

Esther

Week 1

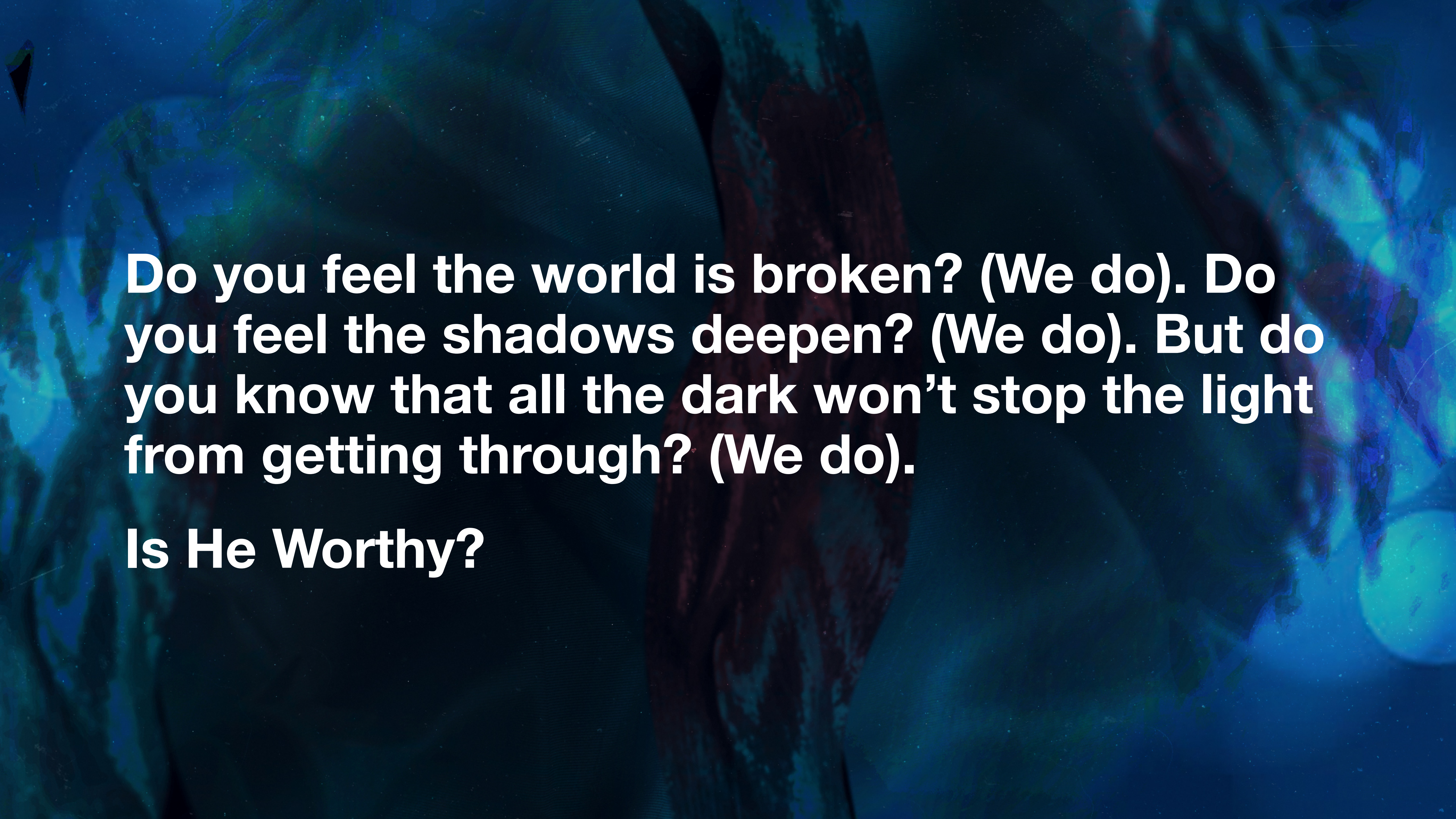
The Stage is Set



Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, September 14, 2025



The Hidden Hand of the Silent Sovereign



Do you feel the world is broken? (We do). Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do). But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do).

Is He Worthy?

