

## God's Providential Hand at Work in the Book of Esther

### Part Two — God's Hand of Deliverance

- *A brief review from last week ...*
- *Providence can be described as God's unseen hand working behind the scenes being manifest in what appear to be coincidence or random chance in a way that brings about God's purposes.*
- *"God's Providential Hand at Work" could be a good subtitle for the Book of Esther.*

*There are at least four things that are unique about the Book of Esther:*

1. *Prayer is not mentioned once.*
  2. *The name of God is not mentioned once.*
  3. *Although God is not mentioned once in the Book of Esther, one cannot help but get the distinct impression that God is involved in every detail of the story.*
  4. *There are five unique acrostics found in the Book of Esther that reveal God's divine hand of providence. These five acrostics serve almost as God's finger prints.*
- *What is an acrostic?*
  - *An acrostic is a series of words in which certain letters such as the first letter in each word that form a word or message.*
  - *An example of an acrostic:*

### **FEAR = False Evidence Appearing Real**

- *These five acrostics are not randomly scattered throughout the Book of Esther. They are strategically placed by God in specific places in the text to produce distinct patterns revealing God's providential hand at work.*
- *The events of the Book of Esther took place between 478 BC and 473 BC, a five year period.*
- *The captivity of the Jews in Babylon ended 60 years prior to the events in the Book of Esther. All the Jews were free to leave Babylon and return back to the land of Israel.*

- *The Jews could have returned to Israel and served God in their own land, but because of their backslidden condition the majority of them continued to live in Babylon—the land of captivity.*
- *The Book of Esther has four main characters:*
- *There was Esther—a young and beautiful Jewess whose parents had died.*
- *Mordecai— Esther’s uncle and guardian.*
- *King Ahasuerus—the absolute monarch of the Persian Empire who was very unpredictable and hot tempered.*
- *Haman—an Agagite, who became King Ahasuerus’ most powerful noble. He hated the Jews and used his position of power to concoct a plot to annihilate the Jewish people.*
- *The story began with King Ahasuerus giving a great feast lasting 180 days to celebrate his glory and the glory of his kingdom. At the climax of the feast he commanded Vashti, his beautiful queen, dressed in her royal apparel, to parade herself before the king and his half intoxicated guests.*
- *The queen refused and the king was infuriated.*
- *The king sought counsel from his royal advisors who advised him to pass a royal decree, stating that Vashti should be removed as queen and forever be banished from the king’s presence.*
- *When the king cooled down he missed Vashti and felt lonely. His royal advisors counseled him to gather the most beautiful virgins in his kingdom and the one who truly ravished his heart would become his new queen.*
- *This led to the king choosing Esther to be his new queen. Ultimately, God would use Esther and her position as queen to defeat the wicked plans of Haman to annihilate the Jewish people and provide a great victory for God over the enemies of the Jews.*
- *The advice given to the king by his royal advisors to depose Queen Vashti contains the first of the five acrostics found in the Book of Esther.*
- *This first acrostic is not making a statement about husband and wife relationships, but about God’s sovereignty to place people in positions of authority and to remove them.*
- *The issue is not whether the king should have been more reasonable or whether Vashti should have been more respectful. It demonstrates God’s foreknowledge*

*and sovereignty in preparing the way for Him to meet a pending future need that had not yet become apparent.*

- *At the instruction of Mordecai, Esther kept hidden her Jewish heritage and the fact that Mordecai was her uncle. Mordecai commanded Esther to do so simply because, like all the Jews who chose to remain in Babylon, he was fearful and backslidden.*

#### **Esther 3:5-6 NKJV**

**<sup>5</sup> When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.**

**<sup>6</sup> But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.**

- *Within five years of Esther becoming queen two significant events took place.*
- *Haman, a wicked and proud man and an enemy of the Jews, came to power and became the king's most powerful noble.*
- *Mordecai became bold in his faith and no longer hid his Jewish heritage. He refused to bow down or pay homage to Haman since Jews are to worship only God.*
- *Haman, in his arrogance and hatred of the Jews, sought permission to destroy the entire Jewish people. The king granted Haman unrestricted authority to carry out his plan.*
- *At Haman's instructions, a royal decree went out "by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions." (Esther 3:13).*
- *Last week we concluded at this point—Haman seemed unstoppable and the situation the Jewish people faced seemed hopeless and catastrophic.*
- *This week as we continue in the story, we will see how the Holy Spirit was working behind the scenes to bring forth a wonderful deliverance and a glorious victory.*

