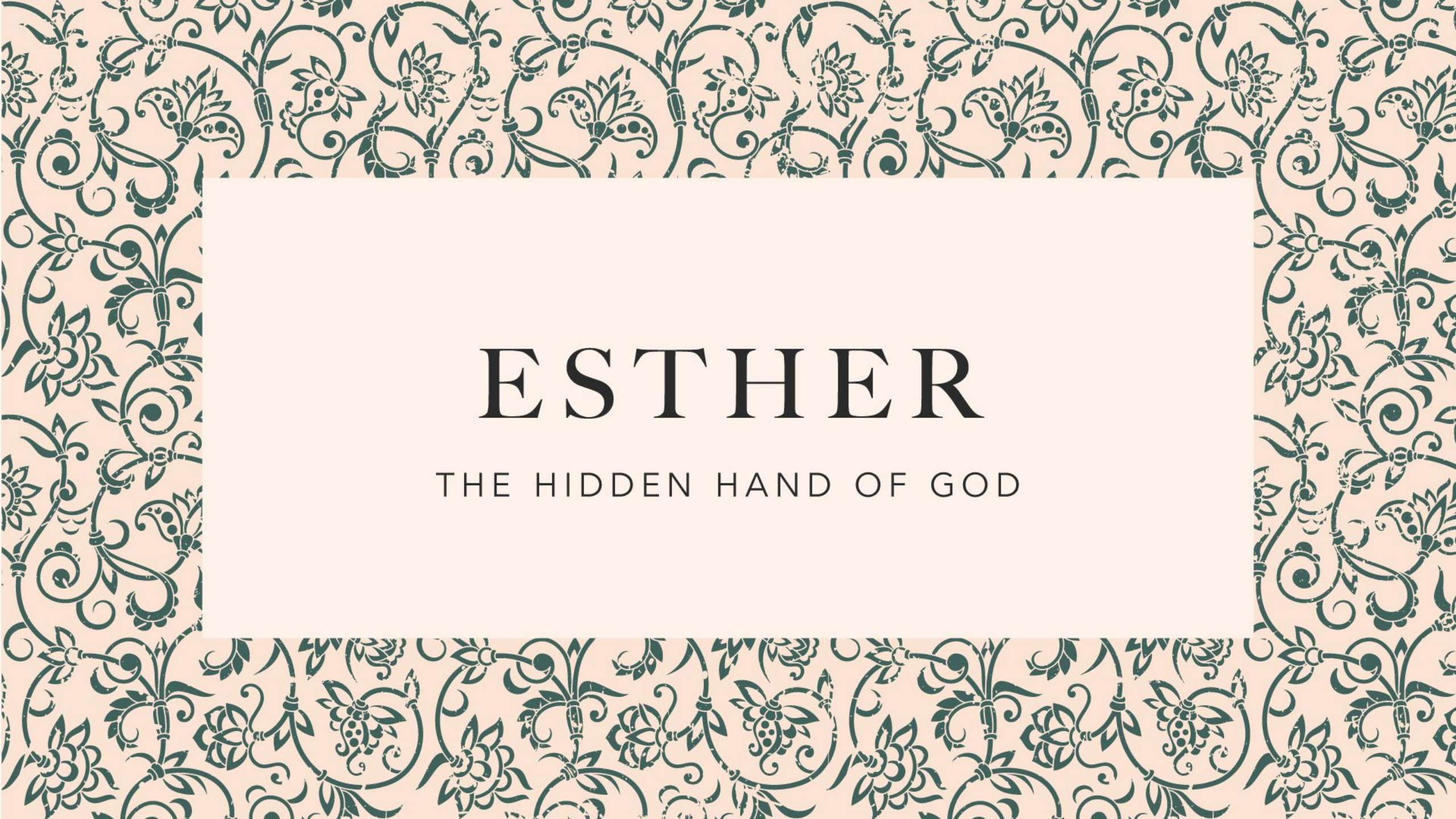




ESTHER

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD

"Deliverance" (9:1-19)

ESTHER

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD

D - DAY !!

WHAT FIRST COMES TO YOUR MIND?



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- WHAT FIRST COMES TO YOUR MIND?

AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT



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? PERSONAL QUESTION ?

- *HAVE YOU HAD A 'D-DAY' IN YOUR LIFE?*
- *DID YOU EXPERIENCE A 'TURNING POINT' OF SIGNIFICANCE?*

JUNE 6, 1944 - NORMANDY BEACHES

- ALLIED FORCES IN THE LARGEST ASSAULT IN HISTORY
- "D" WAS KEPT SECRET ??
- THE TURNING POINT IN WW I I
- LIBERATED FRANCE AND DEFEATED GERMANY

DELIVERANCE!

THE 13TH OF ADAR, 474 BC, **D-DAY** IN PERSIA

D = DECREES

D = DESTRUCTION

D = DELIVERANCE

**'DELIVERANCE' IS THE
KEYNOTE OF JEWISH
HISTORY**

Persian King, Queen, and the Golden Scepter

- King Ahasuerus had been on the throne 12 years
- Esther had been Queen for 5 years
- Haman is out; Mordecai is in high power
- A n d
- The hidden hand of God has been very busy turning the tables!!



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D-Day: Decrees of Destruction or Deliverance

- Actually Both: In Chp 9...
 - A Power Shift
 - A Bloody Day
 - Queen Esther's Wishes
 - Time to Celebrate

AND NOW...UNEXPECTED POWER SHIFT

•a truly major, overarching reversal:

- IS ABOUT TO OCCUR**
- JEW'S 100 YRS OF A LOW PROFILE**
- MORDECAI AND ESTHER'S
ETHNICITY REVEALED**

? PERSONAL QUESTION ?

- *HAS GOD INSTRUMENTED ANY UNEXPECTED REVERSALS IN YOUR LIFE? {YOU MAY HAVE TO USE 20:20 HINDSIGHT HERE}*
- *WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES?*

THE 13th of ADAR: 2 DECREES IN FORCE

- AS ETHNIC WAR BEGINS IN PERSIA
- THE NUMBERS KILLED IN SUSAN AND IN THE PROVINCES REACH THE KING...SHOCKING! (THAT SO MANY IN PERSIA HATE THE JEWS!!)

TWO DECREES; A VERY BLOODY DAY IN THE EMPIRE...**BUT NO PLUNDERING!!!**



VICTORY IN 2 DAYS...ROLE REVERSALS

- JEWS GAIN MASTERY OVER THOSE WHO HATED THEM
- GOD IS AT WORK IN EVERY REVERSAL IN THIS STORY; HOW DID HE WORK TO SECURE THE JEWS' VICTORY?

F E A R !!!

**GOD PUT FEAR IN THE HEARTS
OF THE ENEMY:**

FEAR OF THE JEWS

FEAR OF MORDECAI

**"THE DREAD OF THEM FELL ON
ALL THE PEOPLE."**

? PERSONAL QUESTION ?

- *DO I DARE ASK WHAT YOU MOST FEAR?*
- *HAVE YOU EVER FELT FEAR TO THE POINT OF BEING 'PARALYZED'?*
- *WHERE IS THE FEAR OF GOD TODAY BEFORE THE EYES OF THE WORLD, DO YOU THINK?*

FEAR IS A POWERFUL WEAPON...

- AND, THIS WASN'T THE FIRST TIME GOD HAD PUT FEAR INTO PLAY...
- GOD ALSO HELPED THE JEWS GAIN VICTORY BY:**
 - PROVIDING UNITY AMONG HIS PEOPLE
 - MADE HIS PEOPLE INVINCIBLE
 - PUT EVERY ETHNIC GROUP IN FEAR
 - PROVIDED SUPPORT FROM OFFICIALS

A NOTE ON THE TIMELINE...

- **ESTHER'S STORY COVERS 10 YEARS**
- **SLOWLY; then 1st DECREE SET FOR 9 MONTHS AHEAD**
- **A 2nd DECREE; CONFUSION AND 7 MONTHS TO GO**
- **D-DAY ARRIVES !!**
- **SUDDENLY, EVENTS OCCUR IN 2 DAYS OF WAR!!**
- **"IT IS DONE!" GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!!**
- **IS THIS FORESHADOWING THE "END TIMES"?**

? PERSONAL QUESTION?

