



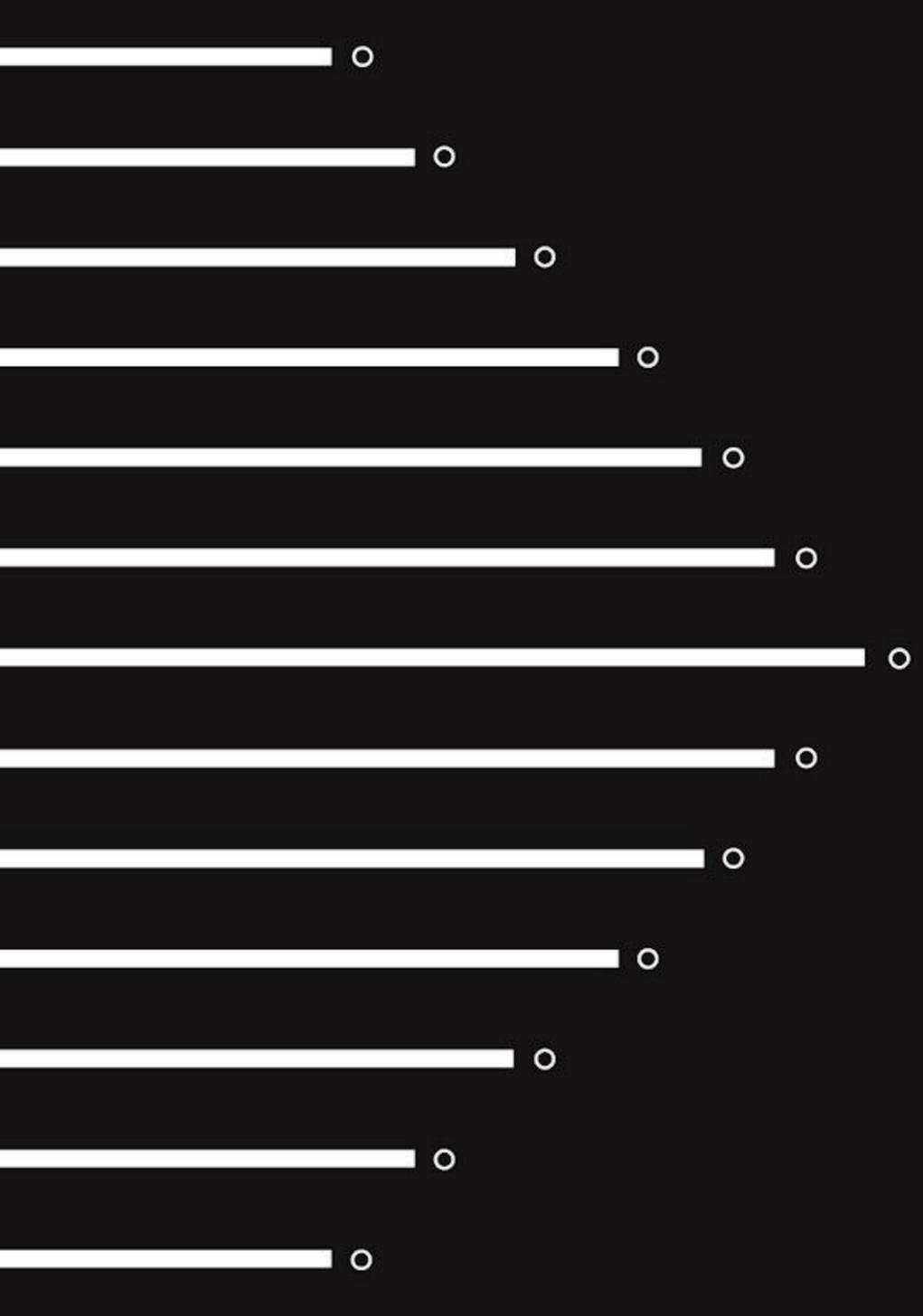
God's Sovereign Hand

Week One
Esther 1-3

Week Two
Esther 4

Week Three
Esther 5-8

Week Four
Esther 9-10



“It is always shocking to meet life where we thought we were alone. ‘Look out!’ we cry, ‘it’s alive’. And therefore this is the very point at which so many draw back—I would have done so myself if I could—and proceed no further with Christianity.

- An ‘impersonal God’—well and good.
- A subjective God of beauty, truth and goodness, inside our own heads—better still.
- A formless life-force surging through us, a vast power which we can tap—best of all.

But God Himself, alive, pulling at the other end of the cord, perhaps approaching at an infinite speed, the hunter, king, husband—that is quite another matter.”

- **C.S. Lewis, Miracles**



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INGRATITUDE

IMPATIENCE

GLUTTONY

IRRITABILITY

DISCONTENTMENT

SINS OF THE TONGUE

“Respectable” Sins

UNGODLINESS

JUDGMENTALISM

PRIDE

SELFISHNESS

JEALOUSY

ENVY

ANGER

LACK OF SELF-CONTROL

John 14:15 ^{NIV}

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

Week One
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Compromised Obedience-
getting caught-up, or lost, in “cultural drift”

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Why were the Jews still in Persia???