#### **Esther 4:1,3 NKJV**

**<sup>1</sup> When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry.**

<sup>3</sup> And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

- *Mordecai and all the Jews did not collapse in despair and inaction when they heard the terrible news of Haman's plan to destroy the entire Jewish nation. Instead, they rose up in faith and responded by fasting, weeping, wailing, and putting on sackcloth and ashes.*
- *Although God is not mentioned by name, it is obvious that their fasting and supplication was an act of faith directed toward God seeking His divine intervention.*
- *It is noteworthy that during this time of mourning, Mordecai expressed no regret for declaring his Jewish heritage or for his steadfast refusal to bow down and pay homage to Haman.*
- *Mordecai had recommitted his life to the God of Israel. He was now standing strong in that commitment and, as a Jew, he had resolved in his heart not to compromise his faith any longer. He would only worship and pay homage to the God of Israel, no matter what the cost.*
- *Even in the face of death Mordecai's commitment to God remained unshakeable!*

**Esther 4:4 NKJV**

<sup>4</sup> So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them.

- *Esther was told of Mordecai's mourning, but she was unaware of the decree that Haman had issued. Living in the palace, she was sheltered from the news. She unsuccessfully tried to comfort Mordecai, not realizing the source of his sorrow.*

**Esther 4:7-9 NKJV**

<sup>7</sup> And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews.

<sup>8</sup> He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people.

<sup>9</sup> So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

- *Now, Mordecai informed Esther's messenger of all the details of the diabolical plot and the dire threat facing the entire Jewish population. He instructed*

*Esther to go before the king and to intercede on behalf of her people.*

**Esther 4:11 NKJV**

<sup>11</sup> “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.”

- *Esther responded to Mordecai's command by explaining that she had not been called into the king's presence for thirty days. She further explained that anyone coming before the king without being summoned risked death—unless the king responded favourably by extending his golden scepter.*

**Esther 4:13–14 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup>And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.

<sup>14</sup>For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

- *Mordecai's answer to Esther's response revealed a new level of faith that had risen up within him.*
- *“Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.” Mordecai warned Esther that her position as queen would not protect her, because her fate was tied to the Jewish people. She should not deceive herself into thinking she would be able to escape from the wicked plans of the enemy because of her position or power.*
- *“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place.” Mordecai displayed unshakeable confidence in God by stating that even if Esther refused to help, then God would surely deliver them by another means.*
- *Mordecai's faith rose above the apparent catastrophe he faced and proclaimed, “God has a plan and even if people fail us, God will not fail us.”*
- *Mordecai displayed confidence in God's providential hand at work behind the scenes, although in the natural the outcome appeared bleak and hopeless.*
- *Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Mordecai was not totally certain that God had placed Esther in her position “for such as time as this” to bring deliverance to God's people. However, he saw in the “coincidence” that she was in the right place at the right time and that God's providential hand was possibly at work.*

- *Trusting in God's providential hand does not mean we know exactly what the Holy Spirit is doing or how He is going to do it. However, it does mean we are certain God is at work and an ultimate victorious outcome is a certainty.*
- *From the Book of Revelation we cannot ascertain exactly how the future events of the end times will unfold. Those who try to pin down events sometimes arrive at erroneous conclusions.*
- *However, from the Book of Revelation there is one thing we can be certain of—**WE WIN!!***

#### **Esther 4:15-17 NKJV**

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai:

<sup>16</sup> “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”

<sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

- *Esther was moved by the plight of her people and Mordecai's bold faith in God.*
- *She united her faith with the faith of all the Jews in Shushan by instructing them to completely fast from all food and water for three whole days and nights.*
- *Do not face difficult times alone but join your faith with other believers in seeking God. “Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12). There is great power in unity.*
- *Then Esther made a bold and courageous statement of faith—“And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”*
- *Esther declared her willingness to obey God even at the cost of her own life! Her obedience was not contingent on the outcome but simply her willingness to obey God.*
- *Esther chose to obey and left the consequences to God.*
- *The reality of life is that we are all going to die one day. What better way to die than die doing the will of God—“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21).*

#### **Esther 5:1-4 NKJV**

<sup>1</sup> Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.

