The Problem of the Palace

“The great commission can also be interpreted in terms of social structure. The church is to go into all realms of social life: in volunteer and paid labor – skilled and unskilled labor, the crafts, engineering, commerce, art, law, architecture, teaching, health care, and service.

Indeed, the church should be sending people out in these realms. … When the church does not send people out to these realms and when it does not provide the theologies that makes sense of work and engagement in these realms, the church fails to fulfill the charge to ‘go into all the world.’”

— James Davison Hunter
To Change the World

The Problem of the Palace:

"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

Esther 4:11

Mordecai's Response:

[13]..."Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. [14]For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish.

And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:13-14

Mordecai's Response:

- If you don't use your place in the palace to serve others, then you are already as good as dead!

Mordecai's Response:

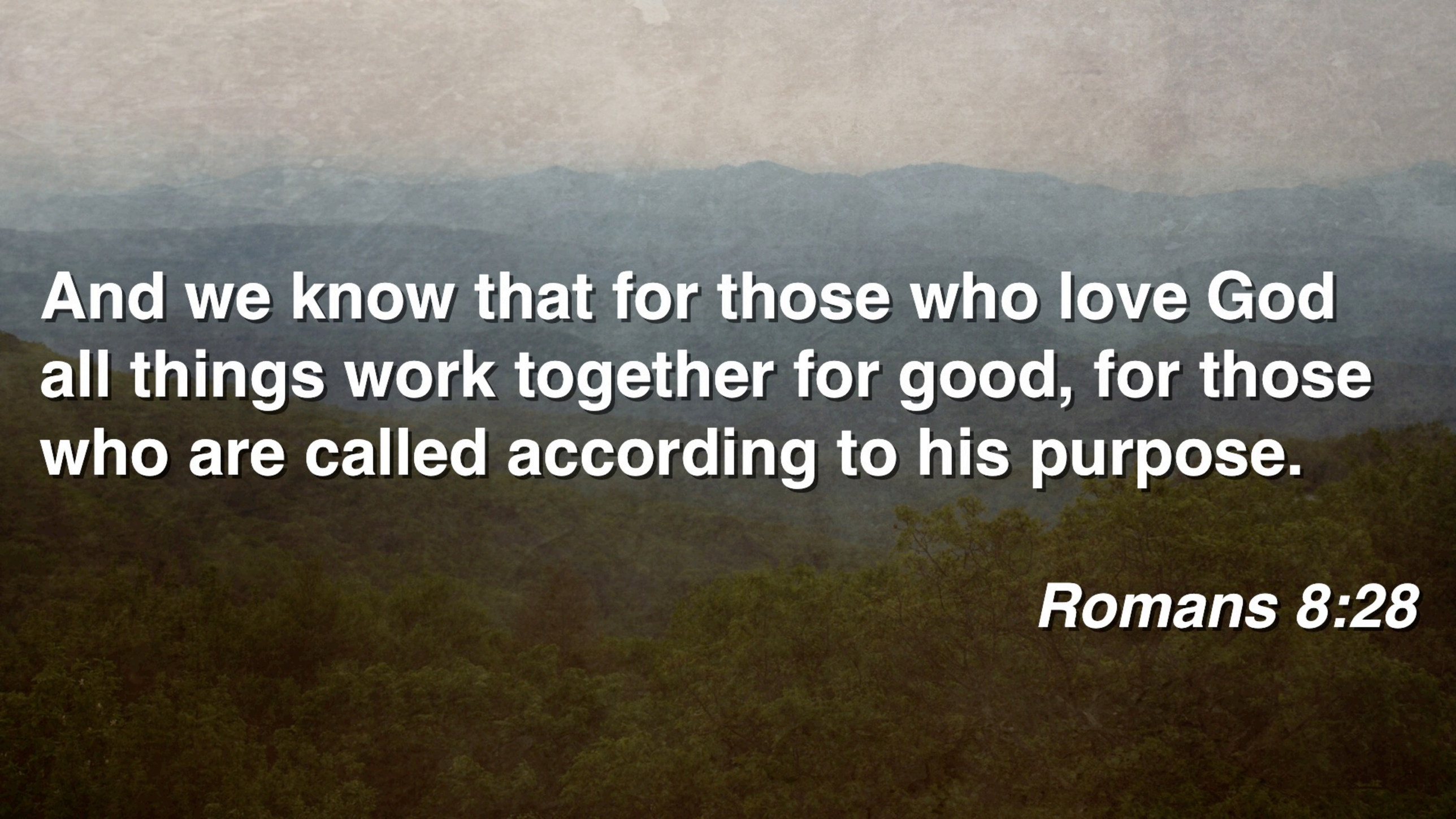
- Did you ever stop to consider that it was God who got you there and that He put you there for a reason? – PROVIDENCE!

