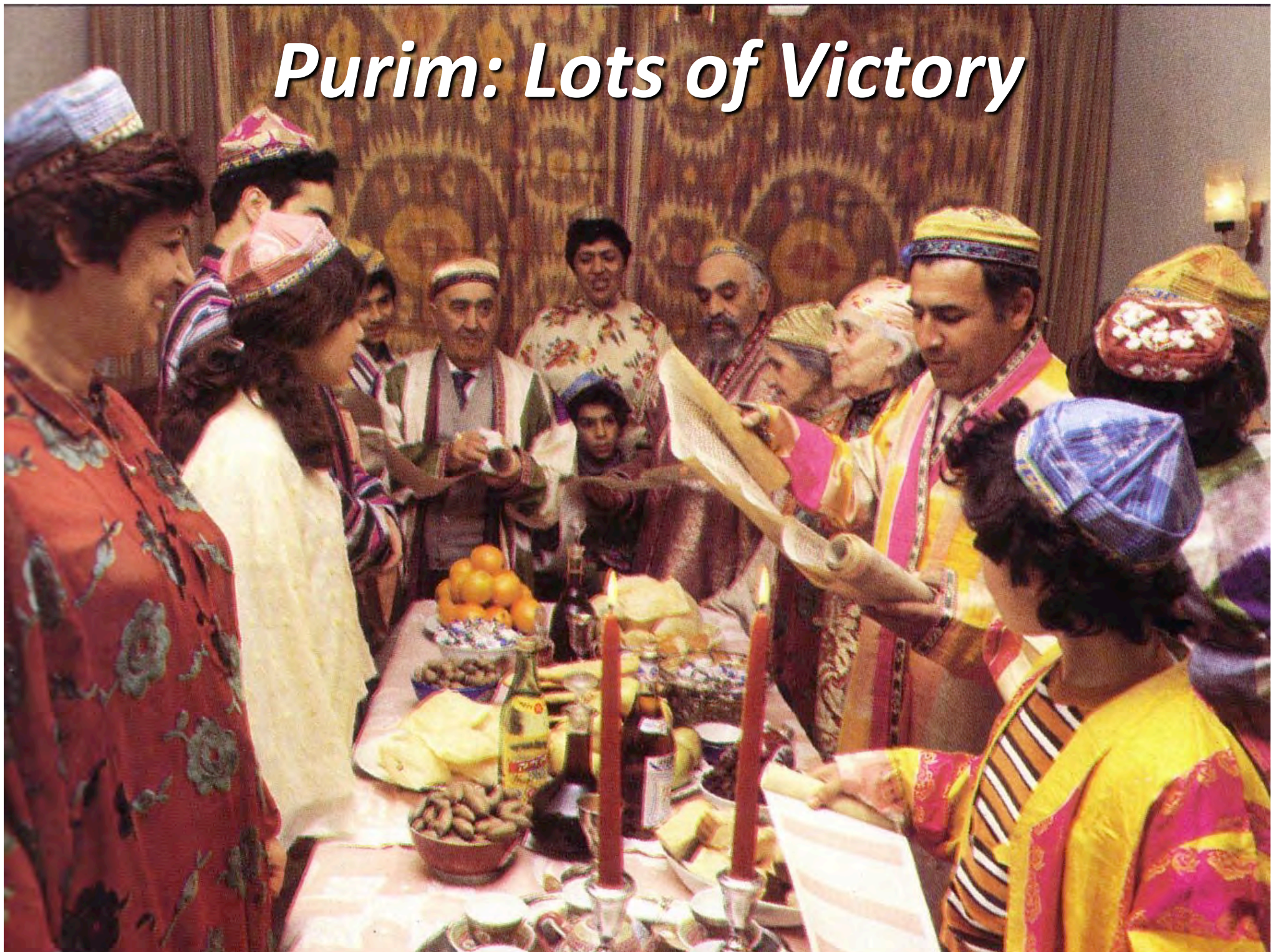
*"The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD."*

Proverbs 16:33 (NIV)



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

Purim: Lots of Victory

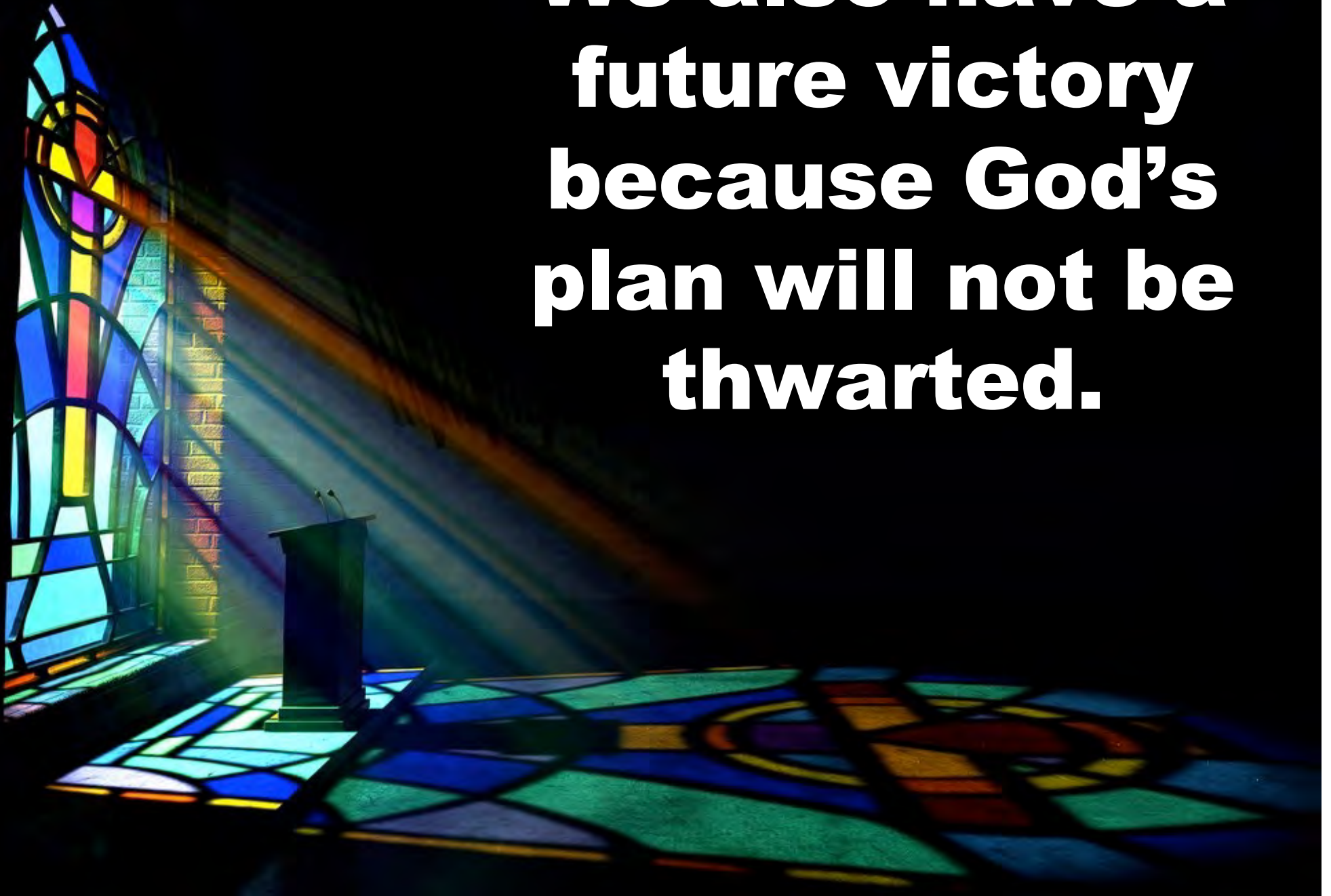


Esther 10

**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.**



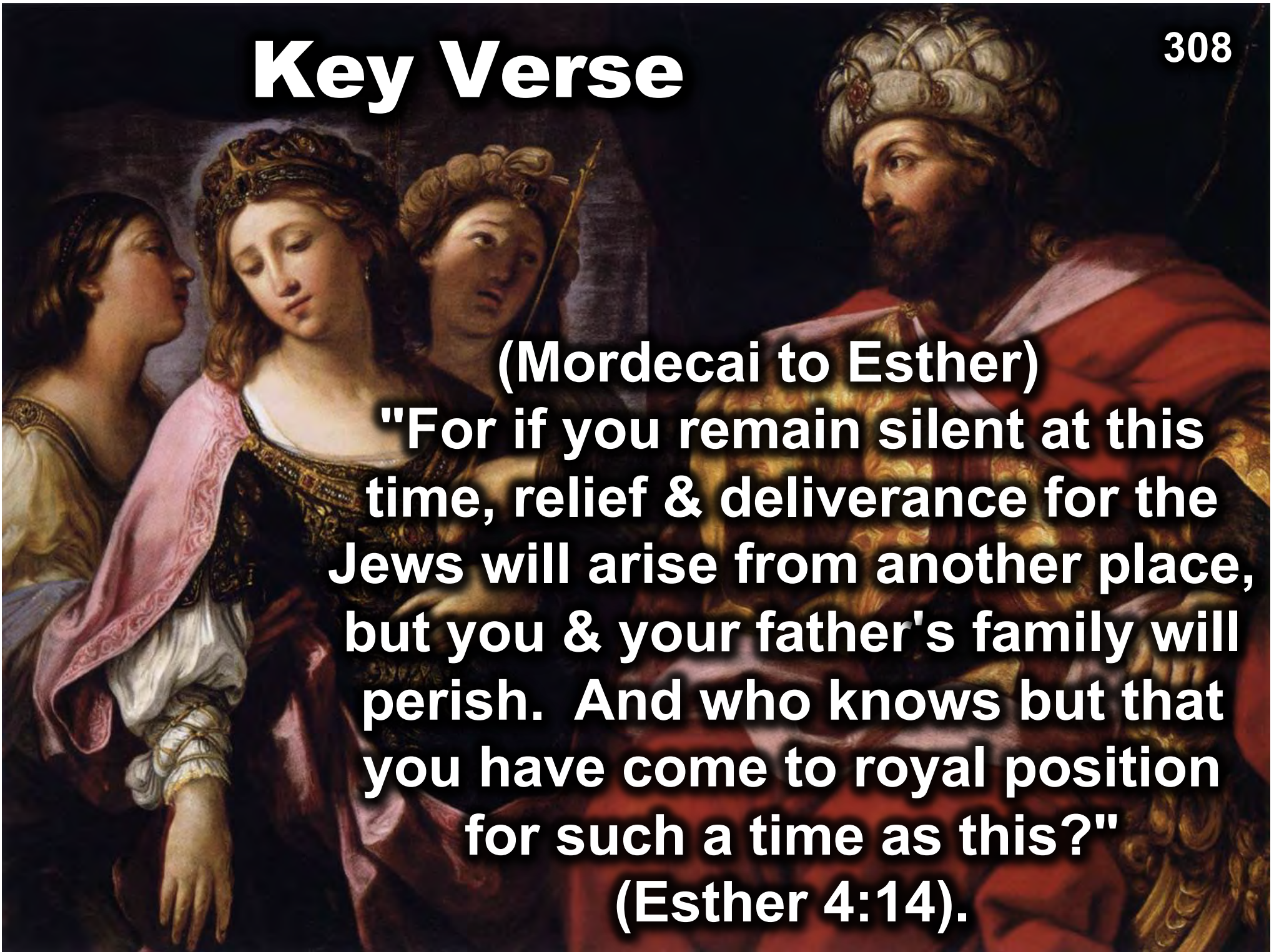
Key Verse

308

(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**



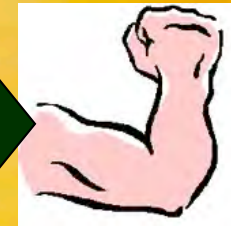
Revelation 20:4-6 Diagrammed

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?