Babylonians - 586 BC - Nebuchadnezzar

Persians - 539 BC - Cyrus

Ahasuerus - 486-464 BC

Esther ~478 BC

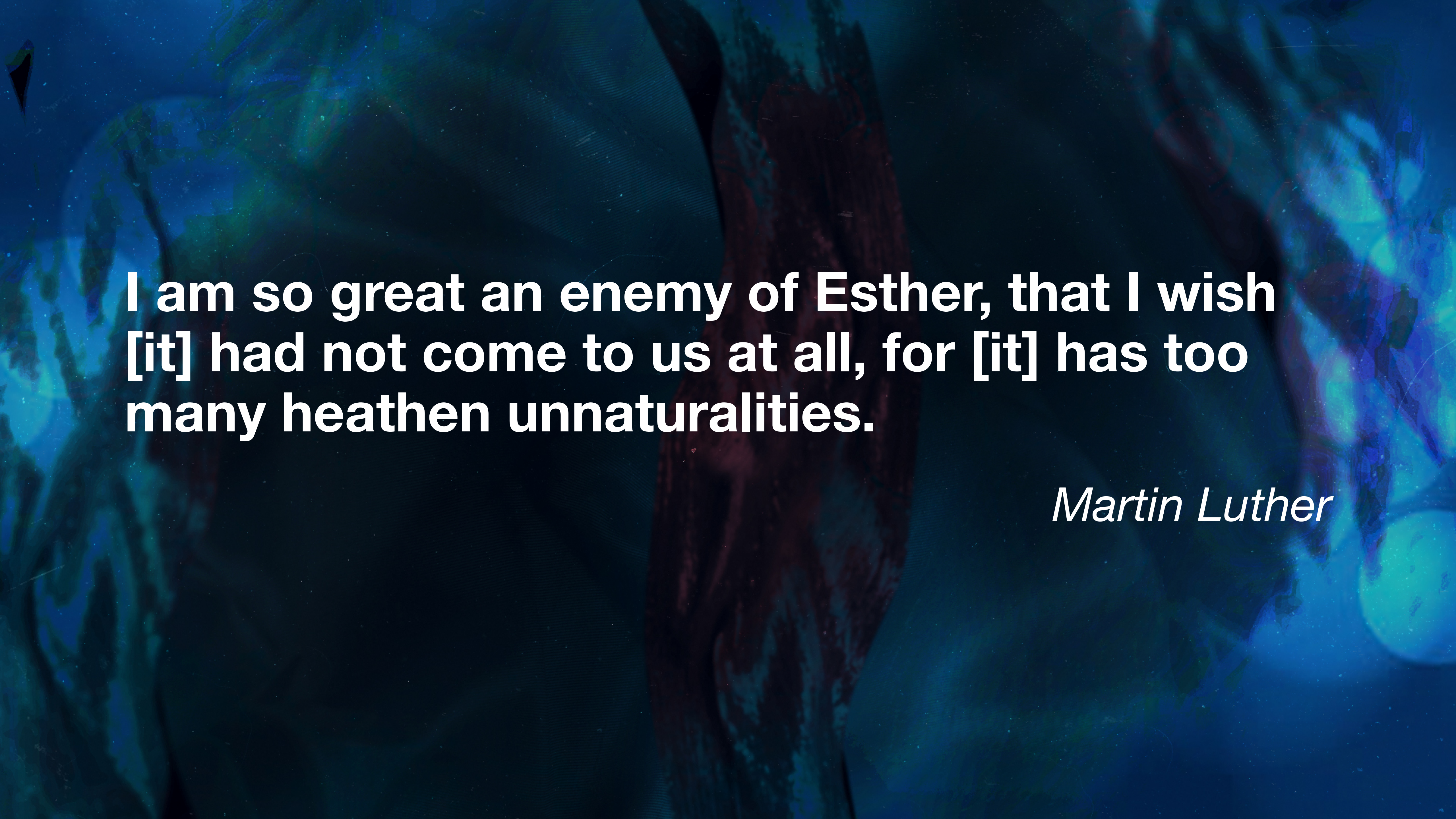
Ezra ~458 BC

Nehemiah ~445 BC



Never be afraid to do what's right.

Queen Green Onion



**I am so great an enemy of Esther, that I wish
[it] had not come to us at all, for [it] has too
many heathen unnaturalities.**

Martin Luther



**God preserves His people through providential
acts in ordinary life.**



I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does
my help come? The **Lord will keep** your going
out and your coming in from this time forth
and forevermore.

