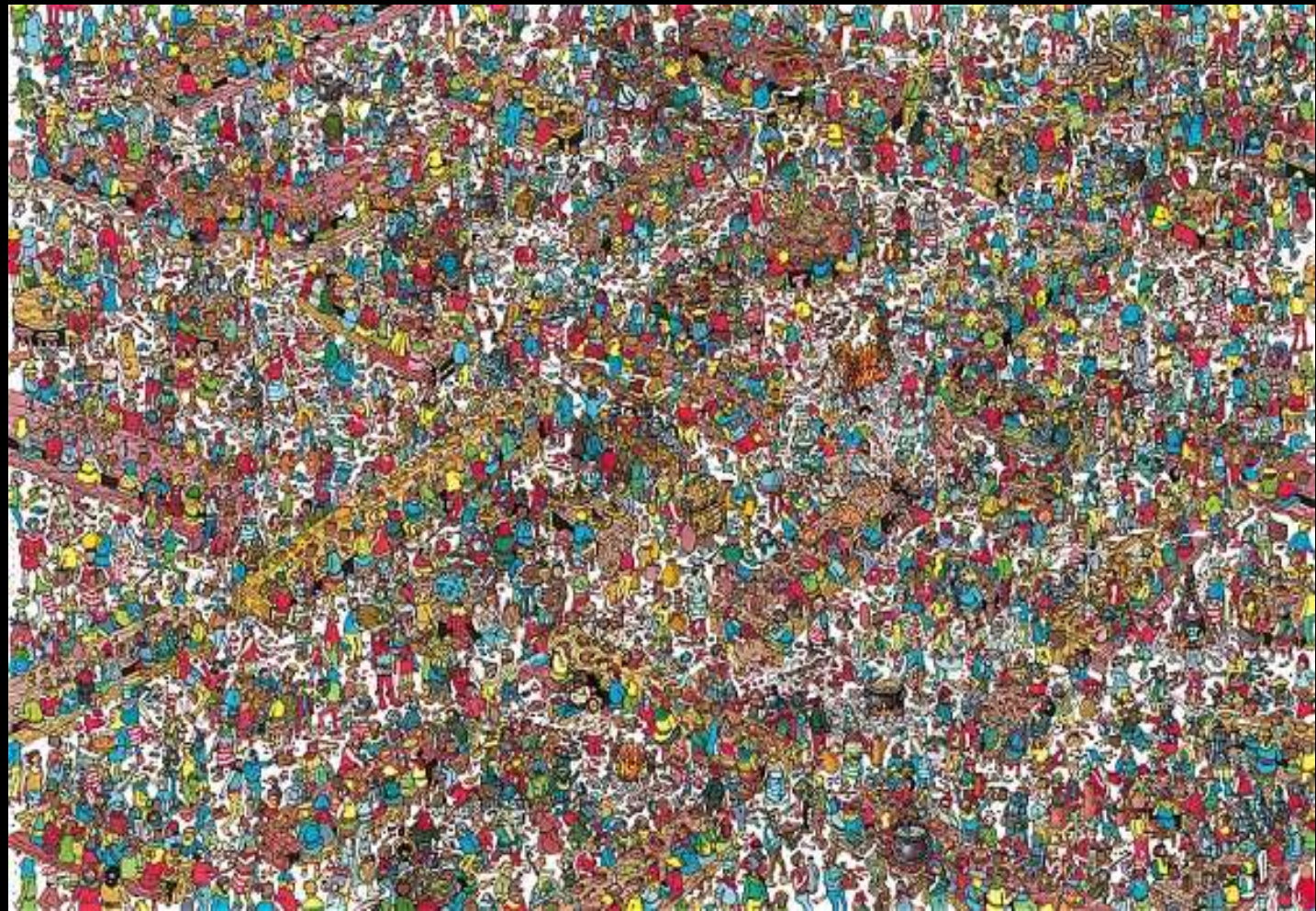


The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a castle or fortress at night. The sky is a deep blue, and the castle's stone walls and towers are silhouetted against the dark sky. On the right side, a bright orange and yellow fire or light source is visible, casting a glow on the scene. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.


THE BOOK OF ESTHER

The story so far





Providence NOT coincidence



ESTHER 1:11

XERXES CALLS

"BRING QUEEN VASHTI"