- *? TIMELINE IN YOUR LIFE—HOW CHARACTERIZED OVER THE YEARS? RIGHT NOW?*
- *COASTING ALONG, EVERYTHINIG PRETTY MUCH AS PLANNED?*
- *OR SUDDEN UPHEAVAL; TABLES TURNED; A REVERSAL?*
- *DO YOU THINK GOD'S HIDDEN HAND WAS WORKING IN YOUR LIFE?*

ESTHER: VINDICTIVE? SIMPLY
PRAGMATIC?

ESTHER'S TWO WISHES

- 1} AN EXTRA DAY FOR THE JEWS
TO FIGHT!
- 2} HANG HAMAN'S 10 DEAD
SONS!

DIFFICULT READING ...

- ESPECIALLY ABOUT WARS AND BLOODSHED IN THE BIBLE...
- ESPECIALLY WHEN GOD MANDATED KILLINGS
- HOW IS IT JUSTIFIED? WHAT IS A 'JUST WAR'?

WHEN HOLY WARFARE CHANGED

- JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS
CHANGED IT ALL
- CHRISTIANS NO LONGER WAGE
WAR AS THE WORLD DOES {2 Cor
10:3-4}
- PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD {Eph
6}

PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

- WARFARE, NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS:
- SPIRITUAL WARFARE



ARMOR OF GOD



GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY PREVAILS

GOD HAS THE KING GRANT ESTHER'S WISHES,
RESULTING IN:

- 300 ADDITIONAL ENEMIES KILLED IN SUSAN
- 10 SONS OF HAMAN HANGED ON GALLOWS

WERE HAMAN'S SONS FOLLOWING HIS FOOTSTEPS?
A LESSON TO CAREFULLY SHEPHERD OUR CHILDREN
AND GRANDCHILDREN...As in Psalm 34:11 --

**"COME MY CHILDREN AND LISTEN TO ME AND I WILL
TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD."**

THE BOOK OF ESTHER...

- IS A PROFOUND INTERPLAY OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN WILL
- IS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN A CHAIN OF EVENTS, TO RE-ESTABLISH THE HEBREWS IN THEIR OWN LAND, PRESERVED TO BRING FORTH THE SAVIOR!

GOD ORCHESTRATES IT ALL ...

ESTHER IS NOT THE HEROINE HERE
MORDECAI IS NOT THE HERO

GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK FULFILLING HIS
PROMISES!

? DON'T YOU AGREE ?

- *THAT TIME WILL REVEAL HOW GOD IS RESCUING YOU IN YOUR CURRENT SITUATION?*

VICTORY! IT IS DONE!!

- A LONG HISTORY OF HATRED IS OVER!
- THE ANCIENT ENEMIES OF GOD, THE AMALEKITES, HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT!!
- THE JEWS WERE ONCE AGAIN, **DELIVERED!**

THE JEWS' VICTORY GAVE NEW COURAGE, AND CAUSED OTHERS TO WANT TO JOIN THEM, TO CONVERT:

i.e., "ALL ARE JEWS ON THIS DAY."

A VICTORIOUS CELEBRATION {Es 9:16-19}

- **IT WAS TIME TO CELEBRATE**
 - **IN SUSA**
 - **IN THE PROVINCES**

**And evidently to DISAGREE . .
.CELEBRATE ON WHICH DAY?**

DIVISION vs UNITY? GOD STILL WANTS
UNITY AMONG HIS PEOPLE, NOT TO LET A
SMALL THING MUSHROOM INTO MAJOR
DIVISION...

GOD HAS MORDECAI ISSUE A DECISION:

- **CELEBRATE PURIM ON
BOTH THE 14th and 15th!**

? PERSONAL QUESTION ?

