

## God's Providential Hand is On Me!

### Esther

#### I. What is God's Providence?

- a. Short Answer: God is in control of the entire universe (cf. Ps. 66:7; 103:19; Matt. 5:45; Rom. 8:28)
- b. Long Answer: "that continuous agency of God by which He makes all the events of the physical and moral universe fulfill the original design with which He created it...Providence is God's attention concentrated everywhere" (Strong's *Systematic Theology*, p. 420)
- c. My Answer: God Sovereignly Accomplishing His Will

#### II. How Does God's Providence Work?

- a. God's name is not mentioned in Esther, but His Providential Fingerprints are all over it!
- b. Before even Esther begins, God is working in the Babylonian Captivity, Daniel, and the new **King Ashasuerus**
- c. Chapter 1:11-12, 19
  - i. Queen Vashti displeases the king
  - ii. The king removes her crown
- d. Chapter 2:2, 7, 17, 22
  - i. A search for a new queen begins
  - ii. By God's Providence there was a Jewish exile named Mordecai who was bringing up his uncle's daughter Esther, a beautiful young virgin
  - iii. The king loved her and made Esther his queen
  - iv. Mordecai foiled a plot against the king winning favor for Esther and himself

#### e. Chapter 3:13

- i. An **Agagite** named **Haman** rises to prominence and decides to kill Mordecai and all the Jews by convincing the king that they are a dangerous people to his rule.
- ii. **Haman** may have descended from Agag who an Amalekite was who descended from Esau and were a thorn in Israel's side

#### f. Chapter 4:1, 8

- i. Mordecai knew the king couldn't rescind one of his own edicts so he mourned deeply
- ii. He asked Esther to intercede with the king for help

#### III. How Should We Respond to God's Providence?

- a. Short Answer: Faithfulness; Yes Lord!
- b. Chapter 4:11, 13-14, 16
  - i. But it's not always easy to be faithful and Esther knew she would be risking her life to go to the king without being summed first
  - ii. Mordecai warned her of the possible consequences and reminded her of God's Sovereign Providence
  - iii. Esther was faithful, trusting and obeying God...**and if I perish, I perish**
- c. Storms will come upon all of us, and when they do, we must know, that we know, that we know...that God's Providential Hand is On Us!!!