<sup>2</sup> So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

<sup>3</sup> And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!"

<sup>4</sup> So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

- *Queen Esther dressed in her royal apparel, stood in the inner court before the king, waiting for the verdict. The king was deeply touched by the appearance of his queen and extended his golden scepter.*
- *When the king extended his scepter, Esther viewed this as God's divine hand of favour, so she stepped forward and touched the top of the scepter.*
- *The king was so moved that he basically said, "What is your request? Whatever it is I will grant it!"*
- *As Esther answered the king and made her request, the second acrostic found in the Book of Esther is hidden in her words.*
- *This acrostic contains the divine name of Yahweh spelled forwards using the first letters of each of the four words.*

Esther 5:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup>So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

- *Let-come the-king and-Haman this-day*
- (1) (2) (3) (4)
- Y H V H
- *The name of Yahweh is read in the invitation, implying there would be a fourth Person at the banquet.*
- *At this point in the story, it appeared that Haman's fortunes were rising to even greater heights. He had received a special invitation from the queen to attend a banquet with the king. Haman was to be the sole guest of honour at a banquet Queen Esther herself had prepared for him!*
- *However, Queen Esther was carefully and quietly preparing to confront the enemy of her people.*
- *She did not know what the outcome might be, or how the king would react. Would Ahasuerus take the side of his most trusted noble or would he come alongside his queen?*

**Psalm 23:5a NKJV**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

- *Esther was standing in the valley of decision, the valley of the shadow of death. But the Lord was literally preparing a banqueting table before her in the presence of her enemy, Haman—this was God’s providence preparing the way.*

**Esther 5:5-8 NKJV**

<sup>5</sup> Then the king said, “Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said.” So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

<sup>6</sup> At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, “What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!”

<sup>7</sup> Then Esther answered and said, “My petition and request is this:

<sup>8</sup> If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said.”

- *As Haman and the king were seated at the special banquet Queen Esther had prepared, her only request was that they should both come to a second banquet the next day. At that banquet she would reveal her petition and request.*

**Esther 5:9**

<sup>9</sup> So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.

- *As Haman left the banquet he was filled with joy and gladness for the honour he thought was being given to him. “So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart.”*
- *However, as Haman passed by Mordecai, his joy was short lived and he was filled with hatred and indignation. “...but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.”*

**Esther 5:10–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

<sup>11</sup> Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.

<sup>12</sup> Moreover Haman said, “Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king.



- *Upon arriving home, Haman gathered his wife and his friends and began to boast of all his accomplishments—his many children, his riches, and his glory.*
- *Haman topped off his boasting by telling them how the queen herself had invited only him and the king to a special banquet that day and how she had invited him again tomorrow!*
- *Haman was so filled with himself that if he sat on a pin he would have burst.*
- *However, in the midst of all his boasting and gloating, Haman blurted out a most ominous statement. “Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.” (Esther 5:13).*
- *Esther 5:13 contains the third acrostic.*
- *It was spoken by Haman and contains the divine name of Yahweh spelled backwards using the last letters of each of the four words.*
- *This marks the turning point in the story.*

#### Esther 5:13 (NKJV)

**13Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.”**

- |   |             |               |                |              |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| • | <i>This</i> | <i>avails</i> | <i>nothing</i> | <i>to-me</i> |
| • | (1)         | (2)           | (3)            | (4)          |
| • | H           | V             | H              | Y            |
- *Haman’s evil, proud, and envious heart gave him no rest. He couldn’t even enjoy his apparent successes.*
  - *Haman’s restlessness and agitation drove him on and positioned him to meet his ultimate downfall and judgment.*
  - *The very words he spoke, “Yet all this avails me nothing” signified God’s divine providential hand of judgment had given Haman over to the wickedness that filled his heart. Haman could find no peace or satisfaction and God used his hatred of the Jews to drive Haman to his ultimate judgment and destruction. “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.” (Romans 1:28).*
  - *Haman failed to realize when he raised his hand against God’s people he was raising his hand against God. “...he who touches you (God’s people) touches the apple of His eye: “Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the*

LORD of hosts has sent Me.” (*Zechariah 2:8-9, ESV*).