- *? HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED THIS PERSONALLY—A KIND OF "MUSHROOMING", EXPLOSIVE EFFECT OF A SMALL DISAGREEMENT?*
- *? REMEMBER THE OUTCOME?*

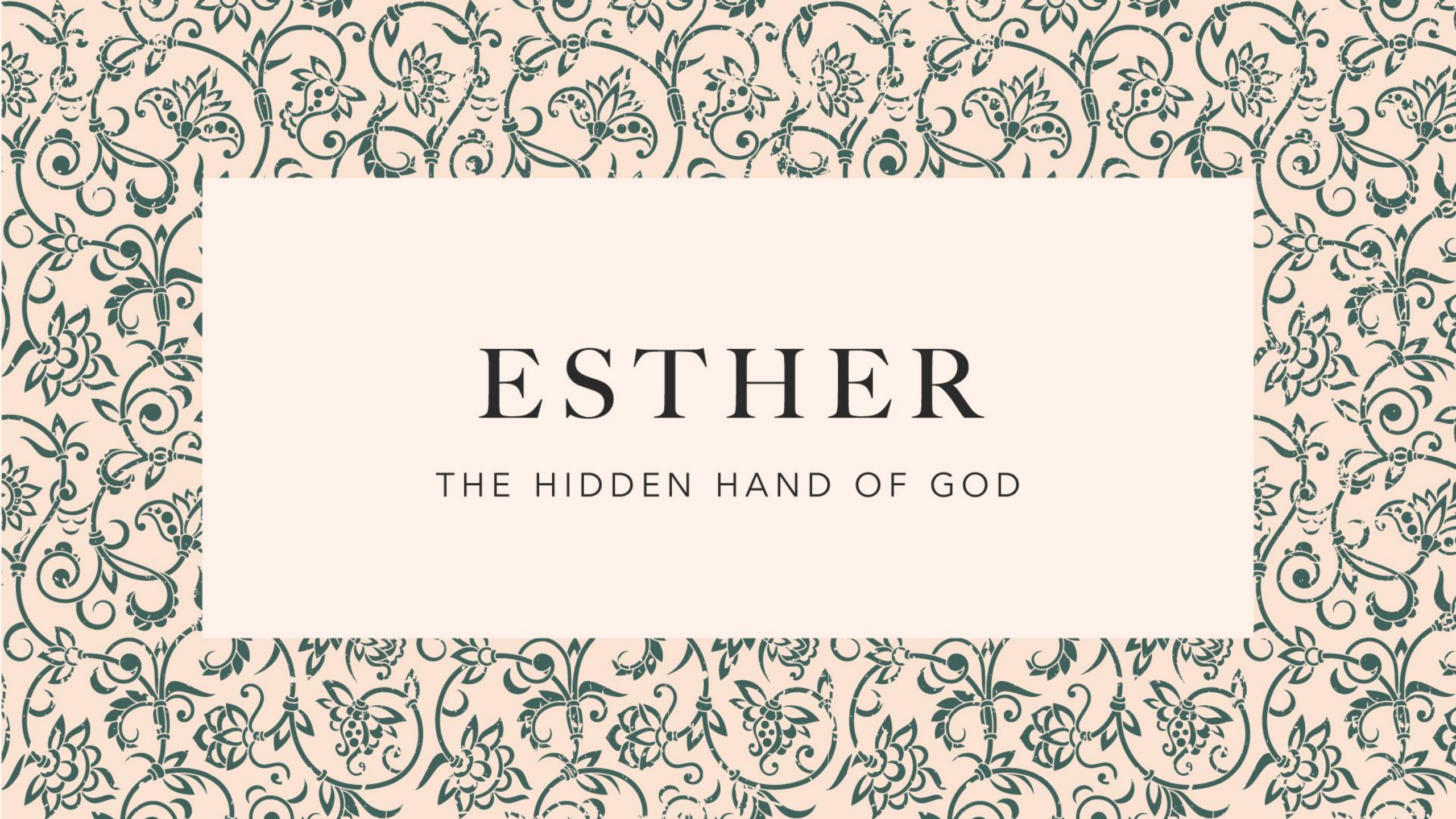
THE AWESOME BIBLE

**AMAZING CONNECTIONS IN THIS BOOK OF
ESTHER...REMINDS AND FORESHADOWS...**

THE BIBLE IS ONE STORY

AND THE HIDDEN HAND OF **GOD** IS ON EVERY
PAGE!

- LET US PRAY -



ESTHER

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD