

Questions

1. Review 2:19 – 3:15 and identify all of God's surprising providence.
2. Mordecai's actions in 2:21-23 are recorded, but then quickly forgot; he and his actions are basically unnoticed. How can knowing the truth of God's providence (Rom. 8:28; Eph 1:11) impact and/or enable us in our everyday life? How can it affect how we think about immediate outcomes?
3. The author mentions Mordecai is a Benjaminite and Haman is an Agagite. Read Exodus 17:8-16; Deut 25:17-19; 1 Sam. 15:1-9. What is really behind the "Haman and Mordecai" conflict?
4. How does Genesis 3:15 related to the "Haman and Mordecai" conflict? How about Ephesians 6:10-13?
5. In what areas of your life are under spiritual attack from God's enemy? How are you attempting to stand against them? Is it a Eph.6:10-18 approach?
6. Read Romans 8:28-39. The background is suffering, persecution, and interpersonal conflict. With that, how can the truths of this passage inform *our* thinking when we experience such difficulties?
7. Consider sharing God's providence in retrospect from your own life. Let's be encouraged together!



Providence in Retrospect

Esther 2:19 – 3:15

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In Esther 2:19-3:15, we see 3 scenes of God's providence which are designed to bolster our faith knowing that the same God who was providentially at work *then* is the same God who is providentially at work *now*.

Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God".

God's providence operates behind the scenes and, as a result, is only clearly discerned in retrospect.

Scene 1: 2:19-23

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

Ephesians 1:11, "[God] works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will".

It's said, every day, and in every circumstance, God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, but you might only be aware of three of them.

Scene 2: 3:1-6

Esther is filled with reversals, where we expect one thing to happen and then something opposite and surprising happens.

Mordecai and Haman, represent something bigger. The original readers would have understood this. These men represent the ongoing spiritual conflict between God's people and the powers that seek to destroy them.

Scene 3: 3:7-15

Proverbs 16:33. "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."

Proverbs 21:1, "A king's heart is like channeled water in the LORD's hand: he directs it wherever he chooses."