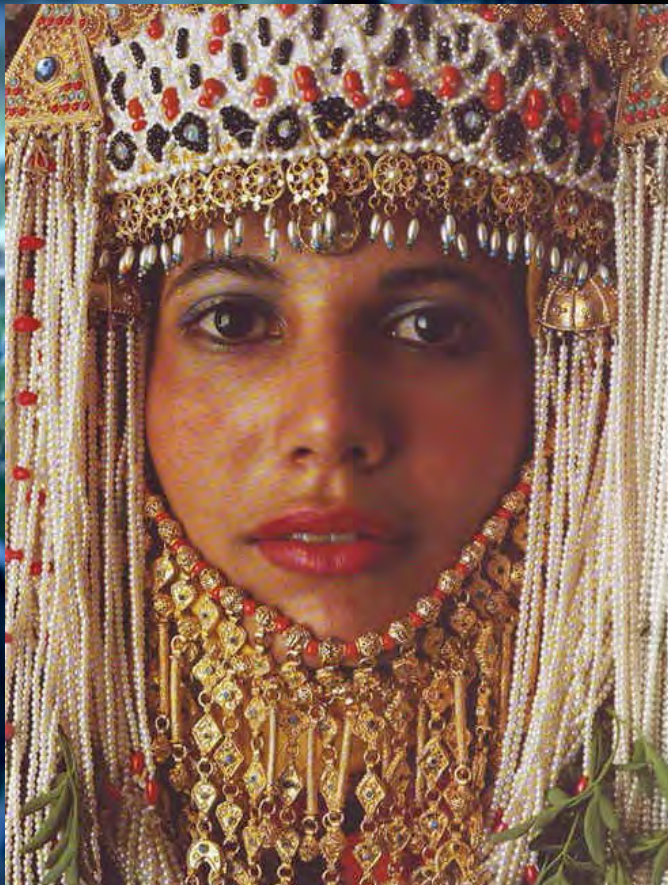
God's work
faces **threats**
(Esther 1–4)

God's work
will **triumph**

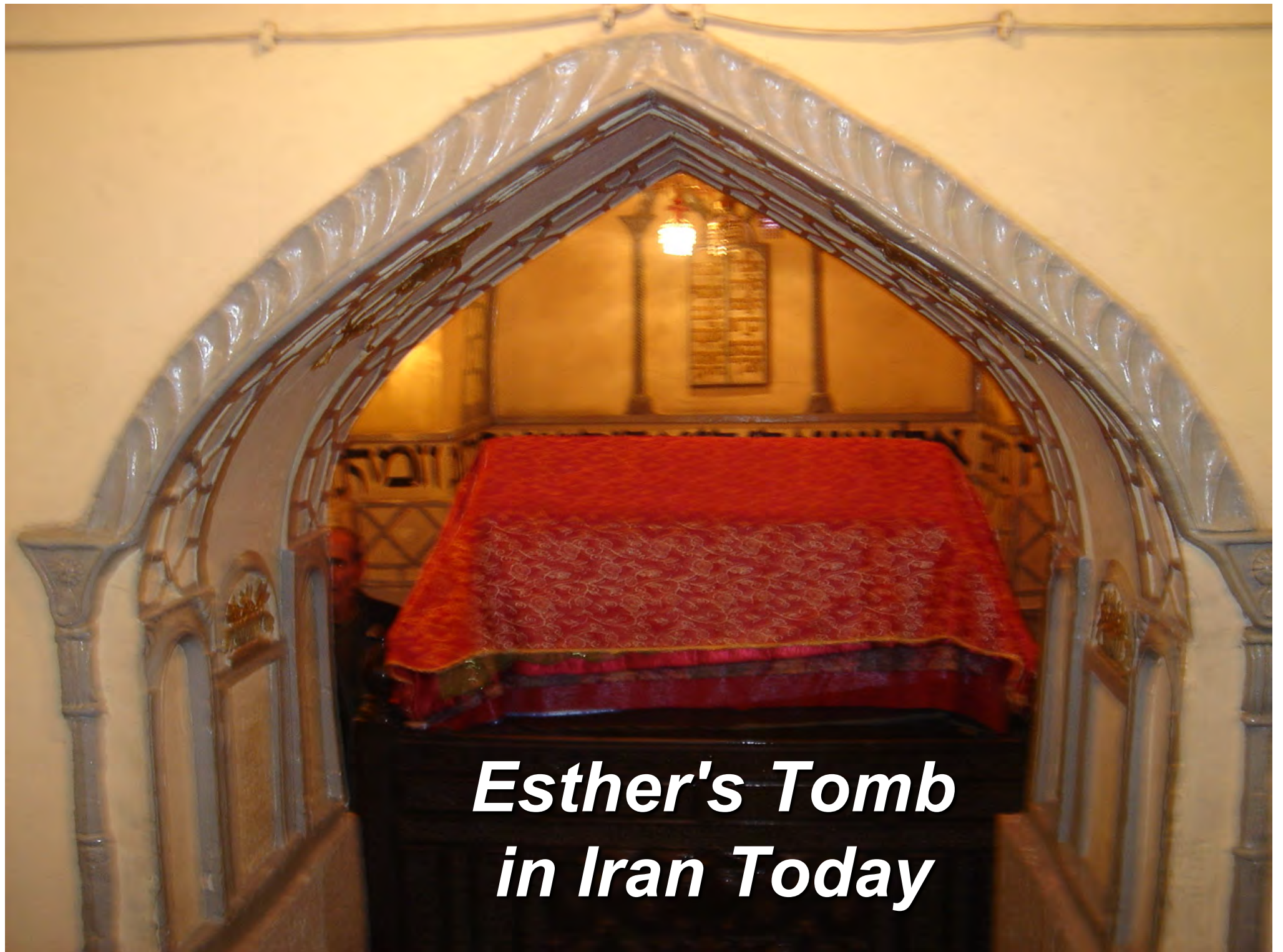
MAIN IDEA:
Despite Satan's threats,
God will triumph

WHAT TO DO?

308



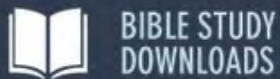
Use your
providentially
placed position
to help
God's people



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



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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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OT Preaching link at BibleStudyDownloads.org

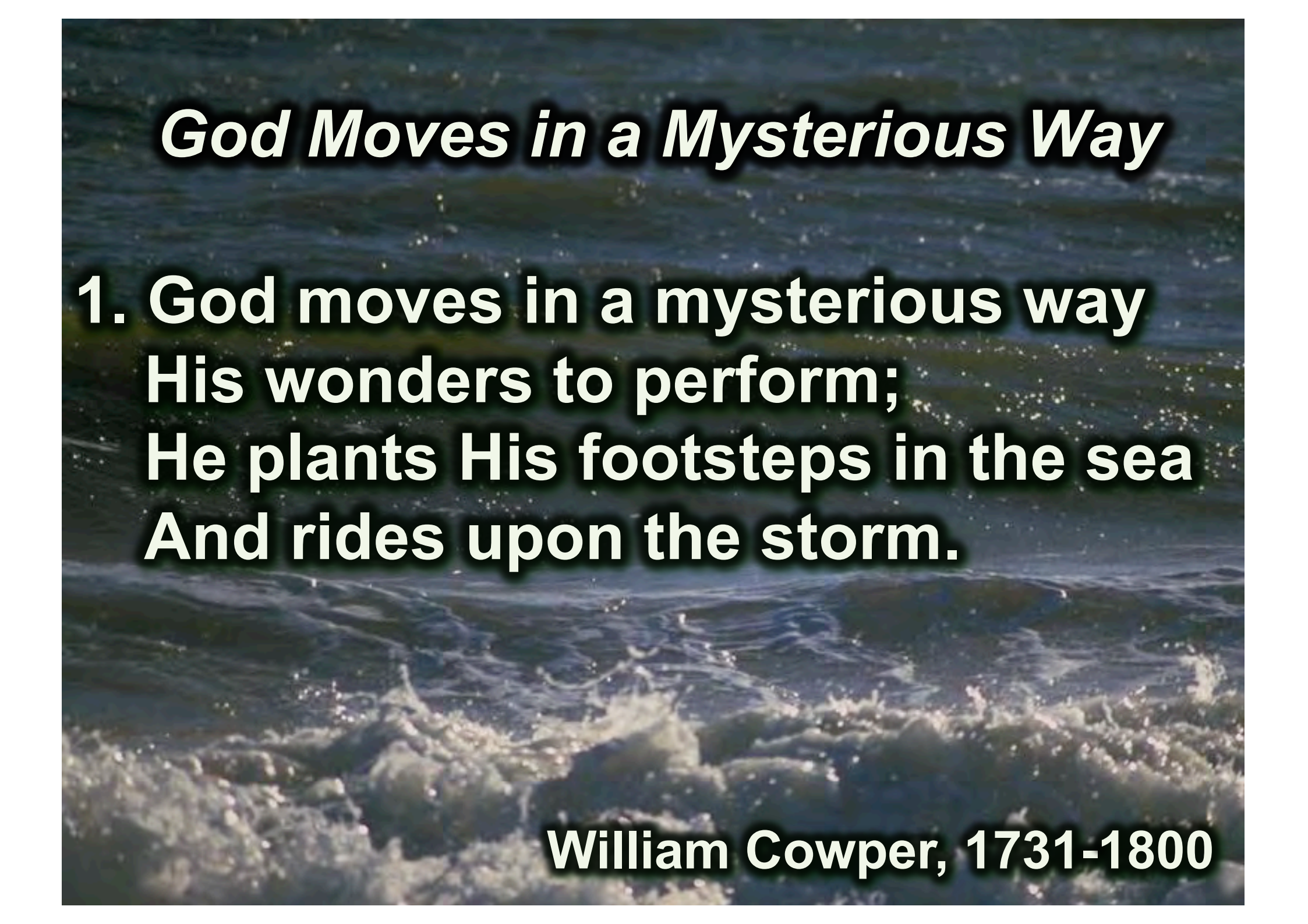
***Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne -***

***Yet that scaffold sways the future,
and, behind the dim unknown,***

***Standeth God within the shadow,
keeping watch above his own.***



The Present Crisis [1844], James Russell Lowell



God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**1. God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.**