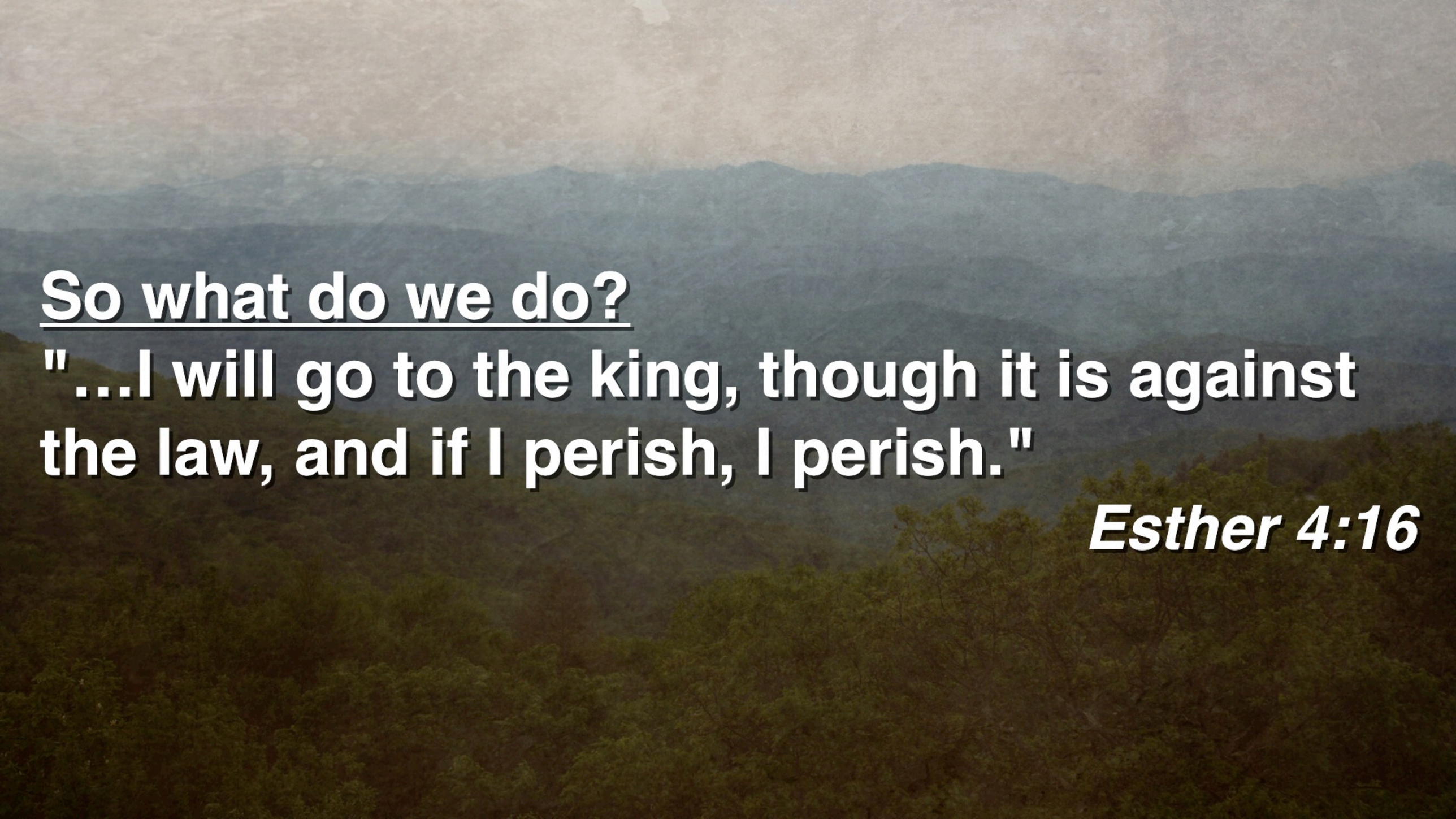
“The author is suggesting that beneath the surface of seemingly insignificant human decisions and events, an unseen and uncontrollable power is at work that can be neither explained nor thwarted. … The Book of Esther is perhaps the most striking biblical statement of what systematic theologians call the providence of God.