#### Esther 5:14 NKJV

<sup>14</sup> Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.” And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made.

- *On the advice of Haman’s wife and friends, Haman constructed a special gallows fifty cubits high to hang Mordecai and satisfy his hatred, pride, and vanity.*
- *Fifty is the number of Jubilee. Jubilee is the number of restoration where what had been lost through adverse circumstances, neglect, or sin is restored to the rightful owners. The same gallows that Haman constructed for Mordecai would be used to bring an end to Haman and his evil plot and to restore the fortunes of the Jewish people.*

#### Esther 6:1-3

<sup>1</sup> That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

<sup>2</sup> And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king said, “What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” And the king's servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.”

- *That very night while Haman was building the gallows to hang Mordecai, the king just “happened” to have trouble falling asleep. The king was suffering from divine insomnia!*
- *The king, seeking for something to put him to sleep, commanded that the book of the chronicles of the kings be read. But instead of it causing him to grow sleepy, he was startled by the account of Mordecai saving his life.*
- *Even more troubling was the fact that Mordecai had never been honored or rewarded for saving the king’s life! “Then the king said, “What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” And the king's servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.””*
- *God’s providential hand dictated when Mordecai’s lack of reward would be revealed.*

#### Esther 6:4-5

<sup>4</sup> So the king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

<sup>5</sup> The king's servants said to him, “Haman is there, standing in the court.” And the king said, “Let him come in.”

- *Totally at cross purposes, the king pondered how to honour Mordecai, who had saved his life, while Haman returned to the king's palace to request permission to execute Mordecai.*
- *The king upon hearing that Haman was waiting outside was delighted and commanded Haman to come in to ask him how to reward Mordecai, who had saved the king's life.*

#### Esther 6:6-9

<sup>6</sup> So Haman came in, and the king asked him, “What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?” Now Haman thought in his heart, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?”

<sup>7</sup> And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, <sup>8</sup> let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head.

<sup>9</sup> Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

- *When Haman heard the king's question, “What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?” Haman immediately concluded he must be the man the king wanted to honour. In his arrogance, Haman could think of no one more qualified, worthy, or honorable than himself.*
- *Then Haman provided the details of the most exquisite and pompous way for the king to honour “someone.”*

#### Esther 6:10

<sup>10</sup> Then the king said to Haman, “Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.”

- *Then Haman heard words that shook him to the very core of his being. “Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew.”*
- *Haman was still reeling from the king's words, when the king added, “Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.” Every extravagant detail which he had wished to be lavished upon himself he was *forced* to extend to Mordecai*

*the Jew!*

**Esther 6:11**

<sup>11</sup> So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!”

- *Haman, under direct orders of the king, was the very one who had to take the king’s robe and place it on Mordecai and put him on the king’s royal steed and lead him about the city proclaiming, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!”*
- *Mordecai, who had refused to bow down or pay homage to Haman was now the one whom Haman had to publicly honour!*
- *Previously, when Mordecai refused to obey the king’s command to bow down and pay homage to Haman, the people waited to see whose word would prevail—Haman’s or Mordecai’s. (Esther 3:4).*
- *As Haman took the reins of the horse on which Mordecai rode and led Mordecai’s horse through the streets of the city proclaiming words of honour to Mordecai, the answer to whose words would prevail became apparent—God’s Word!*
- *Haman may have held the reins, but Mordecai was in the driver’s seat!*

**Esther 6:12**

<sup>12</sup>Afterward Mordecai went back to the king’s gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

- *The shock, the humiliation, and the disgrace that Haman experienced was so overwhelming that once he had completed his “task,” he immediately ran home with his head covered.*

**Esther 6:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup>When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.”

