

## Esther Part 1: Who is Leading Your Story?

### Esther 1-2:18

Who is in control of the circumstances of life? When powerful people run the world in a dark way, who do we look to for help? God is in control through his divine providence.

Providence - prov-i-dence - *noun*  
the protective care of God.  
preparation for future eventualities.

Psalms 37:23 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup>The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

#### 1. God is present through history

A Dark King

- Powerful
- Merciless

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

#### 2. God is present in your story

- A Tragic Past
- An Uncertain Present

Acts 17:24-27

<sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

#### 3. Follow God's Invisible hand

- Listen to counsel God places beside you

Proverbs 12:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup>The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,  
but a wise man listens to advice.

- Learn from wise advice

Proverbs 19:20 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup>Listen to advice and accept instruction,  
that you may gain wisdom in the future.

- Trust God's Providence