ESTHER: THE DIVINE
BEHIND THE SCENES

God's Providence

God, in some invisible and inscrutable way, governs all creatures, actions and circumstances through the normal and ordinary course of human life, without the intervention of the miraculous.

Although the name of God does not occur in the Book of Esther, the Lord Himself is there most conspicuously in every incident which it relates. I have seen portraits bearing the names of persons for whom they were intended, and they certainly needed them, but we have all seen others which required no name because they were such striking likenesses that the moment you looked upon them you knew them.

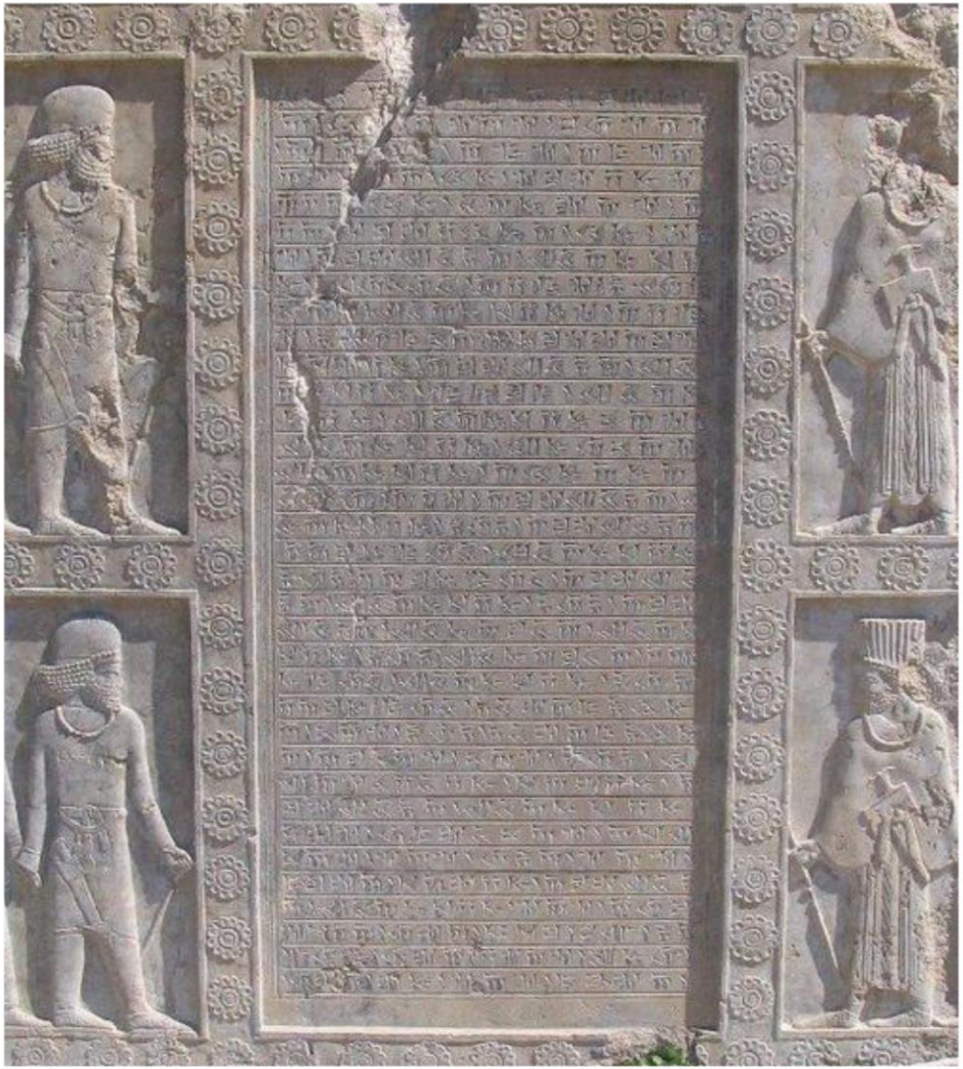
–Charles Spurgeon

Esther 1:1-2

This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush: At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,

ESTHER: THE DIVINE BEHIND THE SCENES

The Balkans
Black Sea
Caucasus Mts.
Caspian Sea
GREECE
Doriscus
Hellespont
ASIA MINOR
ARMENIA
Hindu Kush
Athens
Sardis
Sparta
Miletus
Taurus Mts.
ROYAL ROAD
SOGDIANA
Bactra
Halicarnassus
Crete
Rhodes
Nineveh
ASSYRIA
BACTRIA
Cyprus
ROYAL ROAD
Mediterranean Sea
Sidon
Tyre
Euphrates
Ecbatana
PARTHIA
Tigris
PERSIA
INDUS VALLEY
Babylon
Susa
BABYLONIA
Zagros Mts.
Memphis
Persepolis
Indus R.
EGYPT
Arabian Peninsula
AFRICA
Arabian Sea



Esther 1:3-8

and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present. For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty.

Esther 1:3-8

When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king's palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest who were in the citadel of Susa.

Esther 1:3-8

The garden had hangings of white and blue linen, fastened with cords of white linen and purple material to silver rings on marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and other costly stones.

Esther 1:3-8

Wine was served in goblets of gold, each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king's liberality. By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink with no restrictions, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished.

Esther 1:9-12

Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas—

Esther 1:9-12

to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

ESTHER: THE DIVINE
BEHIND THE SCENES

Esther 1:18

This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

ESTHER: THE DIVINE
BEHIND THE SCENES

Esther 2:5-6

Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah.

Esther 2:7-9

Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

Esther 2:7-9

When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. She pleased him and won his favor.

Esther 2:17-18

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:17-18

And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

ESTHER: THE DIVINE
BEHIND THE SCENES

Who is the Hero?

GOD!

Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purposes.

ESTHER: THE DIVINE
BEHIND THE SCENES