

# GOD'S MASTERPIECE

## Lesson 1 God has a Divine Design

Esther 1:1-2

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. We are God's Masterpieces. (Ephesians 2:10)

"Men go abroad to wonder at the height of mountains, at the waves of the sea, at the long courses of rivers, at the vast compass of the season, at the circular motion of the stars; and they pass by themselves without wondering."  
St. Augustine

1. We were **created** in Christ Jesus.
2. We were created "for **good works**."
3. We were created for the good works which He **prepared beforehand**.

#### B. We are sculpted by the Potter. (Isaiah 64:8b)

1. We are **uniquely** formed.
2. We are a part of His **divine destiny**.
3. With God, **ordinary** people become **extraordinary**.

### ESTHER – A "WOMAN FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

#### A. Why study about an ancient woman?

1. God's **values** never **change**.
2. She is a great **role model**.
3. We are also in a **pivotal time** in history.

"The destined end of man is not happiness, not health, but holiness. His (God's) one aim is the production of saints. God is not an eternal blessing machine for men. He came to save men because He had created them to be holy."  
Oswald Chambers

4. It's just a **great story!**

B. What is the theme of the Book of Esther?

1. Why is God's **Name** not **mentioned**?
2. His **presence** is **unmistakable**.
3. How does this **relate** to **me**?
4. Through the **silence** of God, we see...
  - a. The **mind** of God.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

b. The **will** of God.

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?"

Romans 11:33-34

c. The **power** of God.

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell Me, if you have understanding.  
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?  
On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone,  
when the morning stars sang together..." Job 38:4-7a

d. The **presence** of God.

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can  
confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:5b-6

- C. What is the setting of the Book of Esther?
1. **Where** and **when** did it take place?
  2. **Who** are the **principal characters** in the story?
    - a. Ahasuerus (Xerxes), the **Persian king**
    - b. Haman, a wicked **anti-Semite**
    - c. Mordecai, a **God-fearing man**
    - d. Esther (Hadassah), an **orphaned foster** child

IN SUMMARY ...

"But, though the name of God be not in it (Esther), the  
finger of God is directing many minute events for the  
bringing about of His people's deliverance."

Matthew Henry