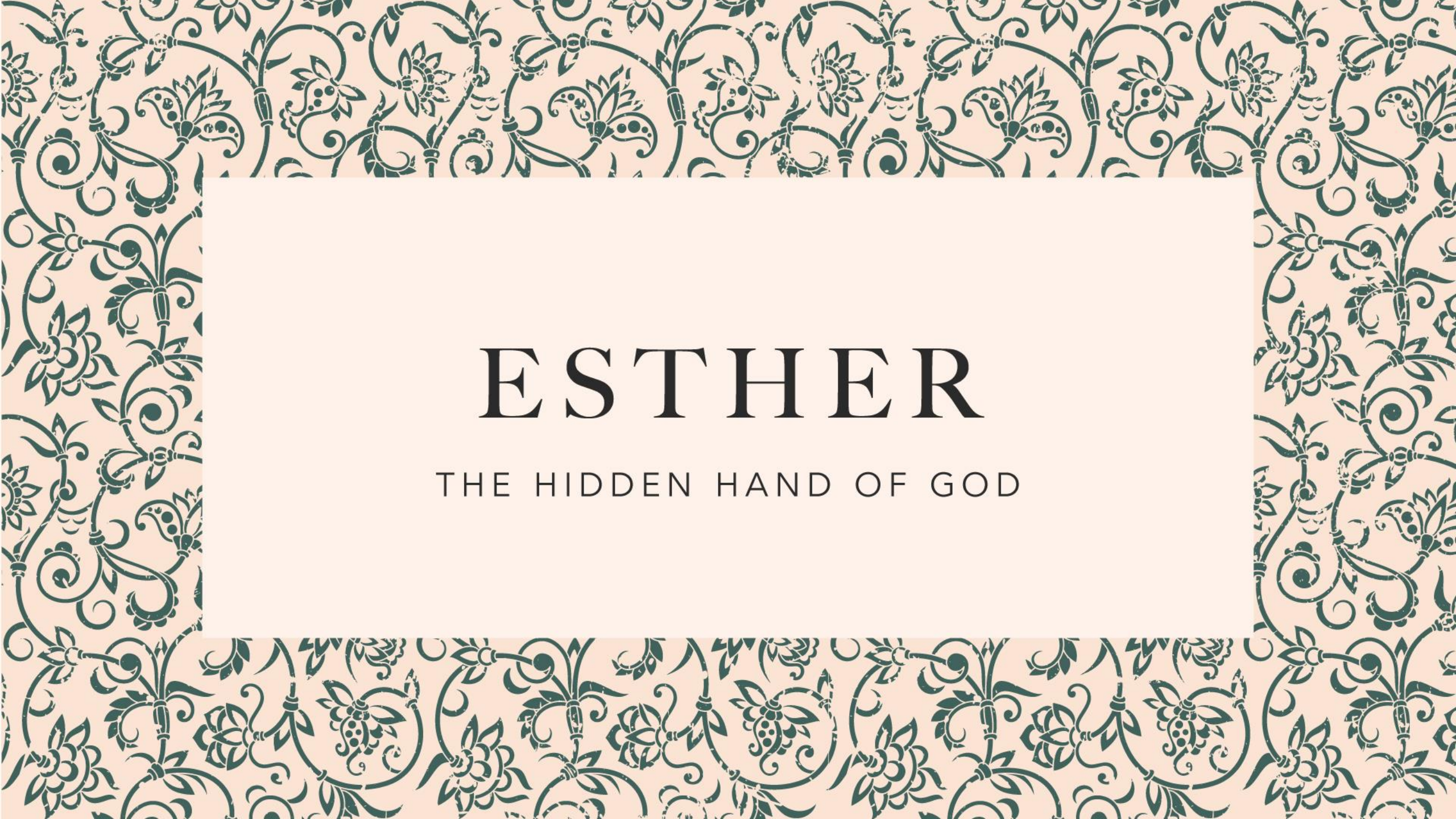




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BOOK OF ESTHER

Week 2

An Unlikely Queen

Esther 2: 1-23



“A coincidence is a miracle
in which God prefers to
remain anonymous.”

