

Esther

Week 2

The Rise of Esther



Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, September 21, 2025

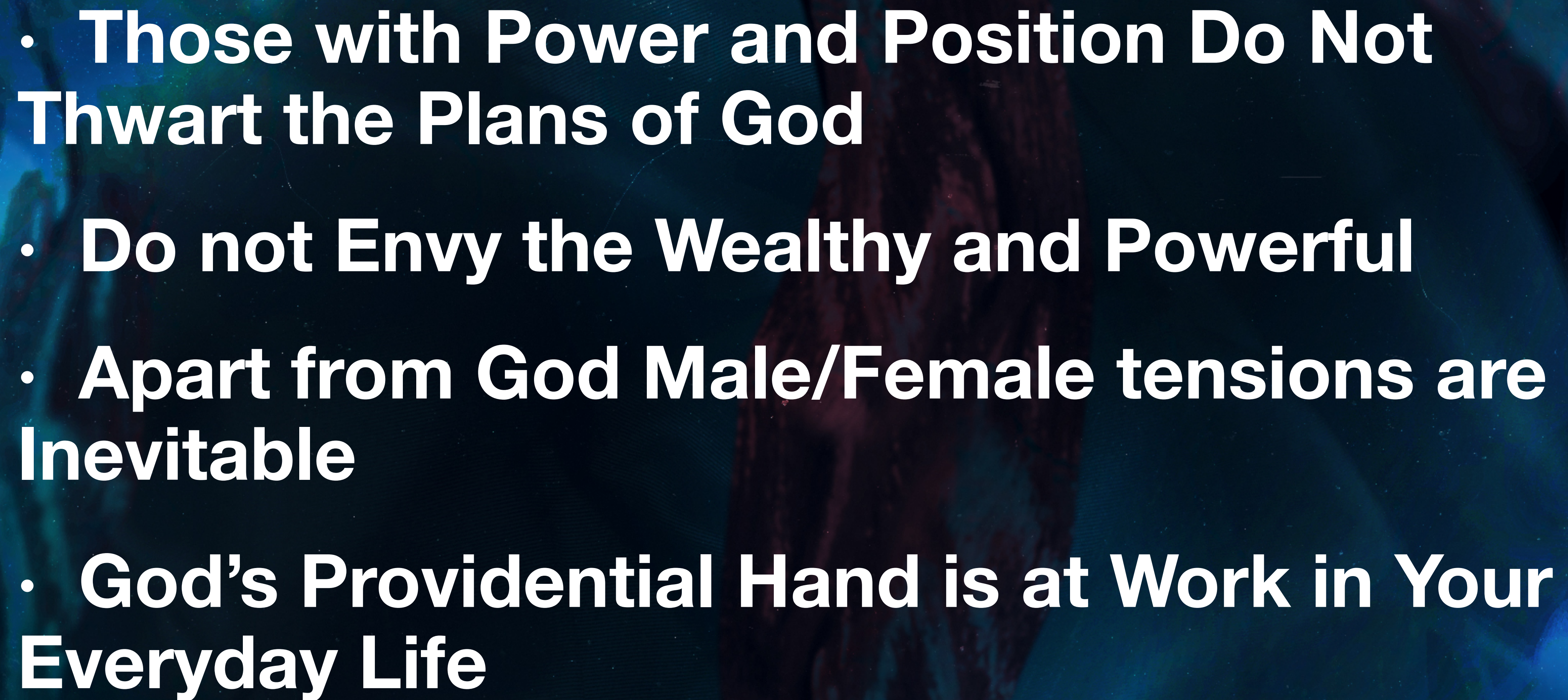


**God preserves His people through
providential acts in ordinary life.**



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

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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**

1. King Ahasuerus Scene Two

After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he **remembered** Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her.

Esther 2:1 ESV

Ahasuerus - 486-464 BC

in the third year of his reign he gave a feast...

Esther 1:3 ESV

Esther 1 occurs in 483 BC

Esther ~478 BC



**480 BC: Xerxes fought the Battle of
Thermopylae**

2. King Ahasuerus' Queen Replacement Program

Then the king's young men who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to **gather all the beautiful young virgins** to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women."

Esther 2:2-3 ESV

“Let their cosmetics be given them. And let the young woman who pleases the king **be queen instead of Vashti.**” This pleased the king, and he did so.

Esther 2:4 ESV

3. Enter Mordecai and Esther

Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was **Mordecai**, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, **son of Kish, a Benjaminite**, who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.

He was **bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther**, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Esther 2:5-7 ESV

4. The Queen Replacement Program Rules

Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being **twelve months** under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with **oil of myrrh** and six months with **spices and ointments** for women...

In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would **return to the second harem** in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the **king delighted in her** and she was summoned by name.

Esther 2:12,14 ESV



Life of Luxurious Desolation

5. Esther Picked

And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, **the king loved Esther more than all the women**, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set **the royal crown on her head** and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:16-17 ESV

1. God Uses Broken People

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus **his Son cleanses us** from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:6-9 ESV



Therefore: Don't walk alone!



Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the
law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 ESV

2. Beware of Our Disconnected & Hyper-sexualized World

Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the **hidden person of the heart** with the imperishable beauty of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which in God's sight is very precious.

1 Peter 3:3-4 ESV





1. God Uses Broken People

**2. Beware of our Disconnected &
Hyper-sexualized World**

3. Don't Walk Alone



**If you are walking well –
be there for someone else.**