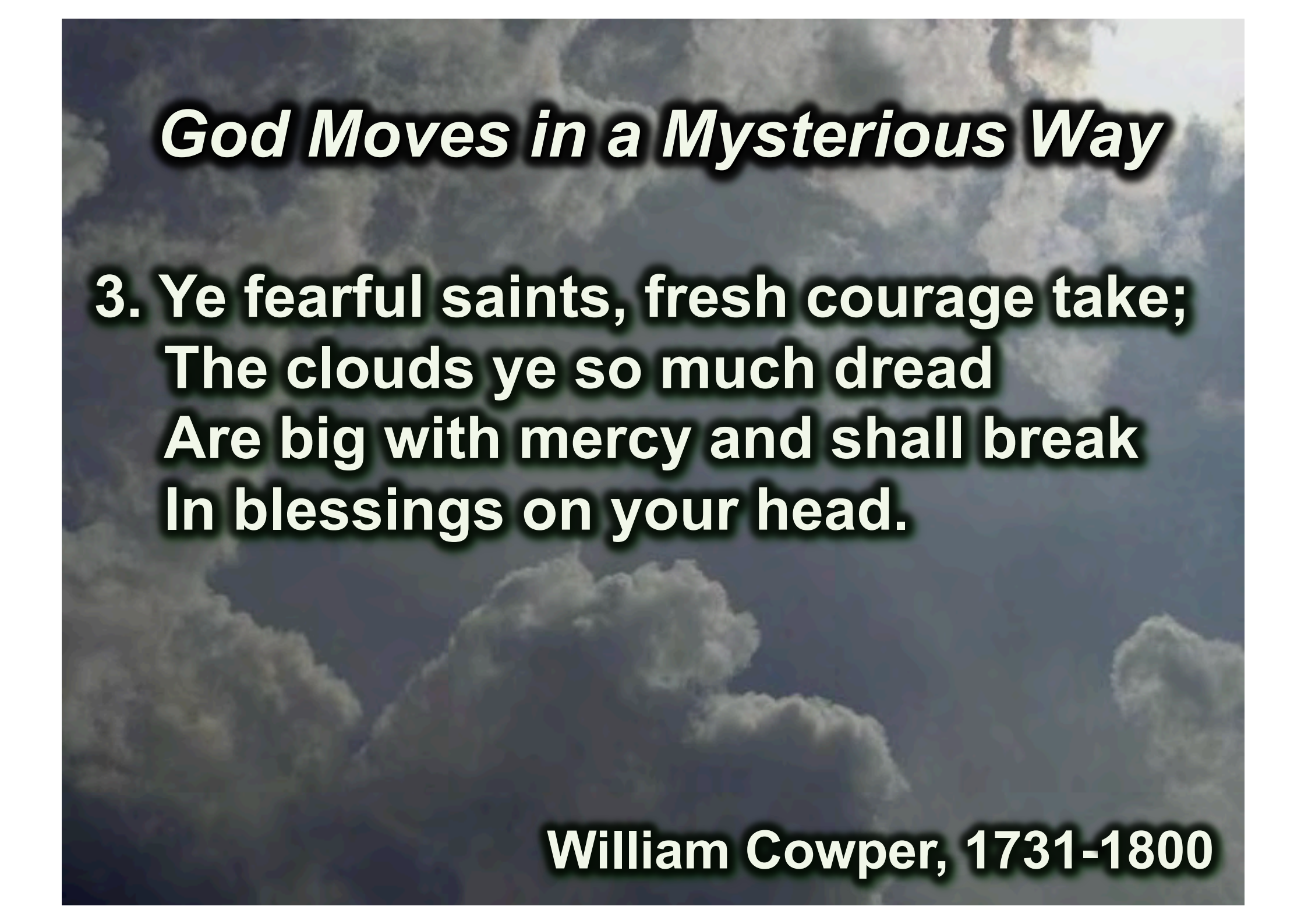
William Cowper, 1731-1800

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**2. Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up His bright design
And works His sovereign will.**



William Cowper, 1731-1800



God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.**

William Cowper, 1731-1800

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

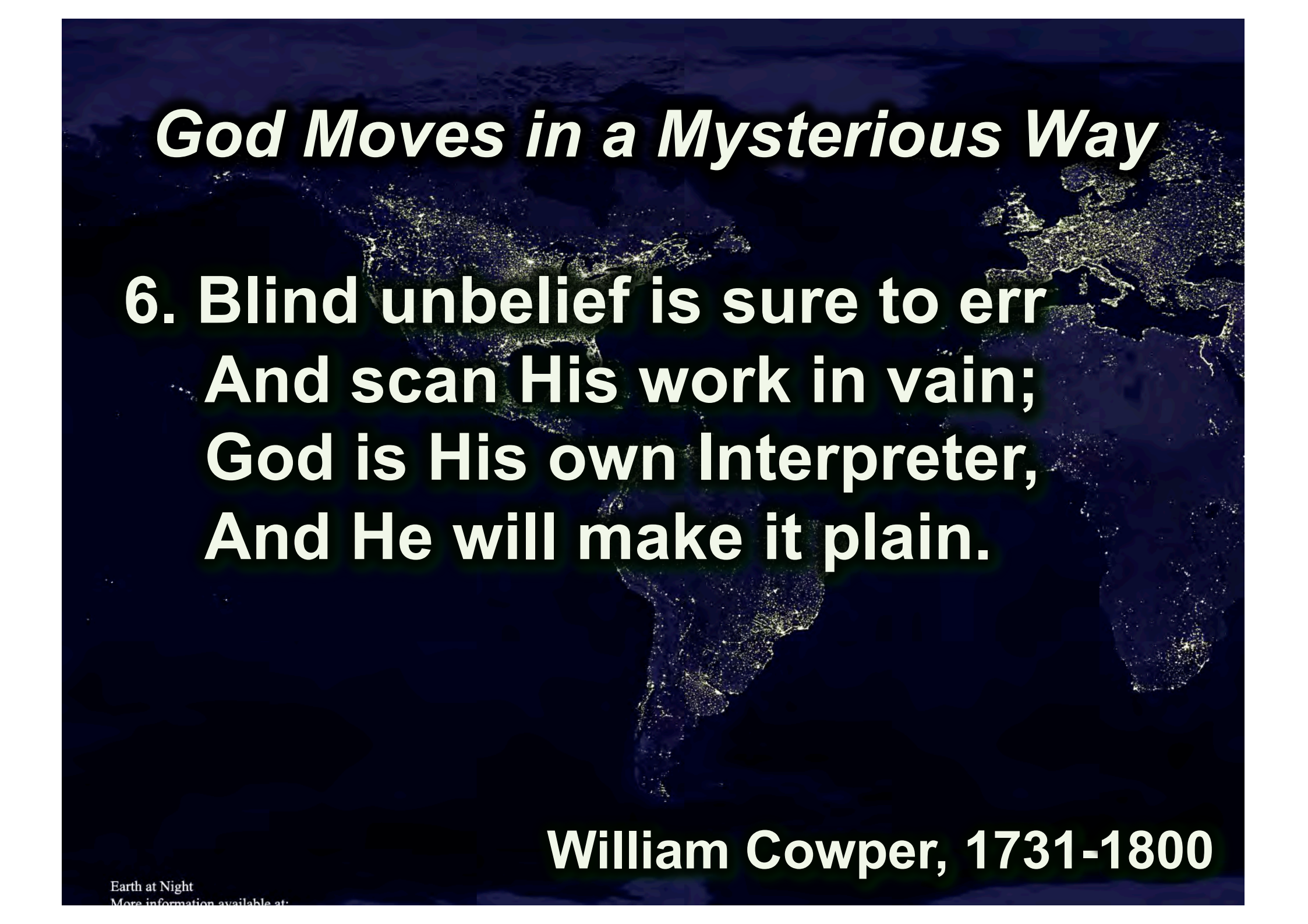
**4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense.
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.**

William Cowper, 1731-1800

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**5. His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.**

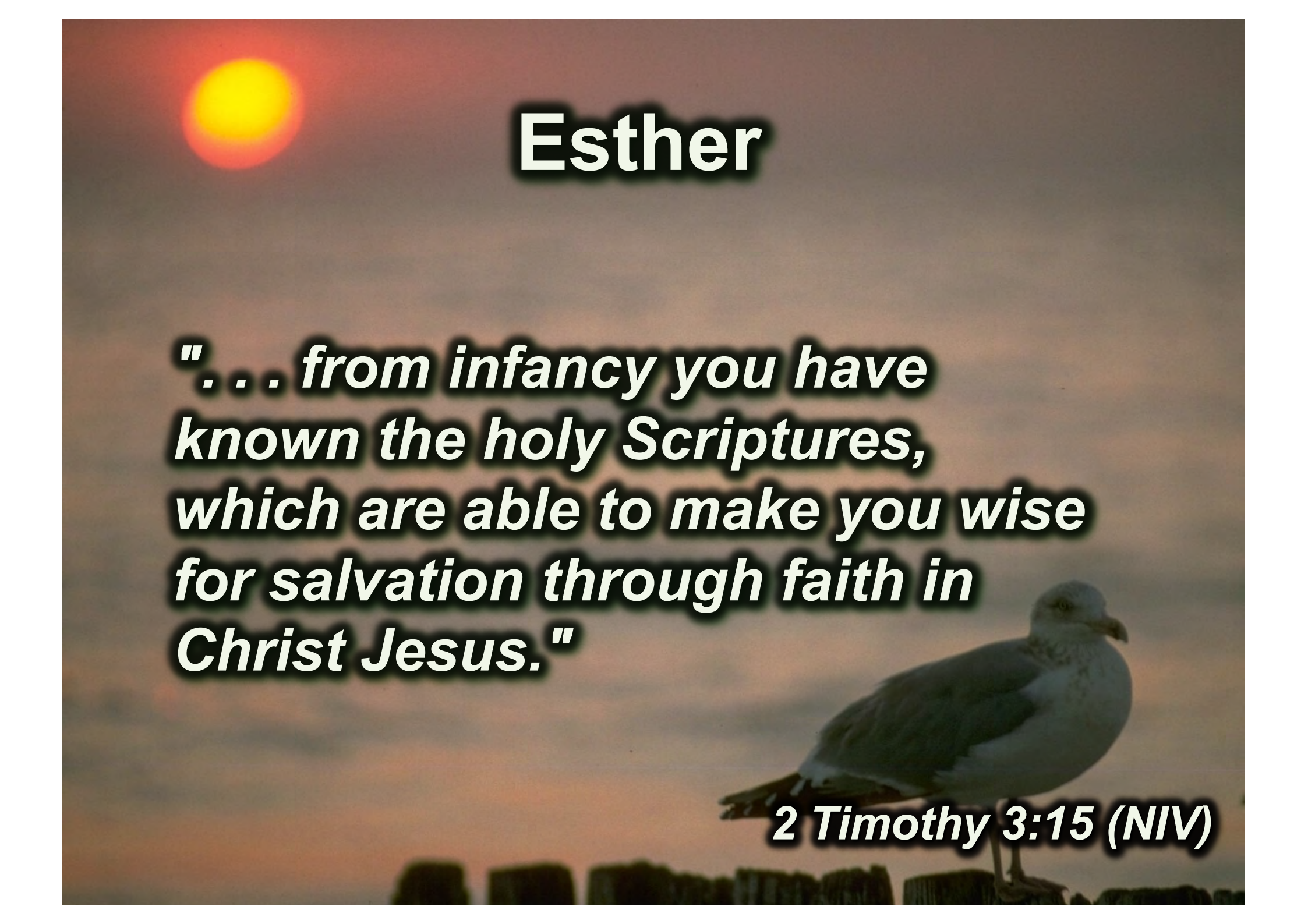
William Cowper, 1731-1800



God Moves in a Mysterious Way

**6. Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own Interpreter,
And He will make it plain.**

William Cowper, 1731-1800



Esther

"... from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 3:15 (NIV)

Esther

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Romans 15:4 (NIV)





Esther

for such a time as this

1 Cor. 10:11 (NIV)

"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come."

