

Hidden in Plain Sight Esther 1

The BIG Question: What do you do when God seems _____?

Setting the Stage

The Book of Esther ...

- Is probably the _____ book of the Old Testament to be written.
- Never mentions God _____.
- Highlights the story of the _____ while they are living under the rule of the Persian king, Xerxes.

The Answer: God is often hidden in plain sight, because He is just as much at work in the _____ as he is in the _____.

- Centers around Haman's plot to _____ the Jewish people.
- Tells the story of how God foils Haman's wicked plans using _____, the Jewish young lady God has placed as queen in the Persian palace.
- Reminds us that we can trust God's _____.

What God Is Doing in Chapter 1

1) God is showing us that things aren't always as they _____.

- Those who are in power are granted only _____ power by the One who possesses _____ power.

Isaiah 40:15, "Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust."

- Worldly wealth and power and success are so _____ ... and so _____.

2) God is showing us that He is _____ this _____.

- Each of these _____ events is _____ to make way for Esther to become queen.
- God is able to use even the most wicked _____, driven by the most wicked _____, to accomplish His good and holy _____.

Acts 2:23, "Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men."

**When God seems absent and life so ordinary, remember Esther 1—and remind yourself how committed your God is to _____ you.

Psalm 20:7, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."