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Isaiah 48:20 NIV

Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to the ends of the earth; say, “The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob.”

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Jeremiah 50:8 NIV

“Flee out of Babylon; leave the land of the Babylonians, and be like the goats that lead the flock.”

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Jeremiah 51:6 NIV

“Flee from Babylon! Run for your lives! Do not be destroyed because of her sins. It is time for the LORD’s vengeance; he will repay her what she deserves.”

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Jeremiah 29:10 NIV

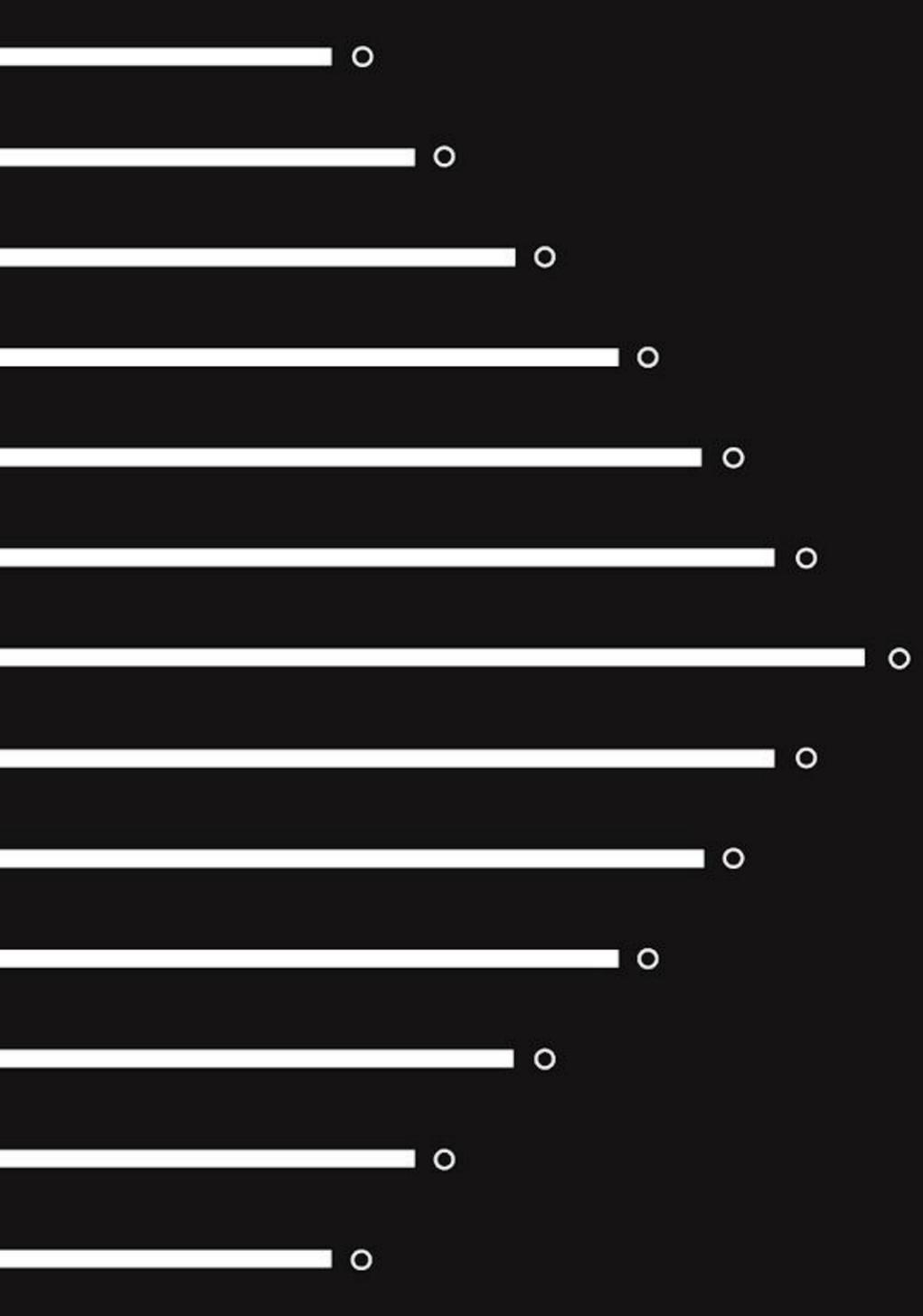
This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.”