Psalm 121:1, 8 NASB

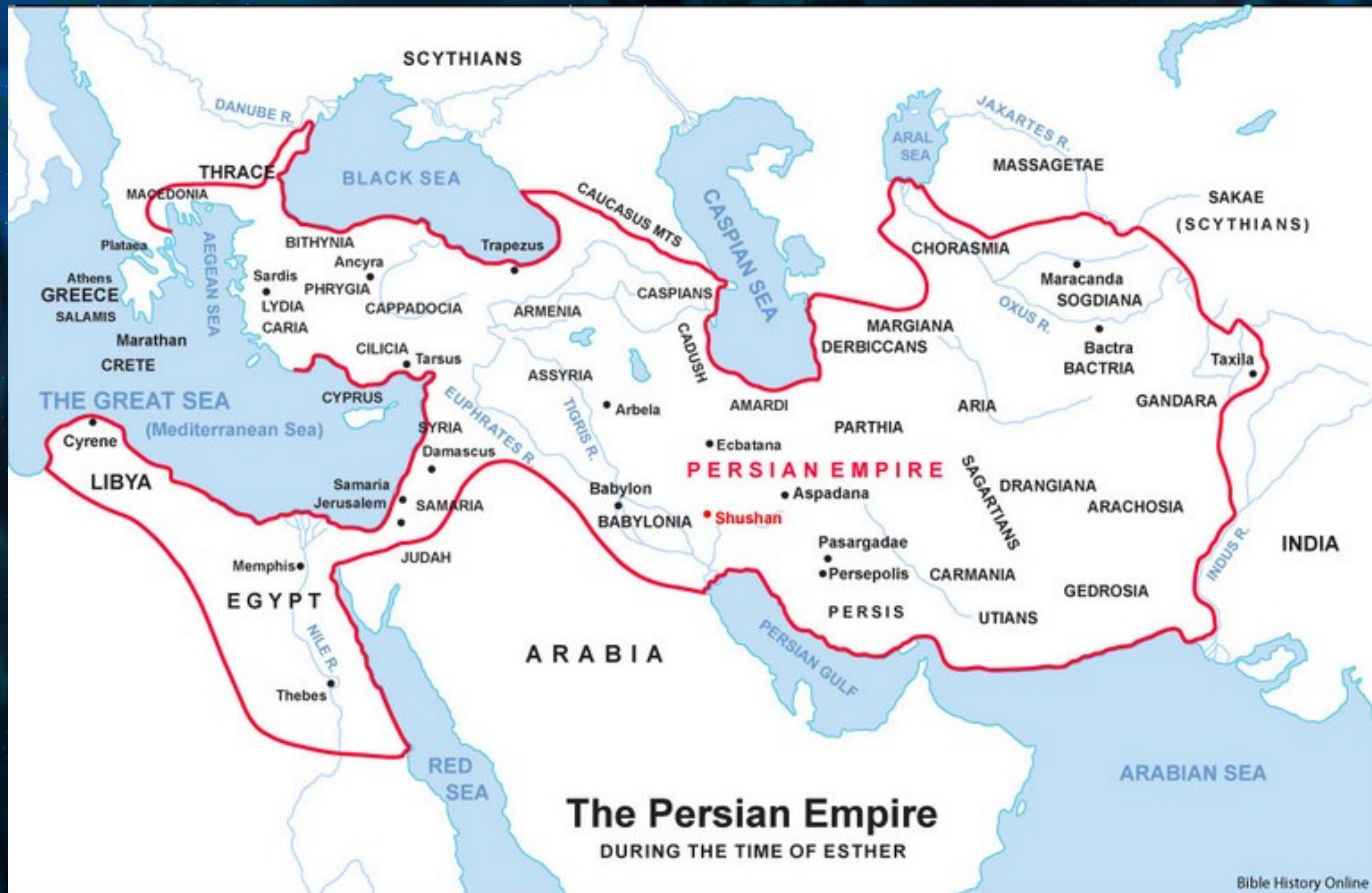


Esther 1 - The Stage is Set

1. King Ahasuerus Unhinged

Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces, in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the citadel, in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials and servants.

Esther 1:1-3 ESV





The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him, while he showed the **riches of his royal glory** and the **splendor and pomp of his greatness** for many days, 180 days. And when these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa the citadel, both great and small, a **feast lasting for seven days** in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

There were white cotton curtains and violet hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rods and marble pillars, and also couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl, and precious stones.

Esther 1:3-6 ESV

Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king. And drinking was according to this edict: “There is no compulsion.” For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired. Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women in the palace that belonged to King Ahasuerus.