Quoted in Jon D. Levenson, Esther: A Commentary

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“The book of Esther is perhaps the most striking biblical example of the doctrine of divine providence.”

“Without any observable miracle or any detectable intervention by God, human decisions led to an outcome that God had promised many centuries before.”

Karen Jobe, *The NIV Application Commentary: Esther*”

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Review

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How does God use the ordinary decisions of faulty people to accomplish his purpose?

- I. Decisions of a Depressed Despot
- II. Decisions of a Weak and Vulnerable People
- III. Divine Providence of God

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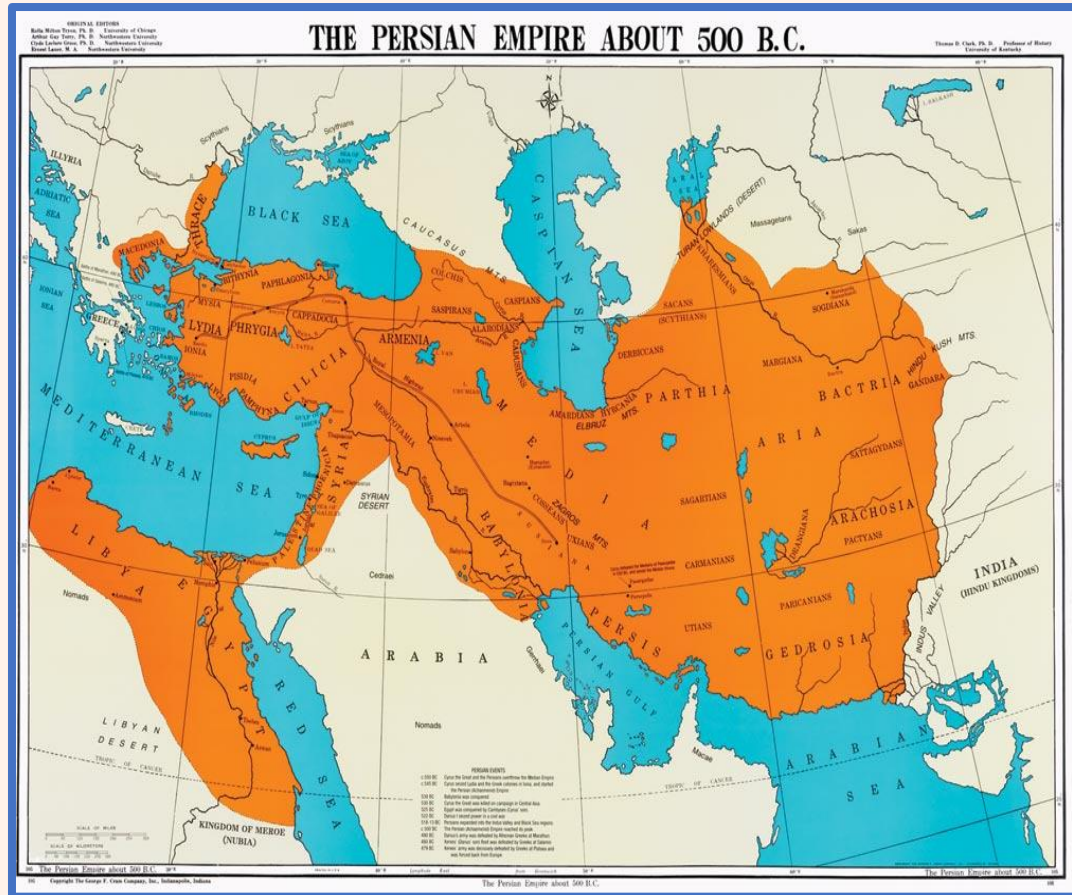
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I. Decisions of a Depressed Despot

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I. Decisions of a Depressed Despot



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Regarding the Book of Esther:

“It does not flinch from narrating for us this simple, ugly fact in ancient Persia, **where people are treated as commodities**. It is a story, the like of which when we hear it on the news we can scarcely bear to contemplate. **There is no escapism here. Esther 2 is the real world.**”

Dr. David Strain. “Beauty and the Beast”

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Larry Nassar

1996-2014 Team doctor for the US Women's Olympic Gymnastics Team

December 7, 2017 – Sentenced to 60 years in federal prison

Charge – Sexual assault of at least 265 young women and girls under the guise of medical treatment.

