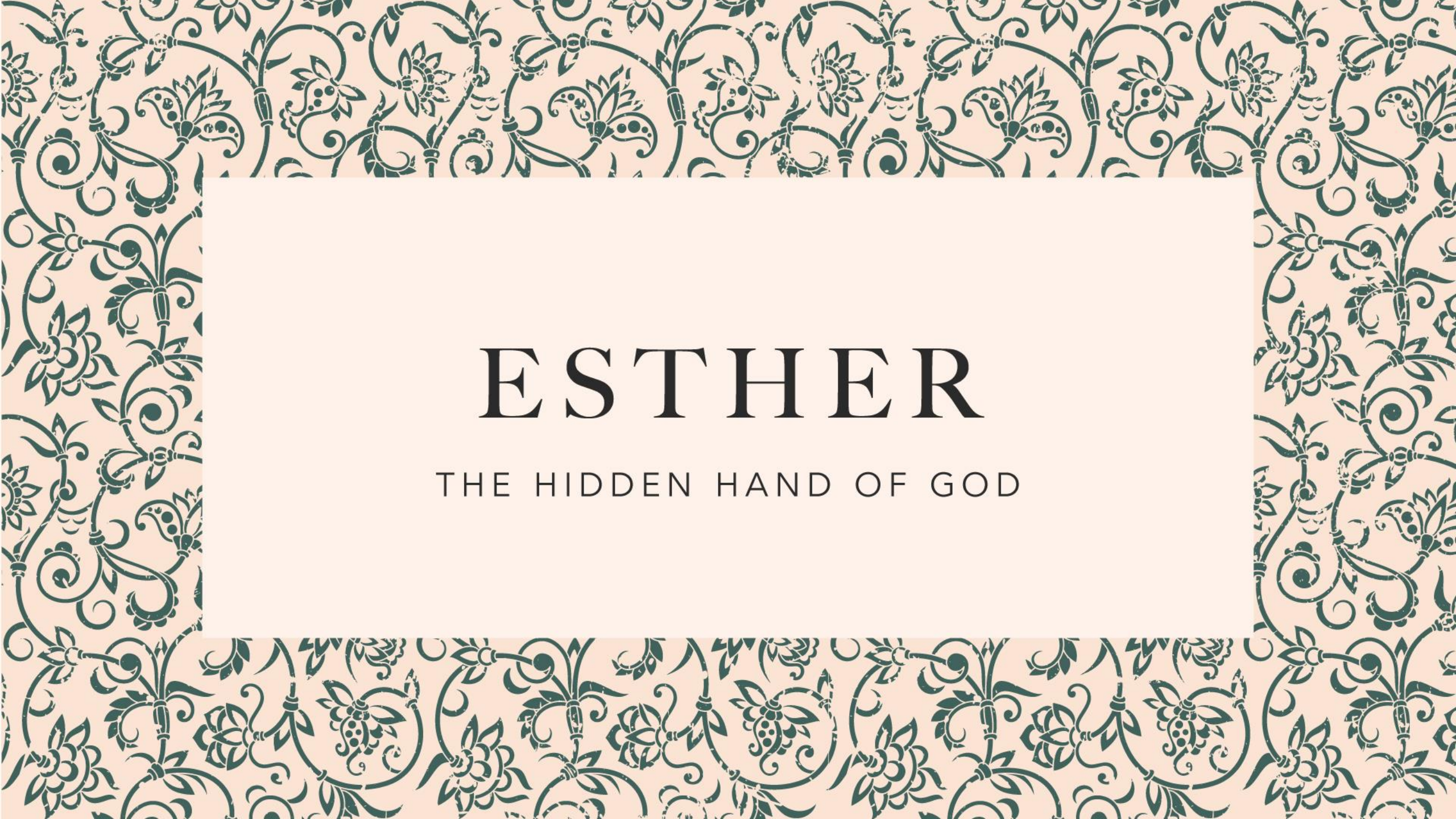




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THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD



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Colts vs Buccaneers October 3, 2003



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Half Time 21-0

“Surely, we can’t do any worse. I don’t know if we are going to win, but let’s show the country we are better than that!”

Tony Dungy

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“That was totally beyond belief. I’ve never seen a comeback like that in my life”

John Madden



“This will always be the standard for
coming back.”

Reggie Wayne

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“I just had a feeling the Lord was going to do something, and He did, He certainly did.”

Tony Dungy



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Chiasm of Esther

Chiasm - A literary device in which a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated in reverse order.

Mordecai Honored

**Haman celebrates with
wife and friends**

**Haman grieves with
wife and friends**

**Esther's first feast,
Haman is happy**

**Esther's second feast,
Haman is condemned**

**Haman's decree to
destroy the Jews**

**Mordecai's decree to
save the Jews**

Haman is promoted

Mordecai is promoted

**Two feasts to celebrate
Persian glory**

**Two feasts to celebrate
Jewish victory**

**Book opens declaring the glory of
Ahasuerus**

**Book closes declaring the honor of
Mordecai**



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“One of the funniest (chapters)
anywhere in the Bible.”

A. Berlin



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Providential Insomnia



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“The Lord took sleep from the king.”



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“The entire course of history for the Jewish nation was changed because a pagan king, hundreds miles from the center of God’s activities in Jerusalem, could not sleep. Jewish people all over the Persian Empire were not aware of God’s dealings until long after the fact. But read in the light of God’s covenants to Abraham, Moses and David, the readers could well appreciate the sovereign action of God.”

The Bible Knowledge Commentary



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Do you feel unnoticed, unrewarded or
unappreciated?

Remind yourself about Mordecai.
And be sure to guard your heart as
Mordecai must have.



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Who is in the court?



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“From a human perspective this would seem to be an amazing coincidence, but God’s word reveals that it was no accident- it was part of God’s deliberate plan. There are no coincidences or surprises under the Lord’s sovereign hand.”

John MacArthur



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“Unfortunately for Haman, his plans were about to run head on into the Providence of God.”

Frederic Bush



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“Then the king said to Haman, ‘Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to **Mordecai the Jew**, who sits at the king’s gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned.’”

Verse 10



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“Arguably the most ironically comic scenes in the entire Bible.”

Karen Jobes



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“When circumstances look their bleakest, God can connect what doesn’t seem connectable. He can cause roads to intersect that look like they never could meet.”

Tony Evans



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“Our fall could be just as sudden and inescapable as Haman’s, taking us from our present comforts to face a holy God in an instant.”

Ilan Duguid



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1. God is at work.



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“When it seems God is not active, he may be most at work. He may be most present when he seems most hidden.”

Derek Prime



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2. God's timing is always perfect.



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“If the king hadn’t had a sleepless night; if the king had not called for the book of memorable deeds; if Mordecai’s story had not been read; if the king had worded his question to Haman differently, then Mordecai would have been on the way to the gallows.”

Alistair Begg



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3. God might seem absent, but He is present.