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

Chronology of the Persian Period

313

John H. Walton, Chronological and Background Charts of the OT, 2d ed., 70

PERSIAN KING	DATES	BIBLICAL CORRELATION	GREEK CORRELATION
CYRUS	539-530	Return of Zerubbabel & Jeshua (Ezra 1–3)	
CAMBYSES	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	
DARIUS I	522-486	Haggai & Zechariah prophecy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5–6)	Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon (490)
XERXES	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1–9)	Persians defeat Greeks at Thermopylae (480) but reversed at Salamis (480), Herodotus 485-425
ARTAXERXES I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7–10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1–2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	Golden Age (461-431) Pericles (460-429) Athens rules

Chronology of the Persian Period

313

John H. Walton, Chronological and Background Charts of the OT, 2d ed., 70

PERSIAN KING	DATES	BIBLICAL CORRELATION		GREEK CORRELATION
DARIUS II	423-404	B	S	Peloponnesian Wars (431-404) Athens falls (404) Sparta rules
ARTAXERXES II	404-359	I	I	Socrates (470-399) Plato (428-348) Aristotle (384-322)
ARTAXERXES III	359-338	B	L	Philip II of Macedon defeats Greeks at Chaeronea in 338
ARSES	338-335	L	E	
DARIUS III	335-331	I	N	Alexander the Great overthrows Persian Empire
ALEXANDER	336-323	C	C	Establishment of Greek Empire
		A	E	
		L		

Key Dates Related to the Book of Esther

314

Reference	Date	Event
—	486	<i>Xerxes' reign began</i>
1:3	483 (3rd year of Xerxes)	<i>Xerxes 7-day banquet for his nobles & officials where Queen Vashti was deposed</i>
—	482-479	<i>Xerxes led disastrous campaigns against Greece, esp. at navy Battle of Salamis (480); recorded by Greek historian Herodotus (7.8)</i>
2:16	Dec 479 or Jan 478	<i>Esther became queen after a 4-year beauty contest</i>
3:7	Early April 474	<i>In the 5th year of Esther's reign, Haman & the astrologers (5:10, 14; 6:12-13) cast the pur (lot) to determine the day to exterminate the Jews 11 months later (7 March 473)</i>
3:12	April 17, 474 (13th of Nisan)	<i>Xerxes' 1st edict (to destroy the Jews) informed everyone of the fateful day, royal secretaries wrote it out in the various languages of the empire</i>

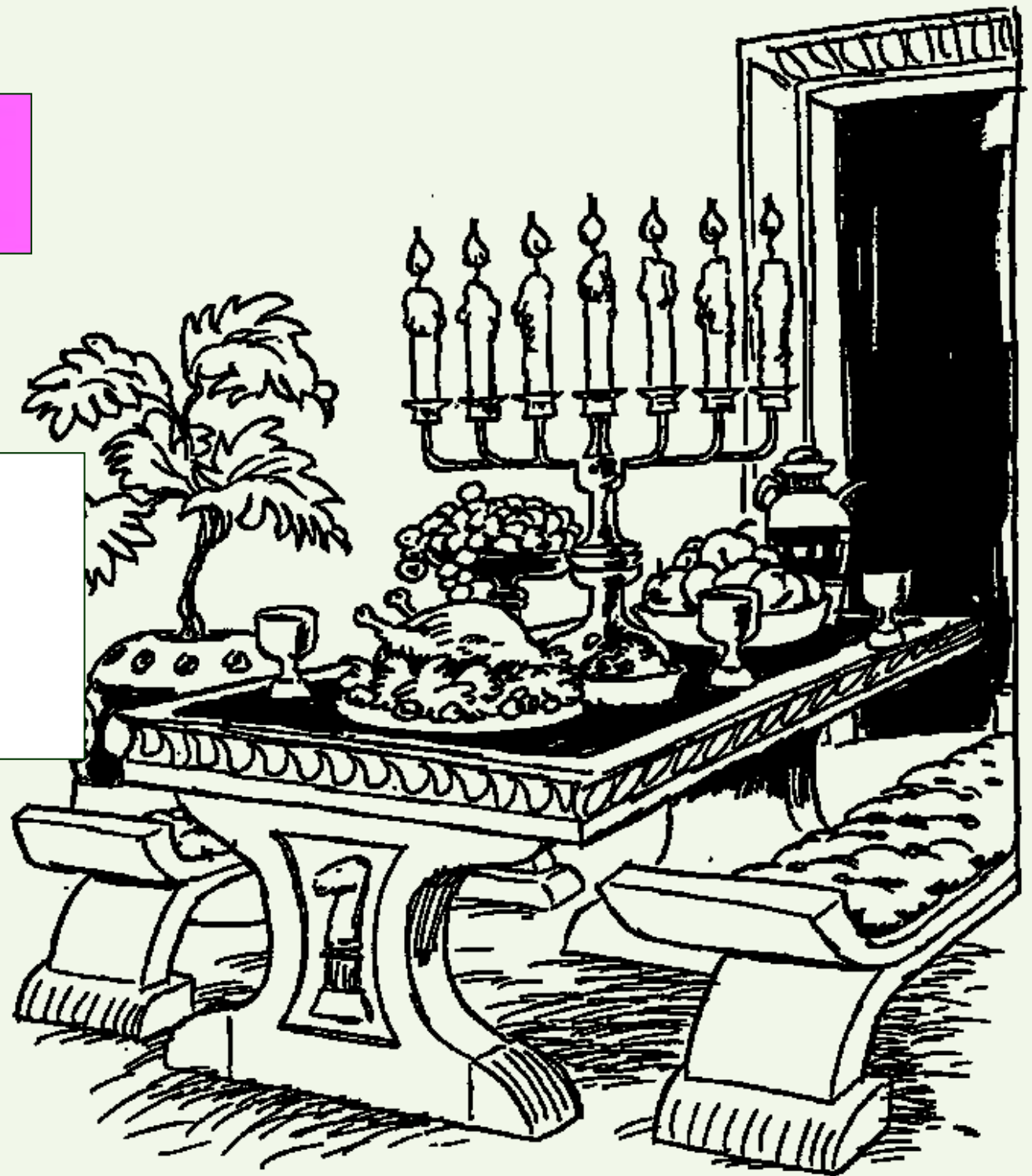
Key Dates Related to the Book of Esther

314

Reference	Date	Event
8:9	June 25, 474 (23rd of Sivan)	<i>Xerxes' 2nd edict (to protect the Jews) was sent out 2 months & 10 days after the 1st one on April 17</i>
3:13 8:12 9:1, 17a	March 7, 473 (13th of Adar)	<i>Rather than being destroyed on this day, Jews protected themselves by killing at least 75,810 enemies 8 months & 20 days after the counter-edict was signed</i>
9:17b-18a	March 8, 473 (14th of Adar)	<i>Jews feasted to celebrate their victory throughout the empire except in Susa where they killed their enemies one more day (today all Jews except in Jerusalem celebrate Purim this day, the 14th of Adar)</i>
9:18b	March 9, 473 (15th of Adar)	<i>Jews feasted in celebration of their victory in Susa (today Jews in Jerusalem celebrate Purim on this day, the 15th of Adar)</i>
—	464	<i>Palace at Susa destroyed by fire & Xerxes reign ended</i>

Esther

***Banquets
Galore***



Banquets in the Book of Esther

315

	<i>References</i>	<i>Hosts</i>	<i>Guests</i>	<i>Events</i>
1	1:3-4	Xerxes	Nobles & Officials	Wealth of the kingdom displayed over 180 days
2	1:5-8	Xerxes	All the people	Wine flowed for everyone for 7 days
3	1:9	Vashti	Palace women	Vashti deposed for declining to attend Xerxes' banquet
4	2:18	Xerxes	Nobles & Officials	Esther introduced as the new queen
5	3:15	Xerxes	Haman	Annihilation of the Jews decreed by the king

Banquets in the Book of Esther

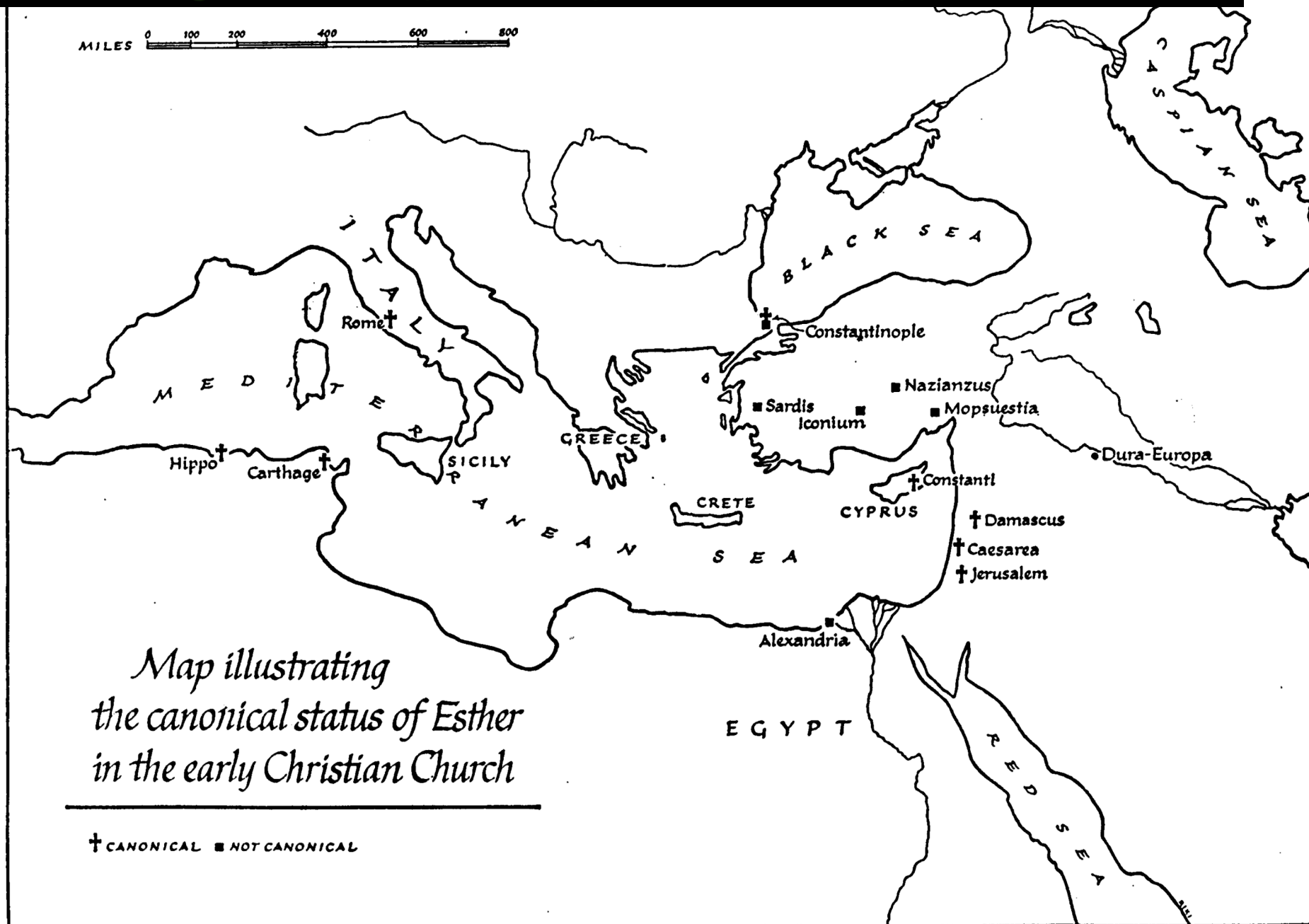
315

	<i>References</i>	<i>Hosts</i>	<i>Guests</i>	<i>Events</i>
6	5:1-8	Esther	Xerxes & Haman	Xerxes kept in suspense as to Esther's request
7	7:1-10	Esther	Xerxes & Haman	Esther exposes Haman as seeking her life
8	8:17	Jews	Jews	Rejoicing over the king's edict on the Jews behalf & many Gentiles became Jews
9	9:17	Jews	Jews	Rejoicing over slaughter of 75,810 or more enemies of the Jews
10	9:18-32	Jews	Jews	Feast of Purim established to be an annual event through Mordecai's decree