Esther 1:7-9 ESV

2. Queen Vashti's Refusal

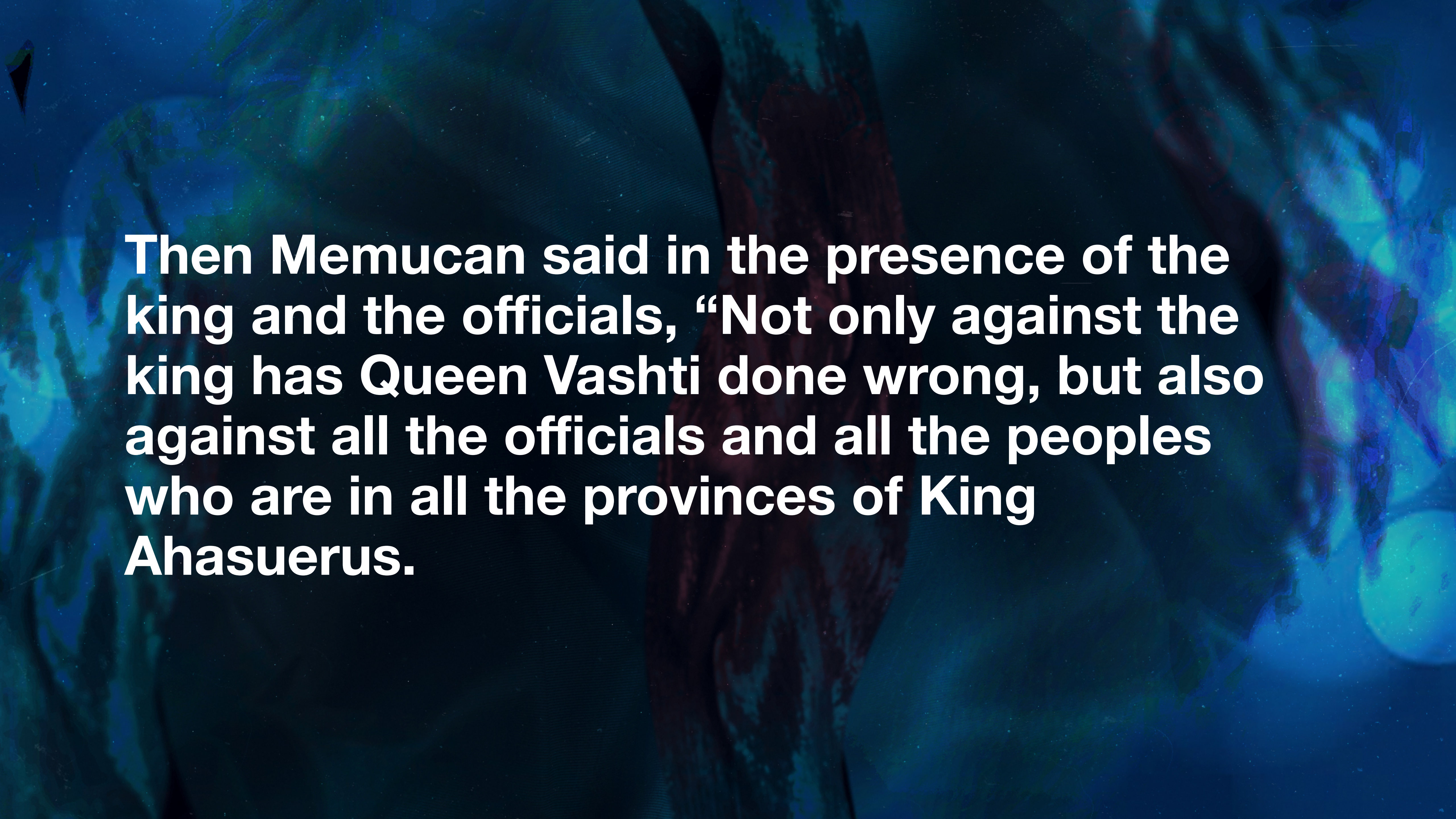
On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded... the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at.

But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him.

Esther 1:10-12 ESV

3. King Ahasuerus' Decree

Then the king said to the wise men who knew the times: “According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?”



Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, “Not only against the king has Queen Vashti done wrong, but also against all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

For the queen's behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.' This very day the noble women of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will say the same to all the king's officials, and there will be contempt and wrath in plenty.

If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike.”

This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed. He sent letters to all the royal provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, that every man be master in his own household and speak according to the language of his people.

Esther 1:13-22 ESV



1. Those with Power & Position Do Not Thwart the Plans of God

Woe to those who enact unjust statutes and to those who constantly record harmful decisions, so as to deprive the needy of justice and rob the poor among My people of their rights, so that widows may be their spoil and that they may plunder the orphans.