- *Haman’s wife, Zeresh, made an astounding prophetic statement of the impending demise of her husband and also God’s protection and provision for His people. “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.”*
- *Things were quickly beginning to unravel for Haman! “For when they say,*

“Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

#### Esther 6:14 NKJV

<sup>14</sup> While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

- *While Haman was in a state of shock over the events of the previous night and his wife's ominous prophetic words, the king's eunuchs arrived and quickly ushered Haman to attend a banquet like he had never attended in his life!*

#### Esther 7:1–4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.

<sup>2</sup>And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!”

<sup>3</sup>Then Queen Esther answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

<sup>4</sup>For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss.”

- *The king may have assumed that Esther's petition would be for some royal treasure or some extravagant royal gift. Instead, she pleaded for the king to intervene to spare her life and the lives of her people. “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.”*

#### Esther 7:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup>So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?”

- *The king was utterly shocked to hear that his queen's life was in peril, especially in his own palace!*
- *With the king's heart stirred to the core and fiery indignation filling his bosom, he asked a question that contains the fourth acrostic found in the Book of Esther. “Who is he, and where is he?”*
- *However, this acrostic does not contain the name “Yahweh” but the remarkable divine name—EHYH which means “I AM.”*

Eh (like in eight) ya (like in Yahweh)

- *This acrostic is spelled forwards using the last letters of each of the four words.*
- *(who is) he      this (man)      and-where      (is) this (man)*
- *(1)                      (2)                      (3)                      (4)*
- *E                      H                      Y                      H*
- *What does the divine name EHYH represent?*

**Exodus 3:13–14 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

<sup>14</sup>And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

- *When God appeared before Moses at the burning bush He said, “I have seen the affliction of my people and I have personally come down to deliver them out of Egypt and out of the oppressive hands of Pharaoh.”*
- *Moses then asked, “Who shall I say sent me?” and God answered ““EHYH” — “I AM” has sent you.”*
- *When King Ahasuerus heard about the plot to kill his queen and her people, he roared out the words, “Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?” Within those words is the acrostic of the divine name of the God of Israel—EHYH—“I AM.”*
- *The great “I AM” had come down and was on the scene. “I AM here and enough is enough. Who is this who would dare lift a hand against My people?”*

**Proverbs 21:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

- *God directly used King Ahasuerus to accomplish His purposes.*
- *As the king asked who would dare lift a finger against his queen, Esther pointed to Haman and said: “The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!” (Esther 7:6b).*
- *Upon being found out, Haman was totally beside himself in fear and confusion—the game was up! “So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.” (Esther 7:6c).*
- *Esther 7:7 contains the fifth and final acrostic and the one that sealed Haman’s*

*fate.*

- *It was written by the inspired writer of the Book of Esther and it contains the divine name “Yahweh” spelled forwards using the last letters of each of the four words.*

**Esther 7:7 (NKJV)**

**<sup>7</sup>Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king.**

- *That was-determined against-him evil*
- (1) (2). (3) (4)
- Y H V H
- *The king was so filled with anger that he walked out of the room into the garden.*
- *Upon his return he saw Haman on the couch beside Esther pleading for his life. The king was enraged because he thought Haman was trying to violate the queen right in front of him. “When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?”” (Esther 7:8a).*
- *As the king uttered those words against Haman, the king’s attendants covered Haman’s face so the king would no longer have to look at Haman, who was so wicked. “As the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.” (Esther 7:8b).*
- *As the king was deciding what to do with Haman, one of the king’s eunuchs looked out the window and spotted the gallows that Haman had built for Mordecai the Jew. “Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king’s behalf, is standing at the house of Haman.” (Esther 7:9b).*
- *Instantly from the king’s mouth came the judgment! “Hang him on it!” (Esther 7:9c).*

**Esther 7:10**

**<sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s wrath subsided.**

- *As Haman hung on the very gallows he had constructed for Mordecai, the proverb was fulfilled—“If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself. If you roll a boulder down on others, it will crush you instead.”*

*(Proverbs 26:27, New Living Translation).*

**Esther 8:1-2 NKJV**

<sup>1</sup> On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.