Map of Esther's Canonical Status

316

Carey A. Moore, *Esther*, Anchor Bible, xxvi-xxvii



**Xerxes depicts the universal quest
of men for power and women**



Xerxes & Women



"Herodotus, in addition to depicting Xerxes' role in the invasion of Greece, presents an unflattering portrait of the king as an impatient, hot-tempered monarch with a wandering eye for women. According to Herodotus, Xerxes not only tried to have an affair with his brother's wife, but also did have an affair with her daughter" —Edwin Yamauchi

Haman reminds us how Satan has attacked Jews throughout history



How the Nations Treat Israel

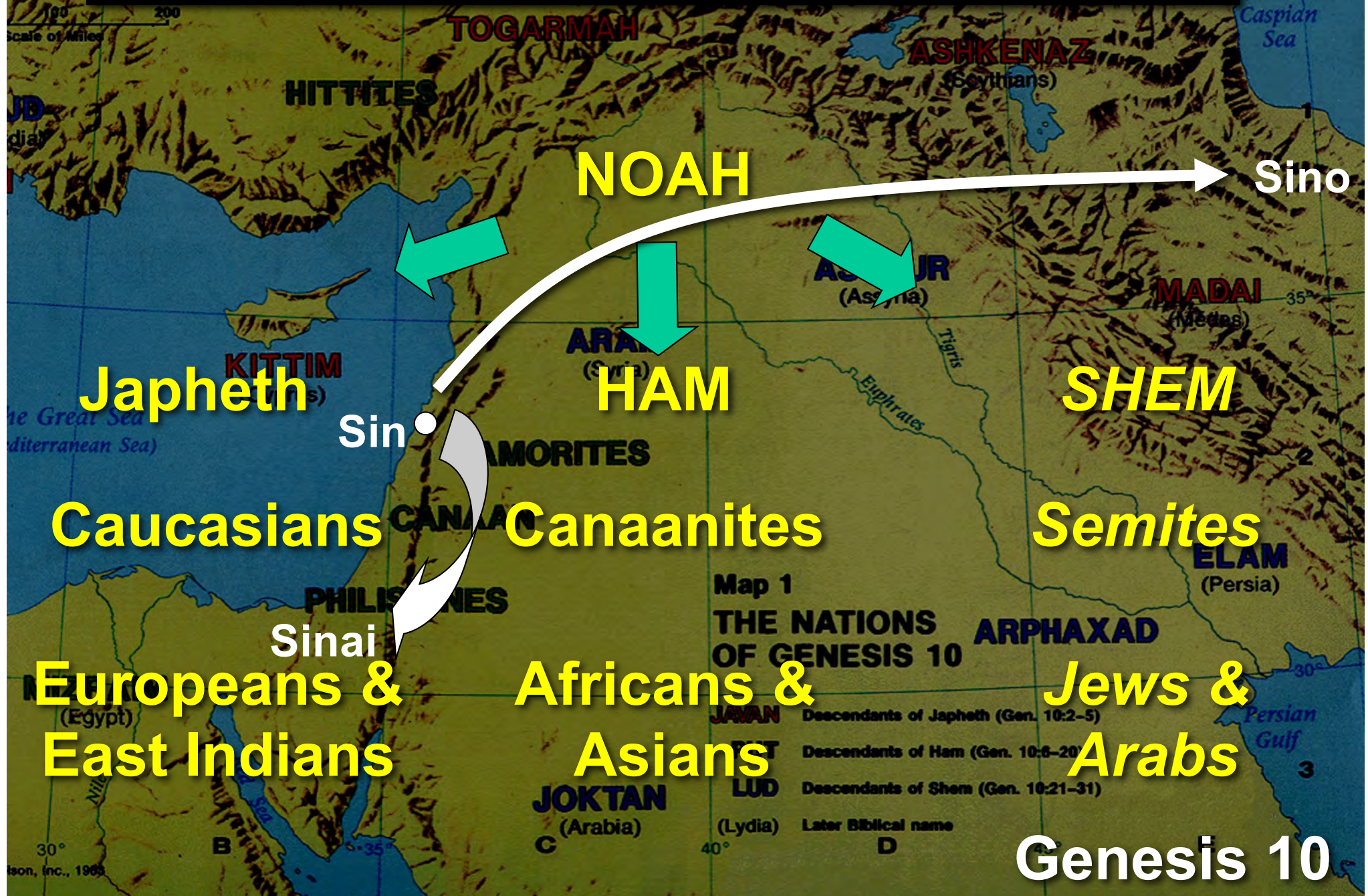


Hating Jews Through the Centuries

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary
BibleStudyDownloads.org

What is Antisemitism?

92



**How has the world
treated the Jews?**

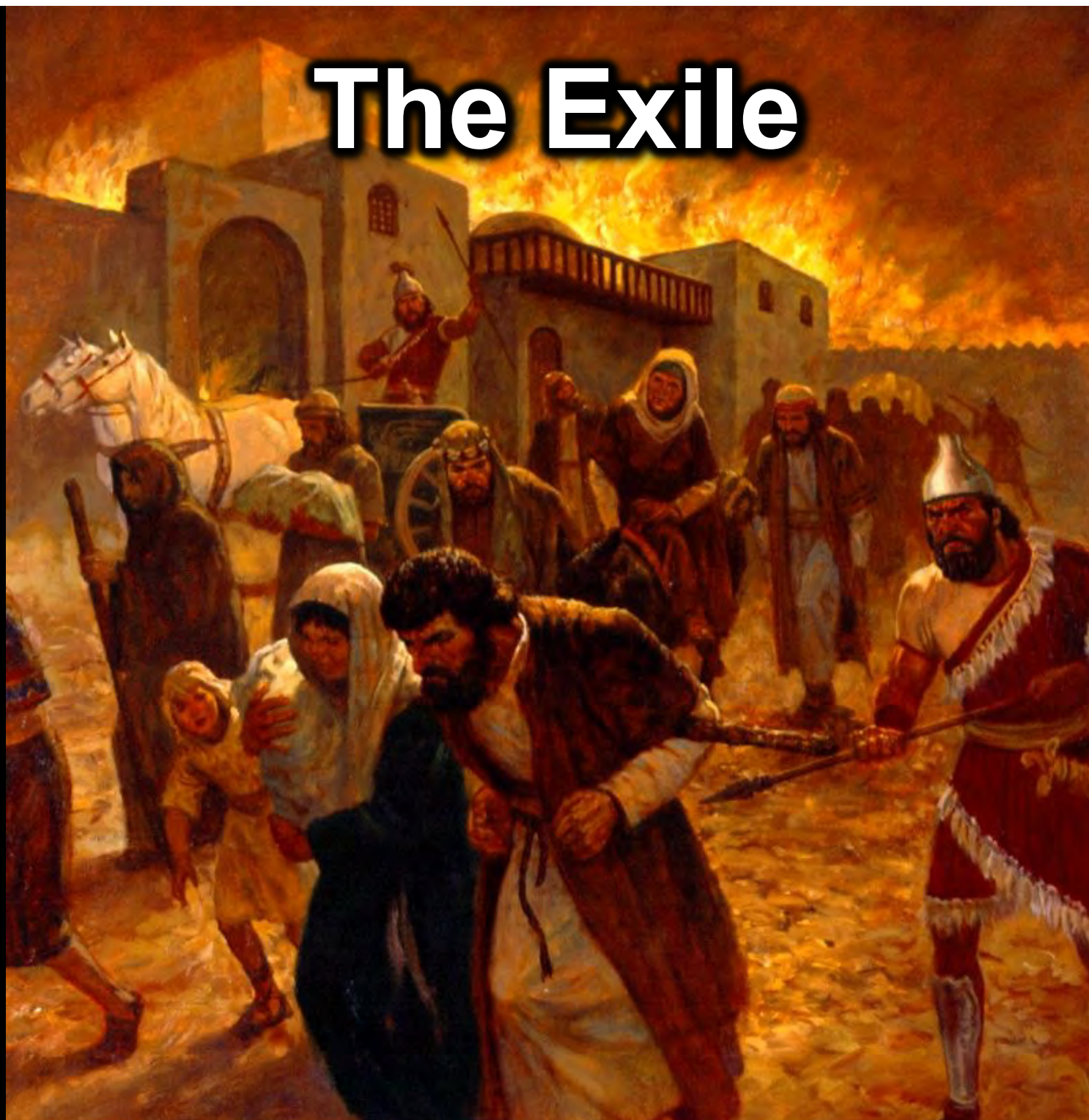
How has the world treated the Jews?

- Pharaohs
- Catholics
- MENA
- Philistia
- Terrorism
- The UN
- Assyrians
- Crusaders
- Neighbors
- Babylonians
- Spaniards
- Land ownership
- Persians
- Lutherans
- Canadians
- Greeks
- Germans
- US Left Wing
- Romans
- Europeans
- The World

Persecutors of Jews...

Babylonians

The Exile



Persecutors of Jews...

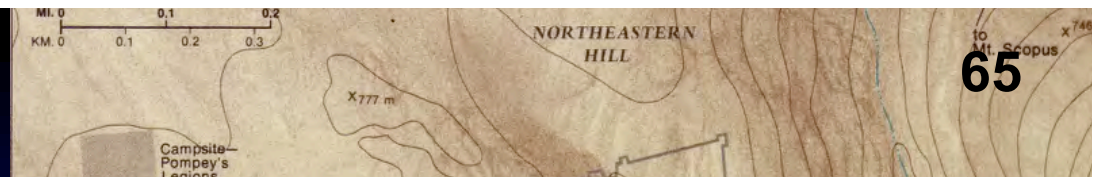
Greeks

Jerusalem Hellenization

■ Dec 167- Dec 164



Menorah



Hanukkiah

■ The Feast of Lights
(Dedication)

Persecutors of Jews...

Romans

**Romans
destroyed the
Jewish temple
in AD 70 and
made Jerusalem
pagan in AD 132**

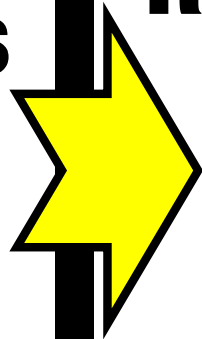


**Rome even renamed Israel as *Palestina* after the
Philistines who came from the Aegean Sea to seek
to erase any Jewish claim to the city!**

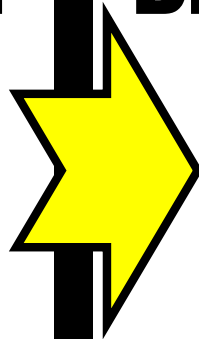
Persecutors of Jews...