Isaiah 10:1-2 NASB



2. Do Not Envy the Wealthy and Powerful

For I was **envious** of the arrogant when I saw
the **prosperity of the wicked**. For they have no
pangs until death; their bodies are fat and
sleek. They are not in trouble as others are;
they are **not stricken** like the rest of mankind.

Psalms 73:3-5 ESV

For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is **good to be near God**; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Psalm 73:27-28 ESV

3. Apart from God, Male/Female Tensions are Inevitable

**Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved
the church and gave himself up for her.**

Ephesians 5:25 ESV

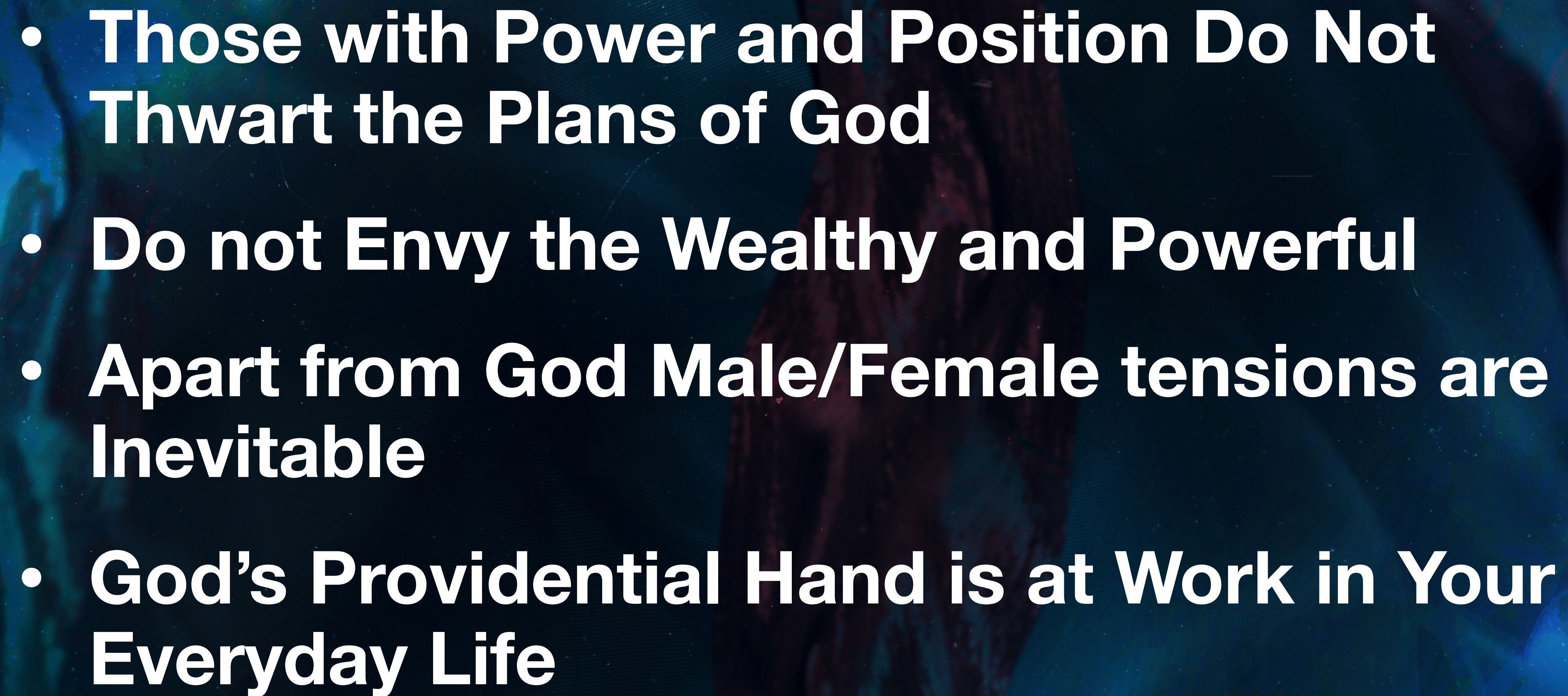


4. God's Providential Hand is at Work in Your Everyday Life

The Hidden Hand of the Silent Sovereign

**God preserves his people through His
providential acts in ordinary life events**

Esther 1 - The Stage is Set

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- **Those with Power and Position Do Not Thwart the Plans of God**
 - **Do not Envy the Wealthy and Powerful**
 - **Apart from God Male/Female tensions are Inevitable**
 - **God's Providential Hand is at Work in Your Everyday Life**