VASHTI FALLS

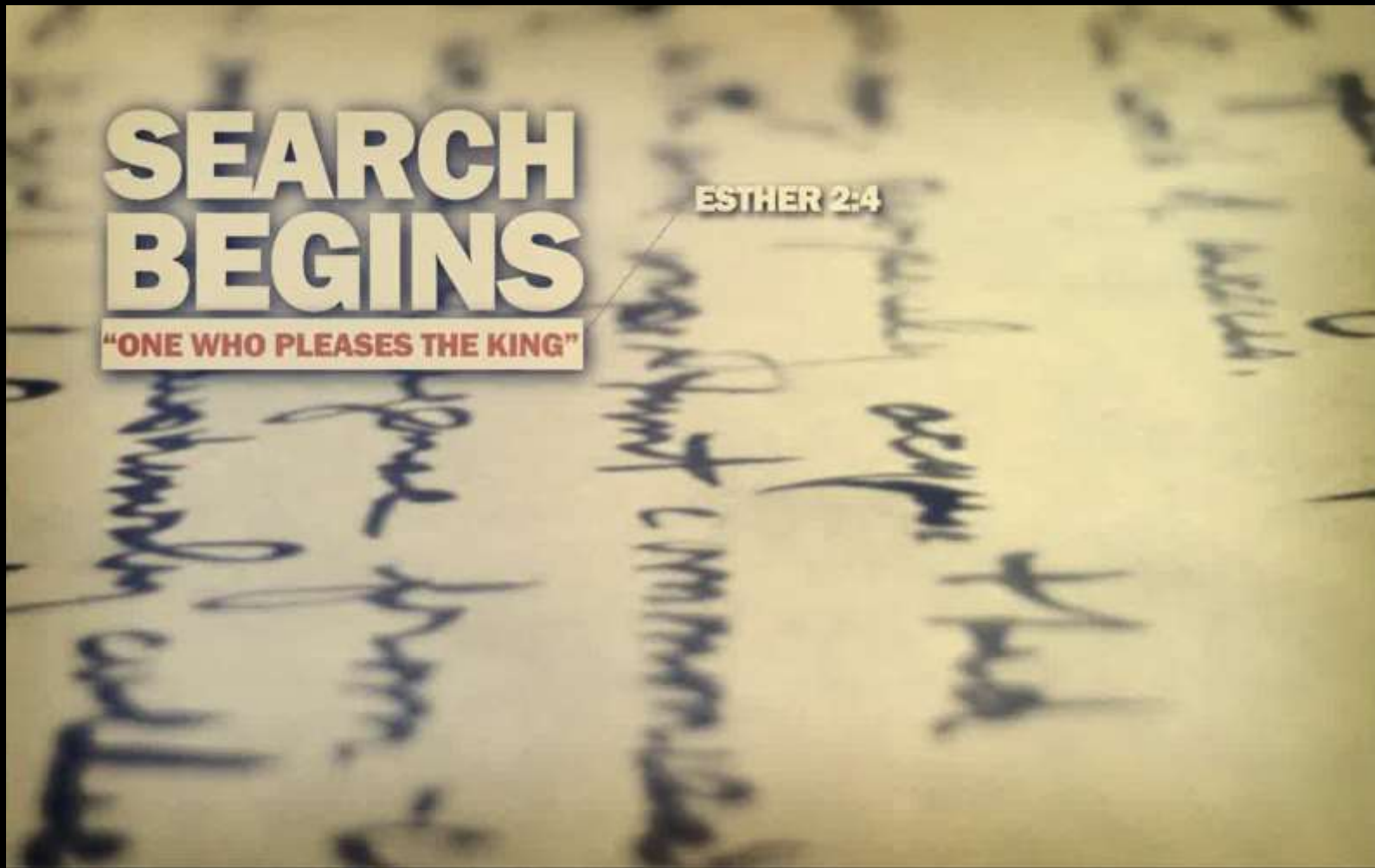
"SHE REFUSED TO COME"

ESTHER 1:12

SEARCH BEGINS

"ONE WHO PLEASURES THE KING"

ESTHER 2:4



A woman in a purple dress is shown in profile, facing right. A hand is placing a crown on her head. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

ESTHER
"HE MADE HER QUEEN"
WINS

ESTHER 2:17

HAMAN'S PLOT

"TO DESTROY THE JEWS"

ESTHER 3:9




ESTHER 4:1-3

JEWES

"THERE WAS GREAT MOURNING"

DISTRAUGHT

A silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of prayer or praise, set against a dramatic, cloudy sky with a bright light source. The person is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame.

ESTHER 4:7-8

MORDECAI'S
"GO TO THE KING, BEG FOR MERCY"
PLEA

The Challenge of Chapter 4



Esther †

For such a time as this

The Challenge of Chapter 4

What am I here for? Ephesians 2 v 10


Ephesians 2

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

The Challenge of Chapter 4

What am I here for?

Take God seriously - holy living, disciplined preparation, dependence on God and on each other.



ESTHER 4:16

ESTHER AGREES

"IF I PERISH, I PERISH"

Action

James 1 v22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**

Wisdom

Colossians 4 v2

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Foolishness

Psalm 2v1

*Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of
the earth rise up and the rulers band
together against the Lord...*

2 Corinthians 4 v 4

*The god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

1 Corinthians 1v18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Action

Wisdom

Foolishness



... to be continued

Jude 24-25

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.