

October 17, 2015, 2015

Esther 1

One of the remarkable things about the book of Esther is that God's name is never mentioned. In the beginning of the book it is difficult to discern exactly how God is at work in the unfolding events. Even so, we are assured that God is indeed orchestrating events in the world in order to accomplish His purposes. As we continue through our study, His Hand will become more evident. For now, though, we are left with the question of God's sovereignty.

Questions:

1. In the course of your daily life, how much of what happens to you do you attribute to coincidence versus God's sovereignty?
2. A simple definition for God's sovereignty from professor Wayne Grudem is "God's exercise of power over his creation." What areas of your life do you see God exercise His power most clearly?
3. People have a tendency to be obsessed with control. If this is true of you, how might this be problematic when thinking about God's sovereignty and the plans that he might have for you?
4. Hebrews 11:3 makes the point that although the things that we can see in this world seem powerful, it is really the things that we cannot see that are the most powerful.
 - a. When you think of God being involved in the world, do you tend to relegate God's activity to cleaning up our messes and bringing good out of bad situations, or do you think that God is pro-actively involved in everything that happens?
 - b. Why does it matter what you think of God's sovereignty?