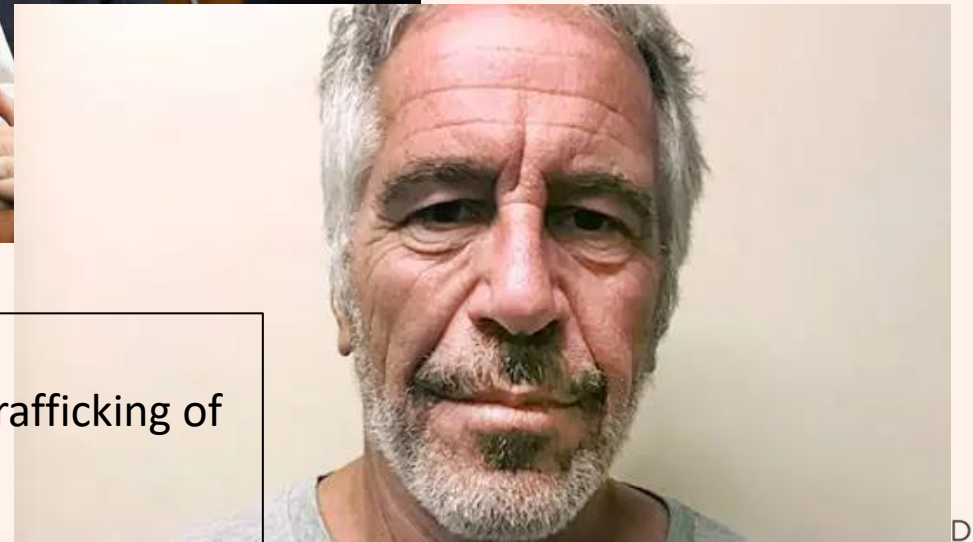
Harvey Weinstein – American Film Producer
October 2017 – More than 80 allegations of sexual harassment or rape made.
February 2020 – Guilty of 2 of 5 felony counts
Sentenced to 23 years in prison
#MeToo social media campaign



Jeffrey Epstein - Financier

July 6, 2019 – Federal Charges of sex trafficking of minors in Florida and New York

August 10, 2019 – Suicide by hanging



“God’s Word speaks to the extremes of our experience *even when our society doesn’t know what to think*. The Lord is not confounded when the unthinkable happens. **His gospel is a real-world Gospel that works in the darkest realities of our lives.”**

Dr. David Strain. “Beauty and the Beast”

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II. Decisions of Weak and Vulnerable People

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I can't change the
direction of the wind,
but I can adjust my sails
to always reach my
destination.

Jimmy Dean



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II. Decisions of Weak and Vulnerable People

- Mordacai
 - His status is as an exile (Diaspora)
 - Outsider
 - Marginalized
 - Weak
 - Vulnerable



- Esther
 - Her status is as an exile (Diaspora)
 - Outsider
 - Marginalized
 - Weak
 - Orphan
 - Vulnerable
 - Beautiful – The Empire Values Most
 - Cousin of Mordecai
 - Being raised as his daughter
 - Dual Identity
 - Hadassah
 - The Jewish world in which she was raised
 - Did not reveal her Jewish identity
 - Esther
 - The Persian court into which she was thrust
 - Assimilated into the culture

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Life in the Harem

- Girls / Esther
 - “Taken” into the harem
 - 13-15 years old
 - Separated in 2 sections
 - Virgin Harem
 - Concubine Harem
-



III. God's Divine Providence

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III. God's Divine Providence



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God's Divine Providence

Clarity

In *creation* God uses his divine energy to create the world and all that is in it.

In *providence* God continues to use his divine energy to hold all the universe together and to bring all things under his sovereign care. *Proverbs 21:1; Ephesians 1*

Mystery

We are not puppets, yet God is mysteriously working his purpose beyond our understanding.

“Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” *Genesis 50:20*

Security

Divine Providence of God gives security to all who belong to Jesus. *Acts 27:22*

TRUST THE PROMISES

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Application

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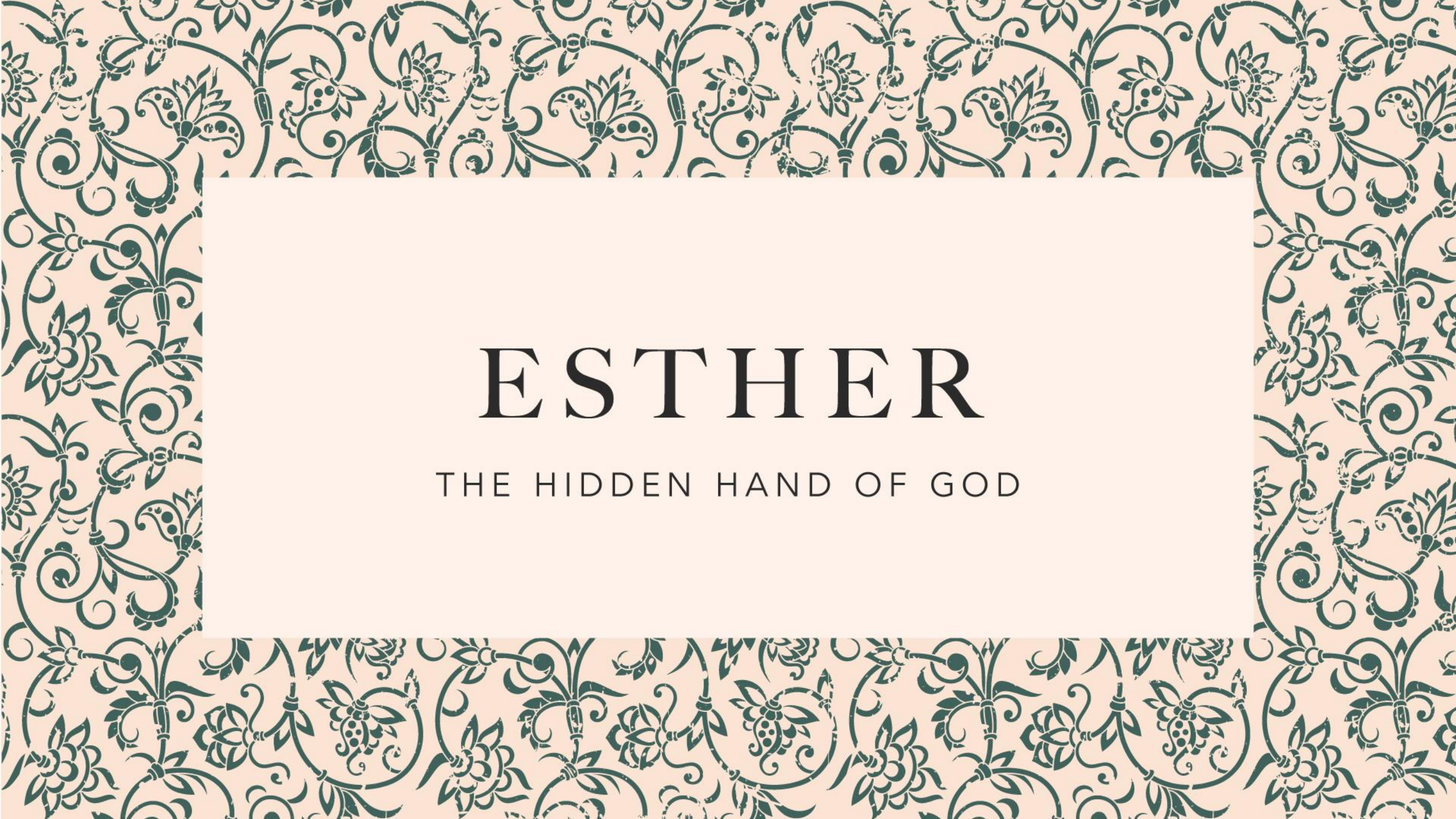
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Psalm 34:22

“The LORD *redeems* the life of his servants;
none of those who take *refuge* in him will be
condemned.

Trust the Promise!





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