

sermon notes

Sergio Roden, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Esther
May 1, 2024, | Consider the Hand of God | **Esther 2:1-20**

1) 2:1-4 Cradled in the palm of God's Hand

Consider the profound truth that even the mightiest earthly Kings, with all their power, are ultimately cradled in the palm of God's hands.

2) 2:5-7 Beauty that echoes the touch of God

"Beauty that echoes the touch of God" refers to a profound, awe-inspiring beauty transcending human understanding. It can be seen in the natural world, from mountains to people, and evokes a sense of wonder and harmony. It reminds us of the divine nature of the universe and fills us with a deep sense of joy.

3) 2:8-20 His loving Handiwork

God's providential care, His loving handiwork, is not just a mere presence but a steadfast and unwavering one in our lives, offering solace and assurance in times of uncertainty.

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

What does it mean to submit to the government for conscience's sake? Romans 13:5. Both Esther and Daniel dealt with this differently. When is civil disobedience allowed for a Christian?

What is the relevance of genealogies in the bible? What does the bible say about divorce and remarriage? Why do you think Esther and Mordecai chose not to return to Jerusalem? Was Mordecai wrong to command Esther to conceal her identity?

GET PERSONAL

To compromise is to make concessions or accommodations for someone who disagrees with certain standards or rules. There are times when compromise is good and right—compromise is an essential skill needed in marriage, for example, and in other situations where keeping peace is more desirable than getting one's own way. Daniel and his three friends essentially compromised with the Babylonian official concerning their diet (Daniel 1:8–14).

In what ways have you chosen to compromise, whether for good or for evil?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

It is vital to know when compromise is appropriate and when it is not. In general, we can compromise on preferences rather than on principles. Based on that rule of thumb, here are some matters in which compromise might be helpful:

- the color of the church carpet
- the type of vehicle your family should drive
- where to host the corporate luncheon
- when to schedule a trip to the library

However, there should be no compromise over values and the standards that stem from those values. Here are some examples of things about which we should not compromise:

- the essentials of the Christian faith, including the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3–6) and the faithful preaching of the Word (2 Timothy 4:2)
- the lordship and authority of Christ (Luke 16:13)
- your personal convictions (Romans 14:5)
- moral issues, as defined in Scripture (1 Corinthians 6:18)

ADVANCED QUESTIONS

Divine providence is God's active care and direction over all things, even when human choices and events seem contrary to His will. It's a profound mystery highlighting God's sovereignty and human responsibility.

How do God's sovereignty and humanity's free will work together? And in salvation?

