

ESTHER







ESTHER

Esther 4:1-17





When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

- Esther 4:1-3



When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

- Esther 4:4-5





Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people

- Esther 4:6-8



Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

- Esther 4:9-11





When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 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 your royal position for such a time as this?"

- Esther 4:12-14



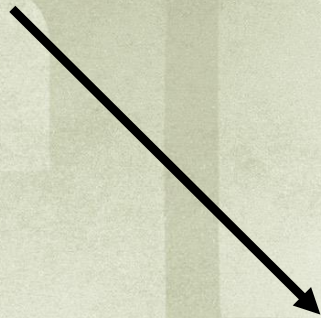
God's plan is to Use Esther to save His People



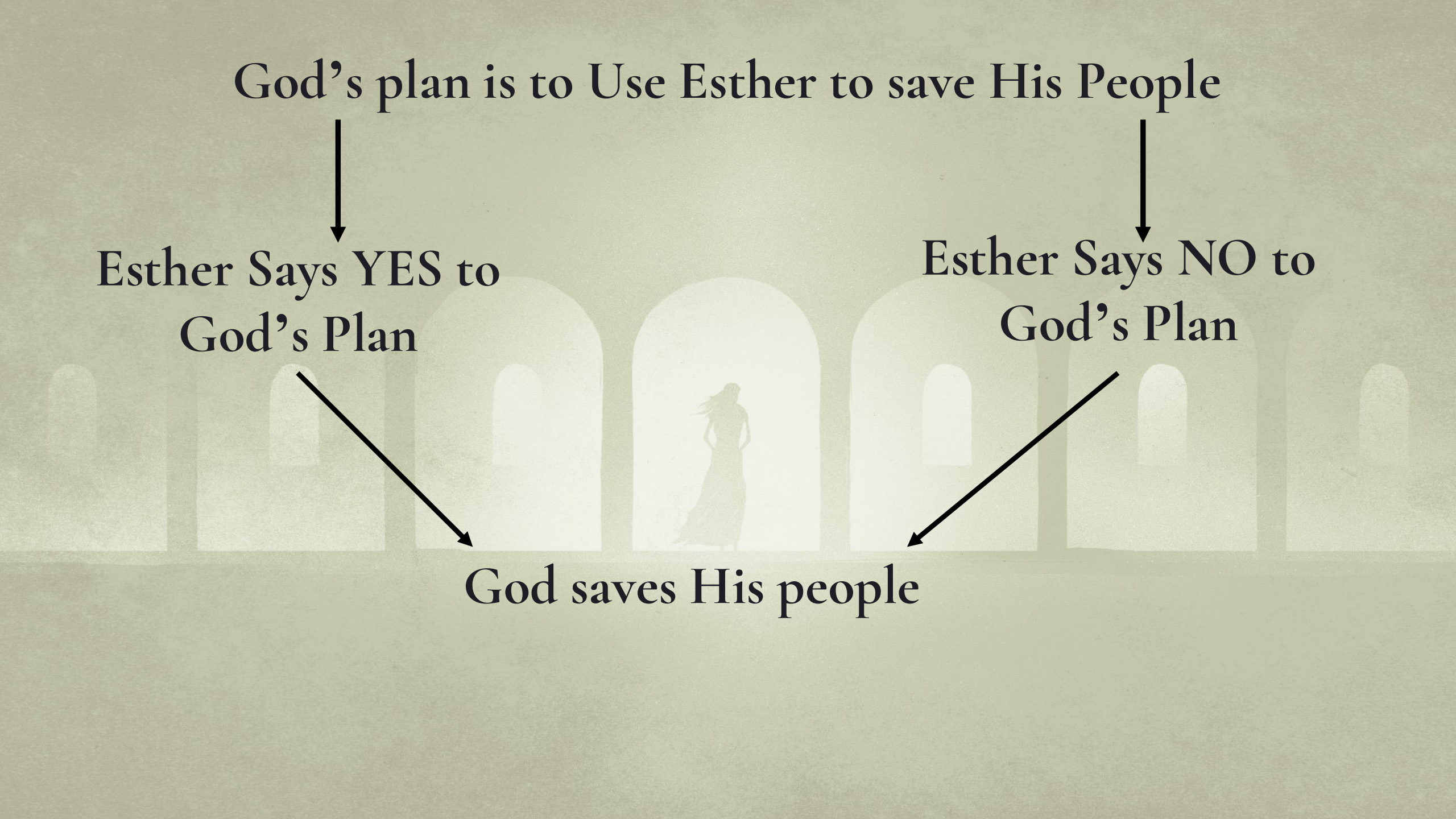
Esther Says YES to
God's Plan



Esther Says NO to
God's Plan



God saves His people

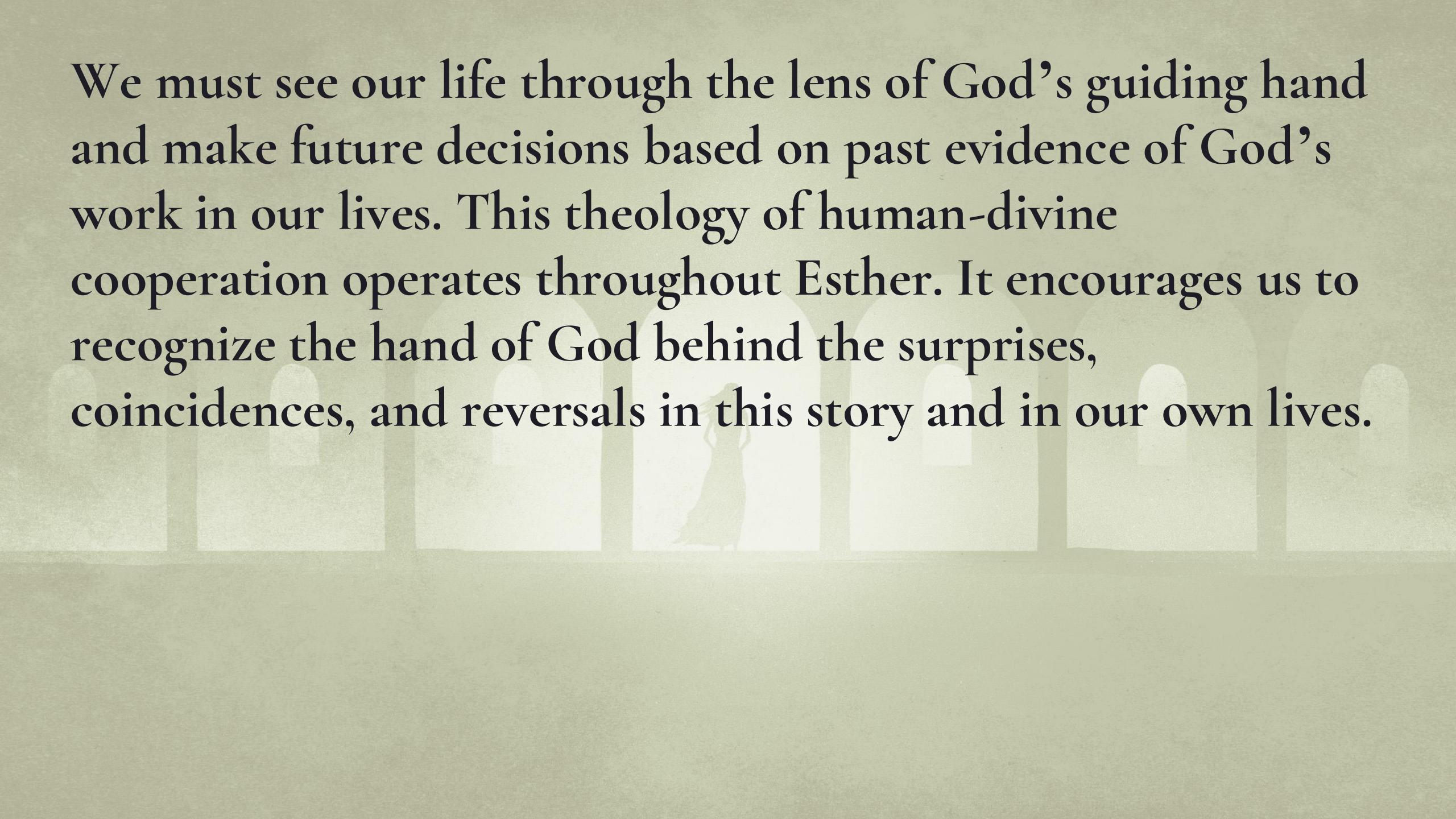


God's plans and purpose cannot be undone by us. His sovereignty is such that all His plans come to fruition.





We must see our life through the lens of God's guiding hand and make future decisions based on past evidence of God's work in our lives. This theology of human-divine cooperation operates throughout Esther. It encourages us to recognize the hand of God behind the surprises, coincidences, and reversals in this story and in our own lives.





Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.

- Esther 4:15-17



PAY ATTENTION TO THE WHISPER OF THE SPIRIT

1. **Examine your past:** While you do this, God's hand of guidance and providence in your past will become clearer and more evident. Choices and events that seemed absent from God's guiding hand while you were in them, you will suddenly see how God was involved, after all.
2. **Consider current circumstance:** What is going on that has made a big decision necessary? Does it follow from the events of your past? Is it a new opportunity? Or is there a crisis happening?

PAY ATTENTION TO THE WHISPER OF THE SPIRIT

3. Think about your future: What are the God given dreams, passions and plans that you have for your future? How do these plans line up with what God has called you to do in the past? Will the current decision move you towards those future dreams or further away?
4. Entrust your decision to the Lord: *“Even if we make the “wrong” decision our God is so gracious and omnipotent that he can use that weak link in a chain of events that will perfect his purposes in us and through us.”* (Karen Jobes)

If we have earnestly sought God's will, we can be assured God is faithful to see His will done in us.





SERMON RESOURCES