Catholics

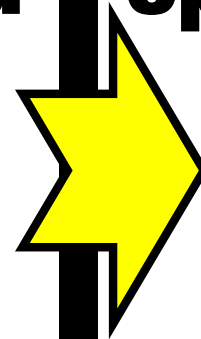
**Said
"The
Church is
the New
Israel"**



**Replaced
Israel**



**Disdained
Jews**



**Oppressed
Jews**

Catholic Theology & Practice

Persecutors of Jews...

Terrorism

9 Nov 2023

What makes Islam so different?

thereligionofpeace.com

TheReligionofPeace

TROP is a non-political, fact-based site which examines the ideological threat that Islam poses to human dignity and freedom

Search TROP

This Day in History



News

CAIR Goes to Bat for "We Will Drink Your Blood" Radical...

California Killer Named: Professor Who Posted Video Likening Hamas to Civil Rights Icons

Montreal Rally: Imam Calls on Allah to "Kill Enemies of Gaza"...

Hamas Admits: Prefer Permanent War over Helping Gazans...

Teachers at UN-Run Schools Celebrated Hamas Killing Spree...

Brazil Thwarts Religion of Peace Terror Plot

Daily Updates of Islamic Terror Against Jews, Christians, etc.

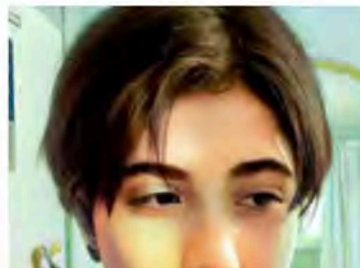
Jihad Report
Oct 28, 2023 -
Nov 03, 2023

Attacks	26
Killed	165
Injured	80
Suicide Blasts	0
Countries	8

Islamic Terrorists
Have Carried Out More Than

Attacks

Religion of Peace
Atrocity of the Week



Articles

Jerusalem Post
Hamas Attack Exposes Danger
of Islam's Spread in the West

David Wood Video
This Week in Islam with Robert
Spencer

Melanie Phillips
How Israel Tries to Protect
Gaza's Civilians

Iran-Backed Group Shoots Down US
Drone...

Footage Shows Brutal Kidnapping
of Man "Working for the Infidels"

Muslim Communities in UK Getting
Hooked on Laughing Gas...

Douglas Murray: OK to March
Alongside Genocidal Racists?

France: "Allah Akbar" Shouted in
Church During Mass...

Comfortably Dumb: Roger Waters
Says Hamas is Acting Morally...

Arab Militias Whip Captured
Africans: 800 Feared Dead...

Anti-Israelis Chanted "Burn in Hell"
as California Man Lay Dying...

Vienna Islamists Hoped to Bom Car

Persecutors of Jews...

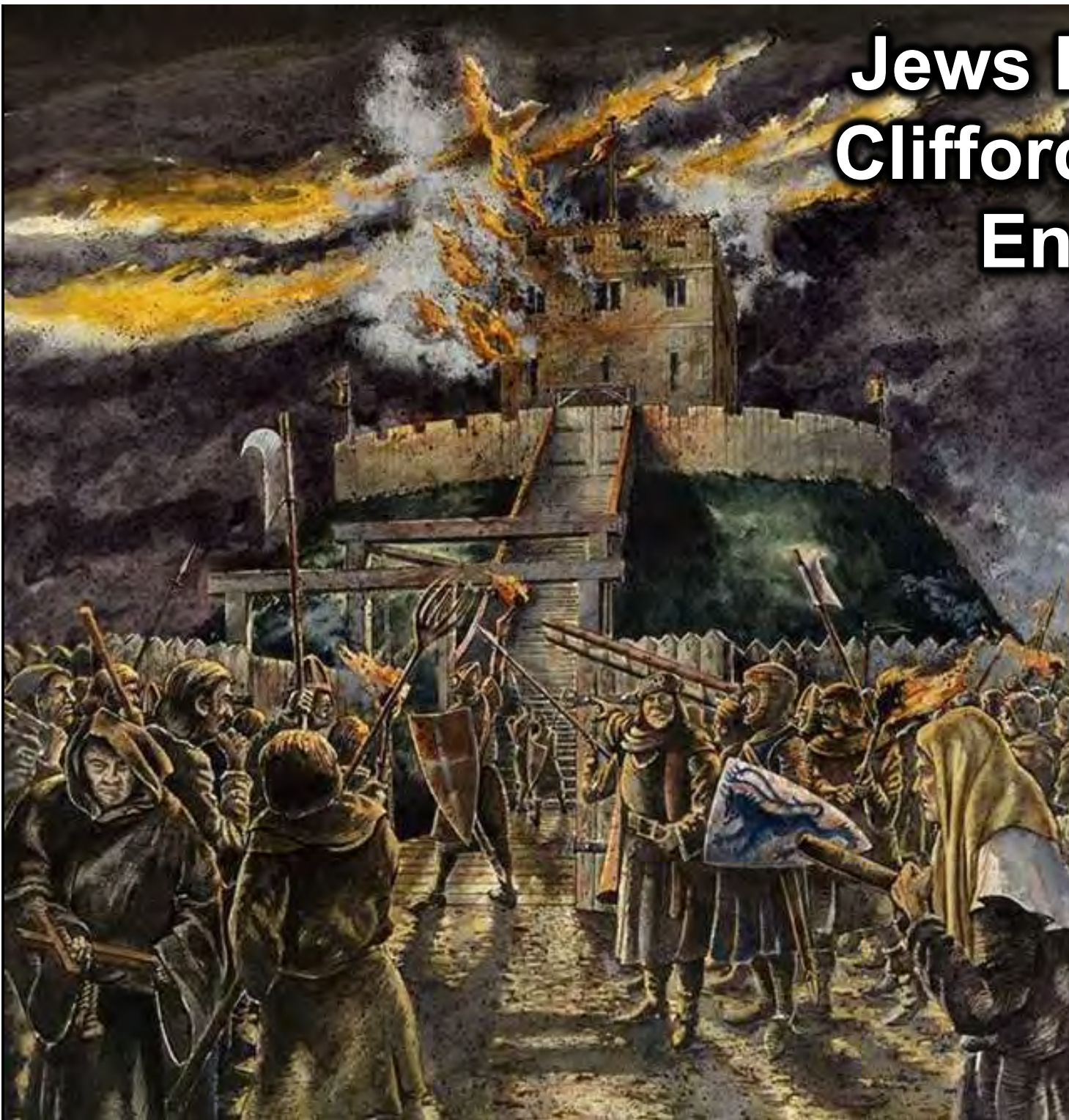
Crusaders



Como a arca aportou no porto u morana o judeu.

Jews were brought from France to lend money to build England's castles

Jews Burned in Clifford's Tower, England



Persecutors of Jews...

Spaniards

Spain Expelled All Jews



A mural depicting the movement of Torah scrolls following the expulsion from Spain. From Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles.

Persecutors of Jews...

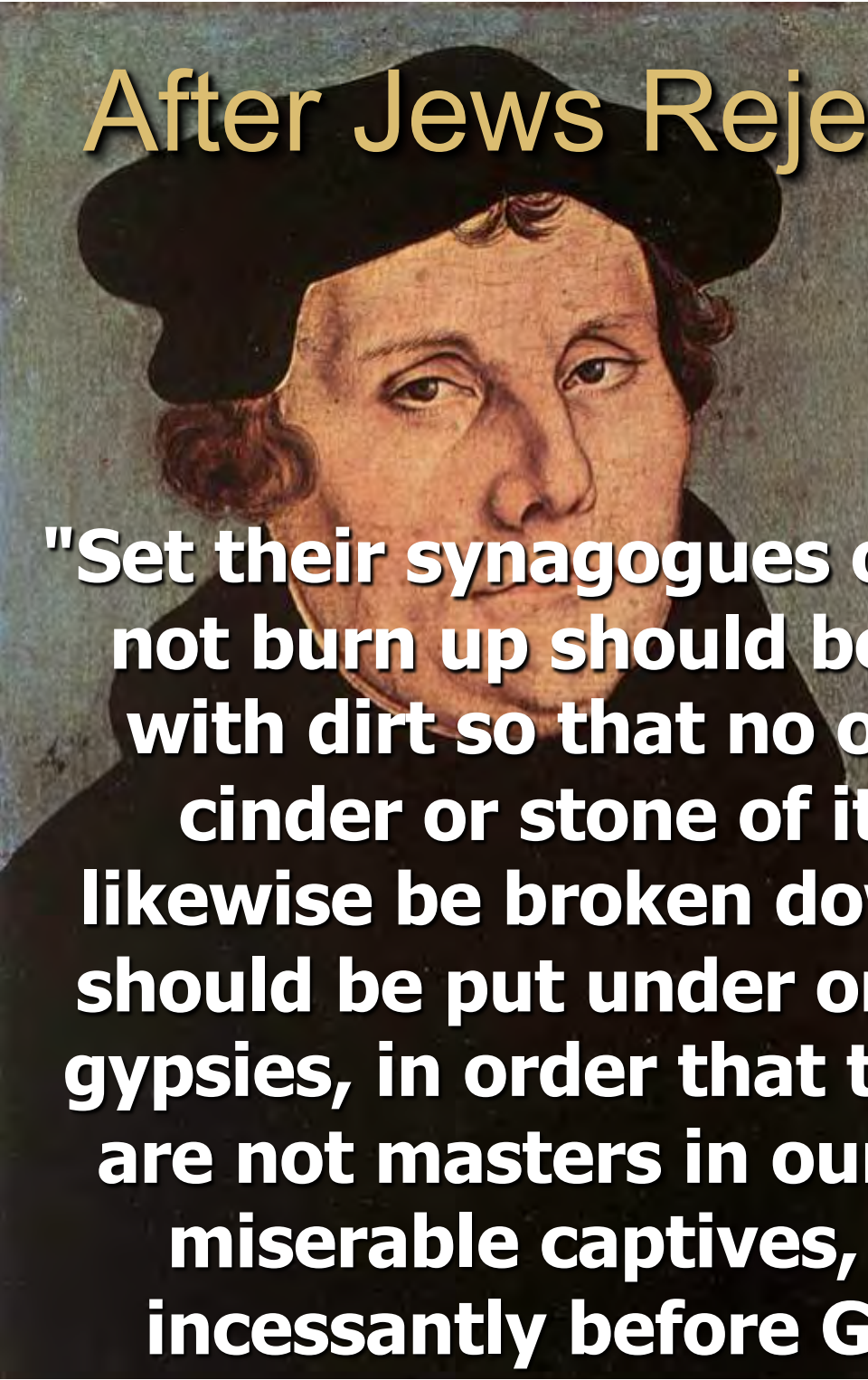
Lutherans



Luther to His Followers



"My advice, therefore, is to deal kindly with the Jews and to instruct them in the Scriptures so that they may come over to us . . . We must welcome them in our midst, permit them to work and trade among us. They will then have an opportunity to witness Christian life and doctrine. Should, however, some of them still remain stubborn, what of it? Not every one of us is a good Christian."

A portrait of Martin Luther, a German theologian, shown from the chest up. He is wearing a black cap and a dark garment. The background of the portrait is a mottled grey-blue. The right side of the image is a solid black rectangle containing white text.

After Jews Rejected the Gospel...

"Set their synagogues on fire, and whatever does not burn up should be covered or spread over with dirt so that no one may be able to see a cinder or stone of it... Their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed... They should be put under one roof or in a stable, like gypsies, in order that they may realize that they are not masters in our land, as they boast, but miserable captives, as they complain of us incessantly before God with bitter wailing."

Persecutors of Jews...

Germans

Liberated Jewish prisoners at the Nazi concentration camp in Ebensee, Austria



**Hitler motivated
the Jews to go to
their homeland!**



Hitler motivated the Jews to go to their homeland!



Anti-Semitism in Germany

Percentage of respondents who answered "strongly agree"



Source: World Jewish Congress (WJC) Germany
Anti-Semitism Assessment Study, October 2019

©DW

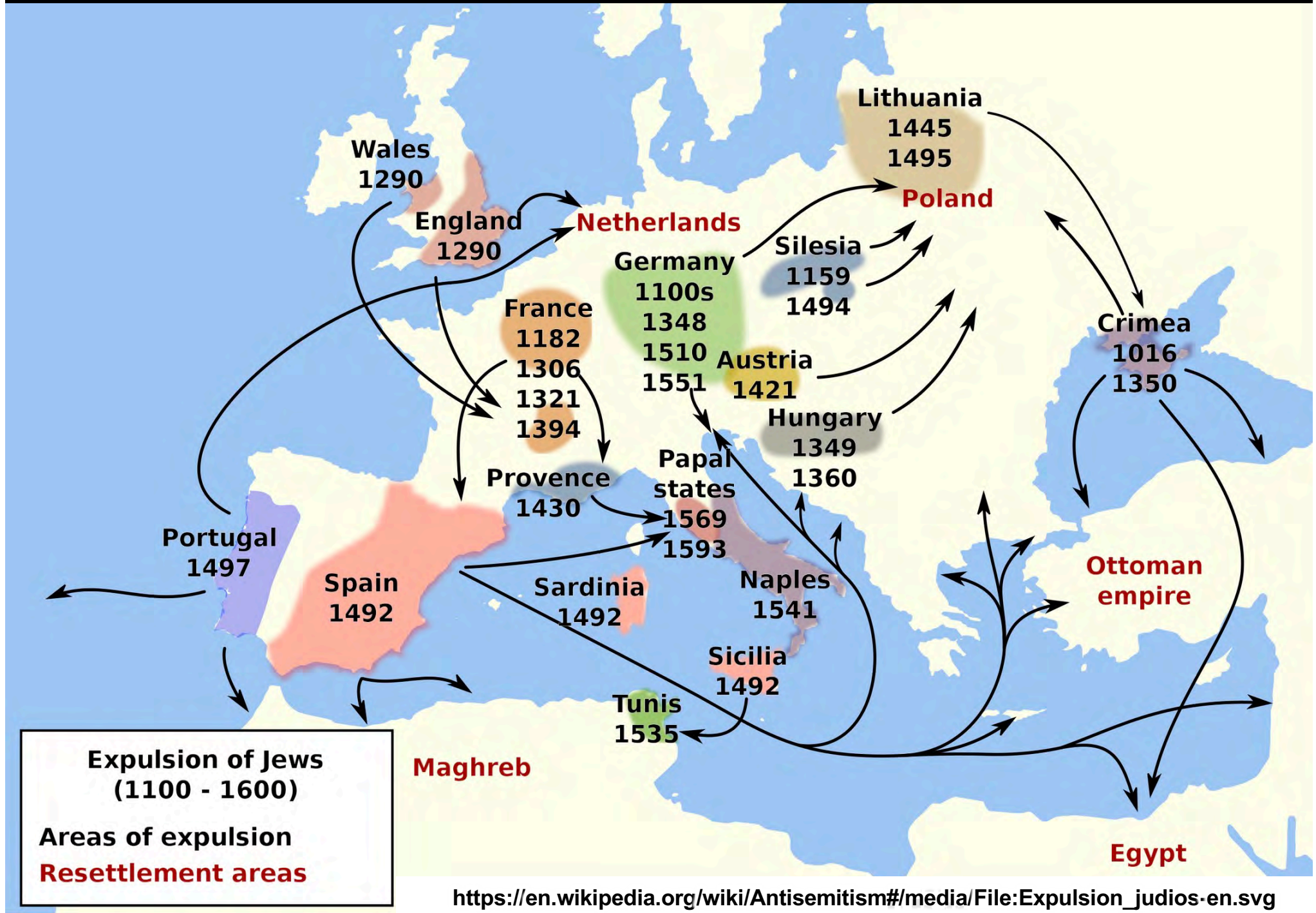
A Quarter of Germans Say Jews Think They are Superior (2019)

<https://www.dw.com/en/one-in-four-germans-hold-anti-semitic-beliefs-study-finds/a-50958589>

Persecutors of Jews...

Europeans

Expulsion of Jews from Europe (1100-1600)



Persecutors of Jews...

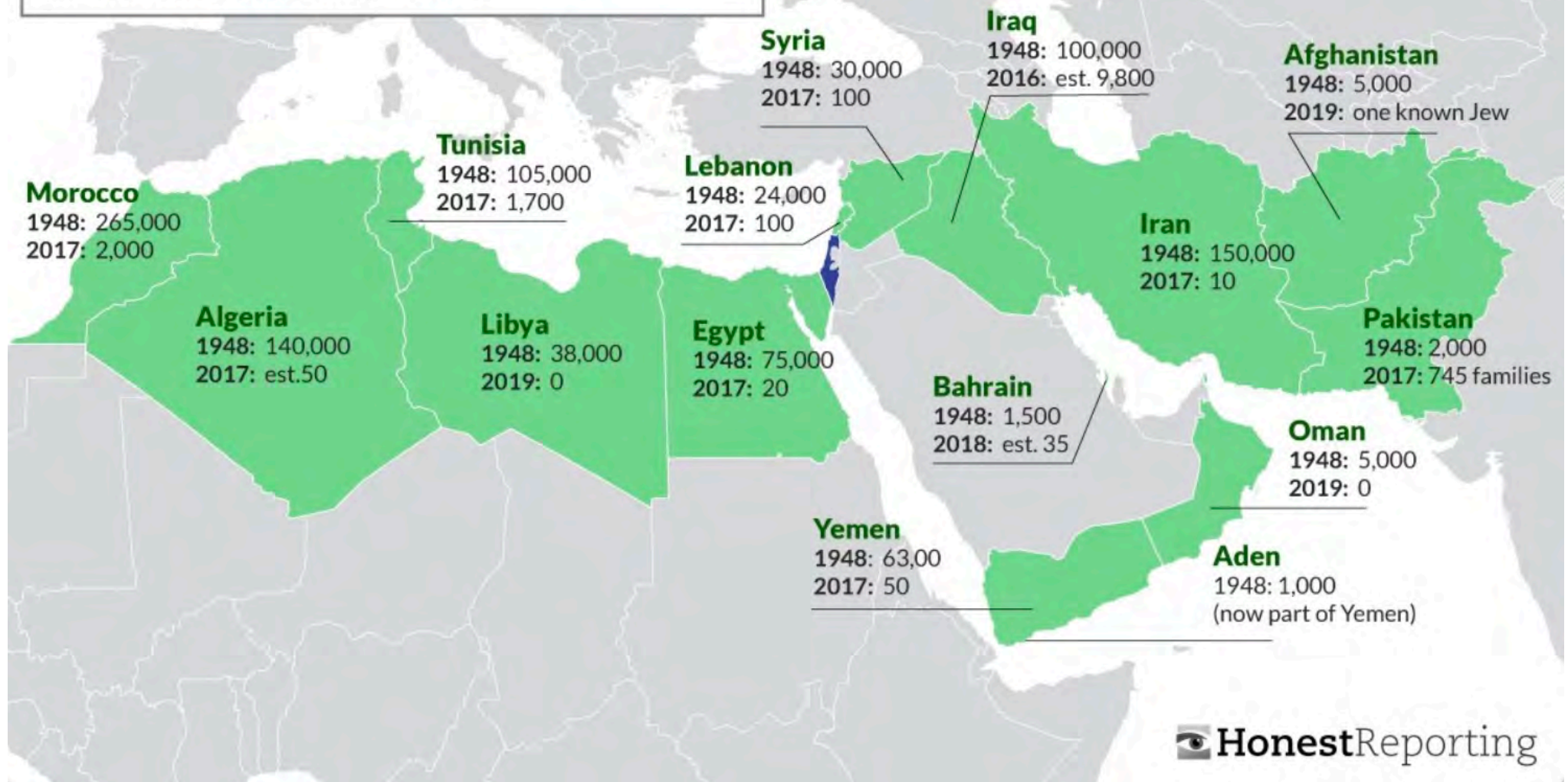
MENA

(Middle East & North Africa)

Jewish refugees from MENA countries (1948-2019)

Jewish Refugees From Arab Countries

An estimated 820,000 Jews fled violence and discrimination in their Arab homelands between 1948-1972.



 HonestReporting

Migration of Jews from MENA countries (1948-2021)

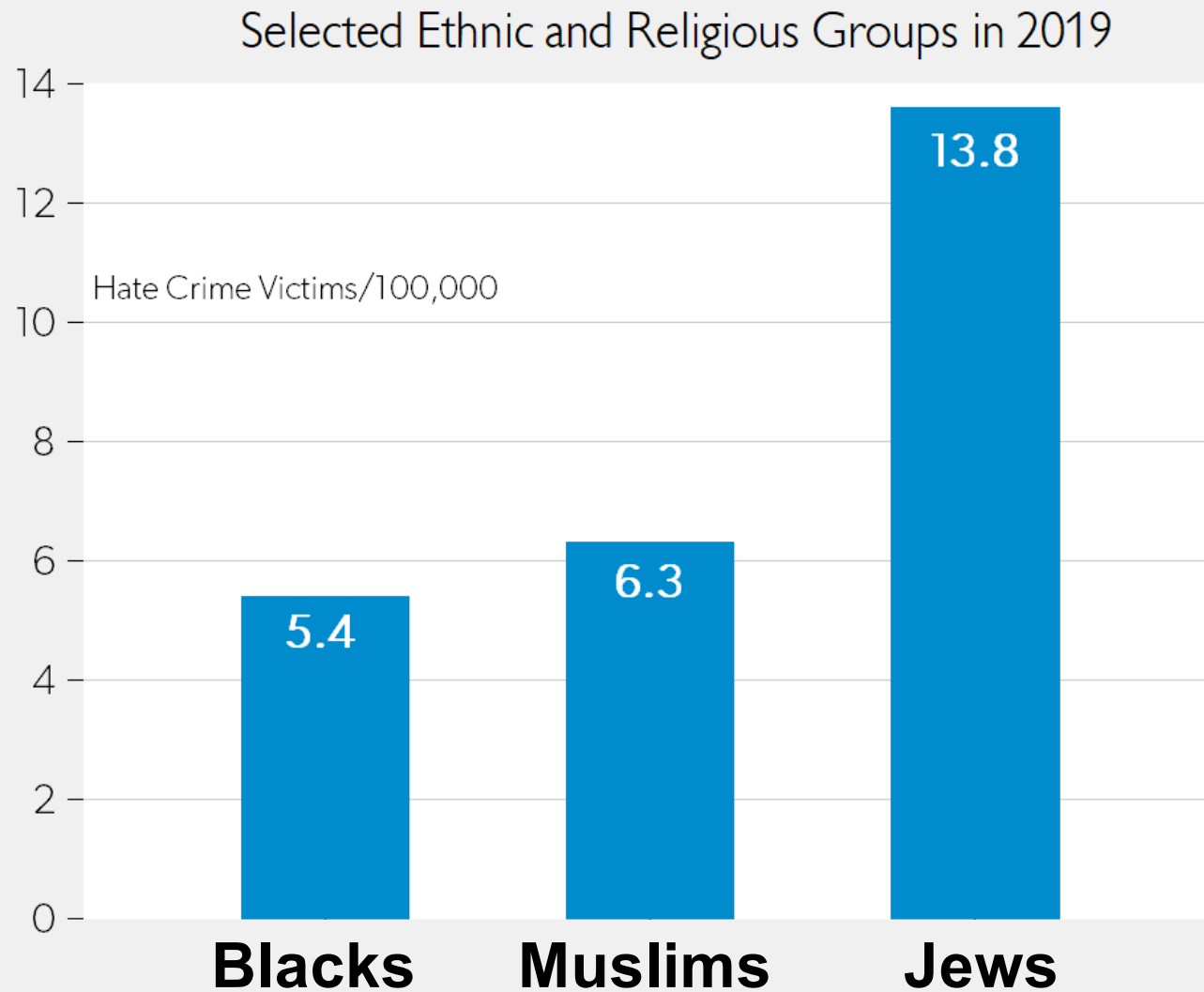
The lost Jewish communities of the Arab world



Persecutors of Jews...

The USA Left

US Hate Crime Rates per 100,000 Population by Selected Ethnic and Religious Groups in 2019



Sources: FBI, Census Bureau, Brandeis University, Pew Research

Carpe Diem 

<https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/based-on-2019-fbi-data-jews-were-2-6x-more-likely-than-blacks-and-2-2x-more-likely-than-muslims-to-be-victims-of-hate-crimes/>

Antisemitism in the USA (7-25 October 2023)



REUTERS®

**US antisemitic incidents up about
400% since Israel-Hamas war
began, report says**

BY KANISHKA SINGH

OCTOBER 25, 2023

PREAMBLE

NEWSMAX

"AMERICA'S FATE IS BLEAKER THAN EVER UNDER JOE BIDEN"

1:03 PT LIVE

ISE: 'FORREST GUMP' INSPIRED WORK WITH WOUNDED VETS . . . ANDY OGLES TO N

**Why have Jews
been hated
throughout
history?**



**Is there a
battle
between
human
armies?**

Our Real Enemy

**Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.
¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.**

—Ephesians 6:11-12 NLT—





Satan:

- hates what God loves
- loves what God hates

A joint 2016 prayer session was held in Gush Etzion, after the Duma arson attack
(photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM/THE JERUSALEM POST)

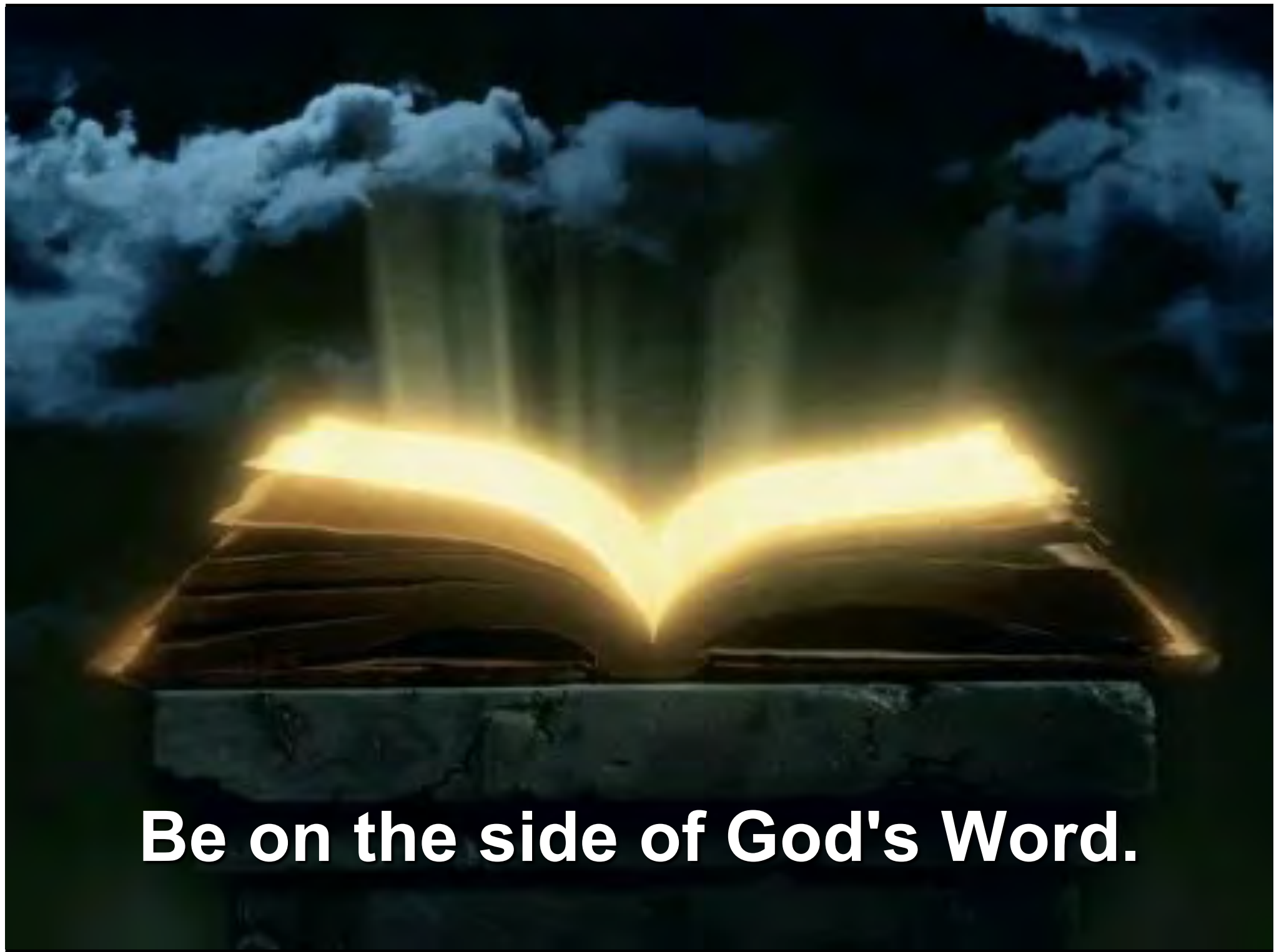
<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/for-jewish-agency-israeli-arabs-an-increasing-priority-445642>

Esther reminds us how God has protected Jews throughout history



**Which side are you—
opposing or protecting Israel?**





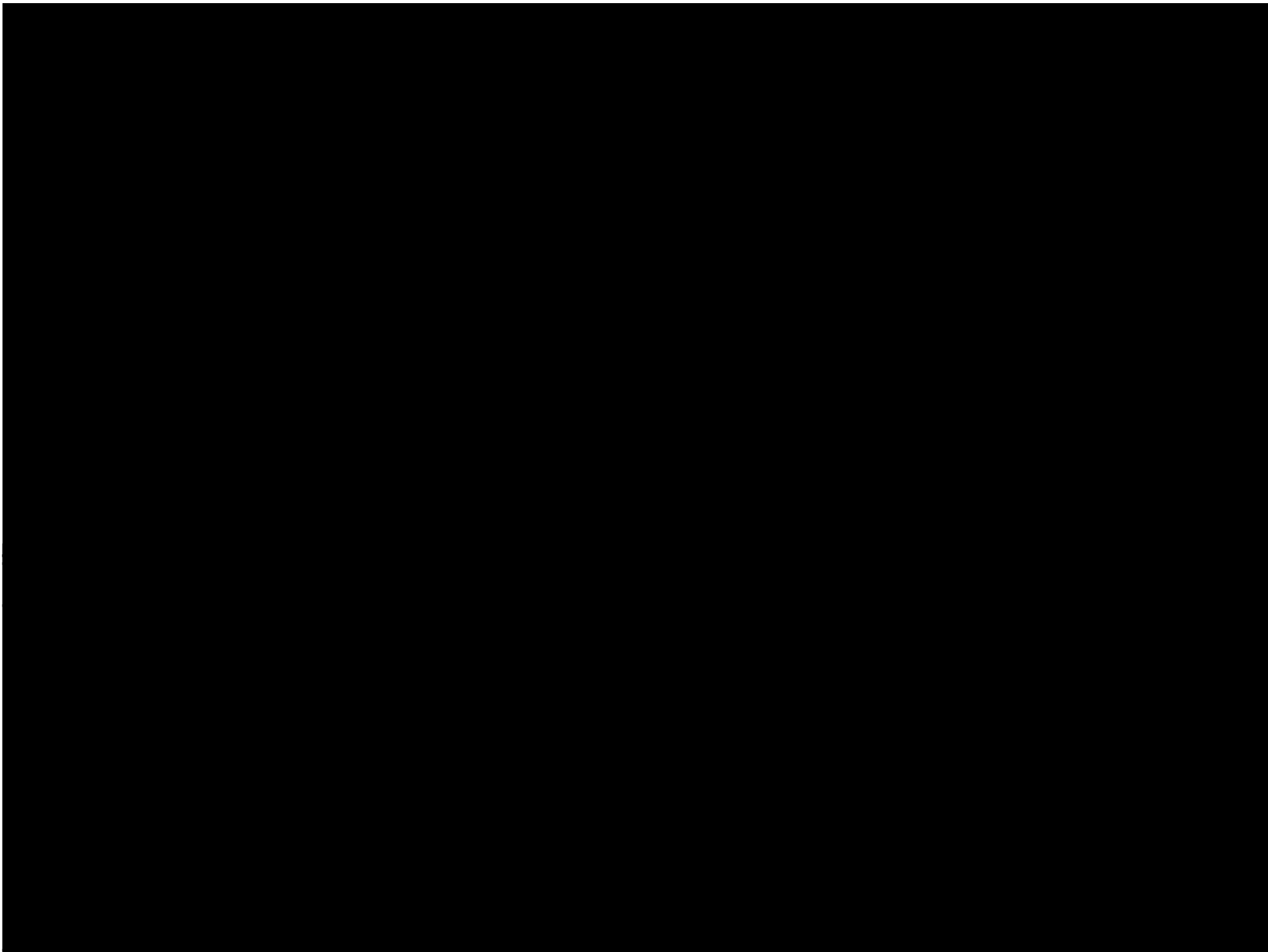
Be on the side of God's Word.

**There is only one race
—the human race.**



A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched, standing against a bright sunrise or sunset. The sun is positioned directly behind the person's head, creating a strong lens flare effect. The background shows a hazy landscape with mountains and a body of water. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by oranges, yellows, and browns.

**God accepts all ethnicities.
So should we.**



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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. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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