<sup>2</sup> So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

- *Esther revealed to the king that Mordecai was actually her uncle.*
- *The king took the signet ring he had previously given to Haman and gave it to Mordecai, giving him all the position, power, and authority that Haman once held.*
- *Then the king, at Esther's request, gave Mordecai the authority to write a royal decree to all the Jews who lived throughout the entire Persian Empire permitting "the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions, on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar." (Esther 8:11b-12).*
- *The king bestowed upon Mordecai great honour, authority, and power. So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple." (Esther 8:15a).*

**Esther 8:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor.

<sup>17</sup> And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

- *God not only redeemed the Jews from the hands of their enemies but exalted them above those who once ruled over them. As well, many of the Gentiles converted and became Jews. The stigma of being a follower of the God of Israel had been removed and replaced by deep awe and reverence.*

**Esther 9:1 NKJV**

<sup>1</sup> Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them.



- *God took Haman’s wicked plan to destroy the Jews, and redeemed it so the Jews prevailed against those who sought to destroy them. The very day meant to be a day of destruction became a day of rejoicing and victory for the Jews.*

**Esther 9:26 (NKJV)**

**<sup>26</sup>So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them,**

- *The Jewish holiday of Purim was instituted.*
- *In Hebrew Pur means “lot.” It’s like rolling dice, a game of chance, or casting lots.*
- *Haman chose the month of Adar by casting lots. Haman thought he had chosen a random day by chance when he would destroy the Jews. The date was actually chosen by God—not the day for the destruction of the Jewish people, but the day of their deliverance and victory.*
- *In the Hebrew the word Adar means “glorious” and what a glorious day it was when God delivered the Jews from all their enemies.*
- *It is fitting that the holiday is called Purim (chance) because to an unbeliever the story may appear like a series of coincidences. However, to one looking with eyes of faith, God’s unmistakable providence is evident.*
- *The Holy Spirit was at work behind the scenes weaving together what appeared to be unrelated events and details to produce an intricate tapestry of victory and joy.*

**Proverbs 16:33 (NKJV)**

**<sup>33</sup>The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.**

- *Why did God allow Haman to rise up in the first place?*
- *The rise of Haman was part of God’s plan for a number of reasons.*
- *The rise of Haman exposed those whose evil motives were hidden so they could be judged, just as the rise of the Antichrist will usher in God’s judgment.*
- *The rise of Haman was also important to rescue the Jews from assimilation. The Jews were comfortable hiding their identity and living in Babylon. The people of Israel would have been destroyed by the slow process of assimilation. This crisis awakened their identity as Jews and the purpose God had given them.*

- *God used Haman to play a part in saving the Jews from annihilation, assimilation, and reawakened their identity with God.*
- *So what exactly does the divine name of God, Yahweh, mean?*
- *Hebrew is an unusual language. Each letter has a sound, a numerical value and a pictorial meaning.*
- *The word Yahweh has four letters: yud hey vav hey. This name of God is most often written as LORD in English Bibles. Two of the letters are the same—hey which means “behold.” The first letter is yud which means “hand” and the third letter is vav which means “hook or nail.”*
- *So the word Yahweh actually means, “Behold the hand. Behold the nail.”*
- *Hidden in God’s divine name is His Son, Jesus Christ!*
- *The events in the Book of Esther do not stop at the end of the book, its consequences extend much further.*
- *Ezra and Nehemiah, who were both Jews, held important positions with the king and both were used in the restoration of Israel.*
- *Nehemiah became the king’s cupbearer, one of the most trusted positions one could hold.*
- *One more outstanding fact is found in the book of Ezra.*

**Ezra 2:1–2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Now these are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city.

<sup>2</sup>Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

- *Mordecai, as an old man, returned to Jerusalem to participate in restoring the Jewish nation and is mentioned in Nehemiah 7:7 with others who helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.*
- *Mordecai’s vision for God’s purpose was restored and he joined the people of God in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.*
- *Mordecai saw the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt and God’s people once again dwelling securely in the land God had given them.*

- *The man who had lost his vision and purpose, and was ashamed of his Jewish heritage, was now among those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.*
- *God wants to restore His vision to His Church.*
- *Let us together build the Kingdom of God.*