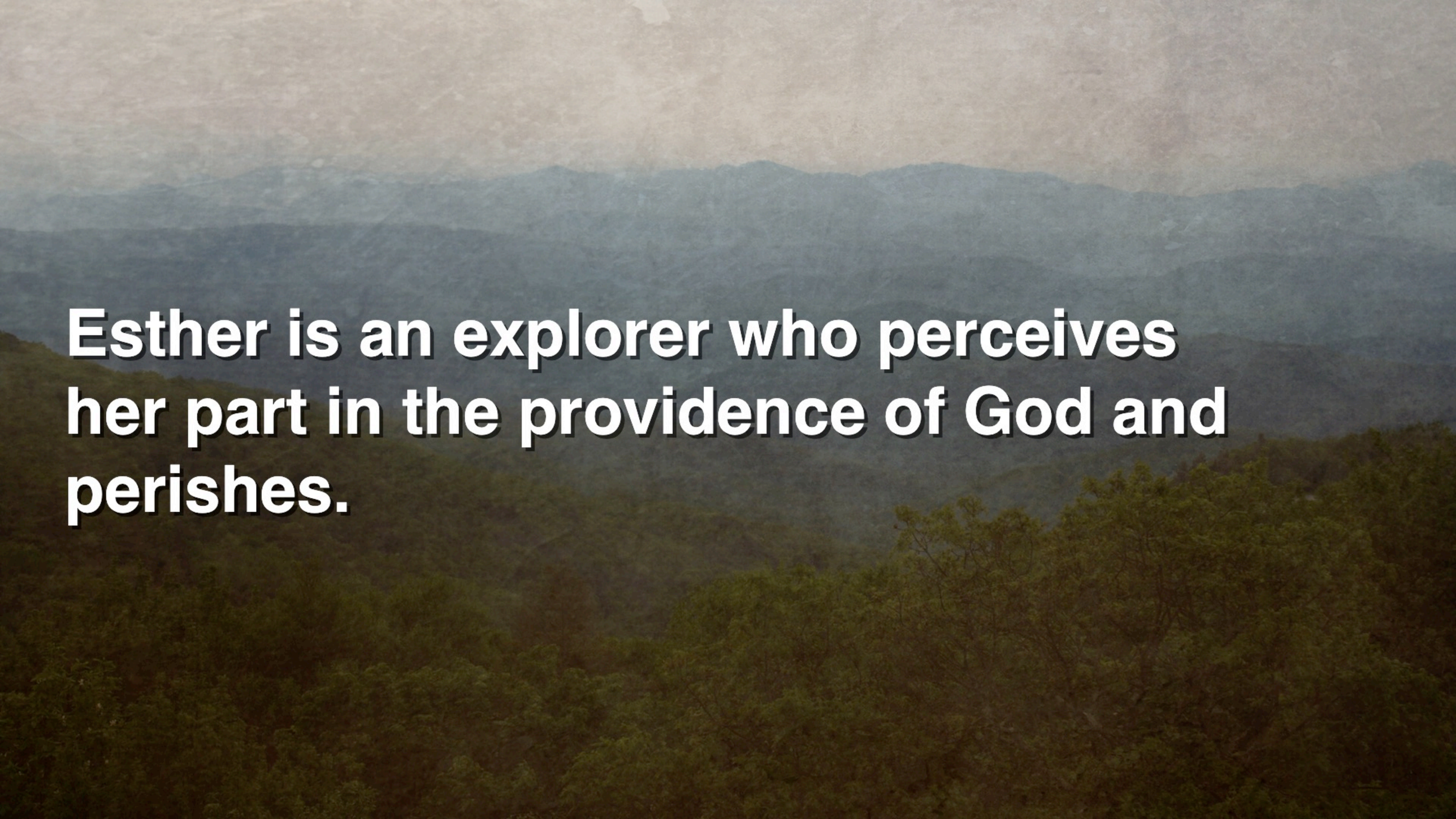
That God, in some invisible and inscrutable way, governs all creatures, actions, and circumstances through the normal and the ordinary course of human life, without the intervention of the miraculous."

— Karen Jobes

The Application Commentary, p.43


And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28


So what do we do?
"...I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."
Esther 4:16


Esther is an explorer who perceives her part in the providence of God and perishes.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20