4. THE ______ HAND OF GOD

A. The _____ of Man

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, But the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 16:25)

B. The _____ of God

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." (Isaiah 55:8)

"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." (Genesis 50:20)

CONCLUSION

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 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)



NEW SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS | Starts Sept 11

- 8:15 WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:45 CONNECTION GROUPS
- **10:45** WORSHIP SERVICE
- 5:00 EVENING SERVICE

WEDNESDAYS | Starts Sept 7





Lancaster Baptist Church • 4020 E. Lancaster Blvd. • Lancaster, CA 93535 661.946.4663 • lancasterbaptist.org • Paul Chappell, Pastor



Text: Esther 1:1-9

"Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:) 2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, 3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: 4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days. 5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; 6 Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble. 7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king. 8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure. 9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus." (Esther 1:1-9)

INTRODUCTION

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up." (2 Chronicles 36:22–23)

1. THE OF PERSIAN POWER

A. Analyzed _____

EXPANSIVE

EXPANDING

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (*Proverbs* 16:18)

B. Analyzed _____

SHOWN IN A FEAST

"When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, Consider diligently what is before thee: 2 And put a knife to thy throat, If thou be a man given to appetite. 3 Be not desirous of his dainties: For they are deceitful meat." (Proverbs 23:1-3)

SHOWN IN MATERIAL POSSESSIONS

C. Analyzed

"And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh." (Daniel 7:5)

D. Analyzed

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

2. THE OF A WICKED HEART **OF THE KING**

A. An Illicit

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city" (Proverbs 16:32)

"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." (Proverbs 25:28)

ENCOURAGED BY ALCOHOL

"Ye have not eaten bread, neither have ye drunk wine or strong drink: that ye might know that I am the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 29:6)

"And the Lord spake unto Aaron, saying, 9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink." (Leviticus 10:8-9)

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord: 3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried." (Numbers 6:1-4)

"He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: He that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich." (Proverbs 21:17)

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: And whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Proverbs 20:1)

ADVANCED BY ANGER

"He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated." (Proverbs 14:17)

"For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (James 1:20)

B. An Immoral

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28)

3. THE OF UNGODLY MEN

- A. The ______ of Queen Vashti
- B. The ______ with Advisors
- C. The ______ of the King

A VINDICTIVE COMMAND

A PUNITIVE COMMAND