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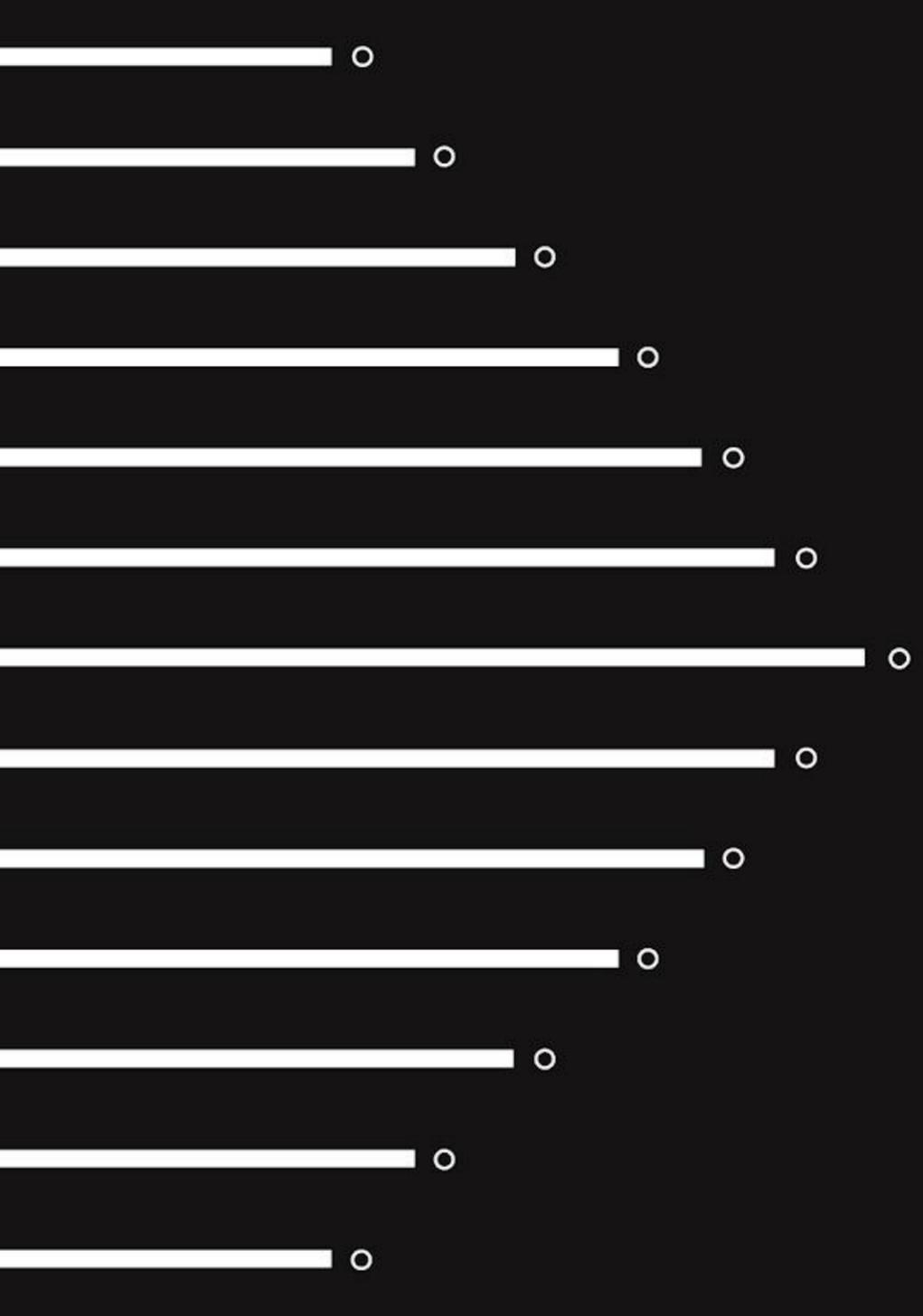


Esther and Mordecai had not returned to the land and did not seem interested in complying with the prophetic command to return...

The Law is never mentioned in the book nor are sacrifices or offerings referred to. Prayer is never mentioned in the book, though fasting is. This fits the view that the Jewish people residing in the Persian Empire were not following God's will. They were shunning their responsibility to return to Palestine and to become involved in temple worship...

Both Esther and Mordecai seem to have lacked spiritual awareness *except* in their assurance that God would protect His people.

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. The Bible Knowledge Commentary Victor Books: Wheaton, IL



God is Sovereign

- **Xerxes:** indecisive and idolatrous; arrogant
- **Haman:** evil and egotistic; racist
- **Mordecai:** generous and good; trustworthy
- **Esther:** beautiful and brave; courageous

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- **Xerxes:** indecisive and idolatrous; arrogant

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- **Xerxes:** indecisive and idolatrous; arrogant

Proverbs 21:1 NIV84

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord;
he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

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- **Haman:** evil and egotistic; racist

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- **Haman:** evil and egotistic; racist

Numbers 32:23b NIV84

“... be sure that your sin will find you out!”

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- **Mordecai:** generous and good; trustworthy

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- **Mordecai:** generous and good; trustworthy

Proverbs 11:30 NIV

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and the one who is wise saves lives.

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- **Esther:** beautiful and brave; courageous

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- **Esther:** beautiful and brave; courageous

Proverbs 2:8 NIV

for He guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.

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Esther 8:17 ^{NIV}

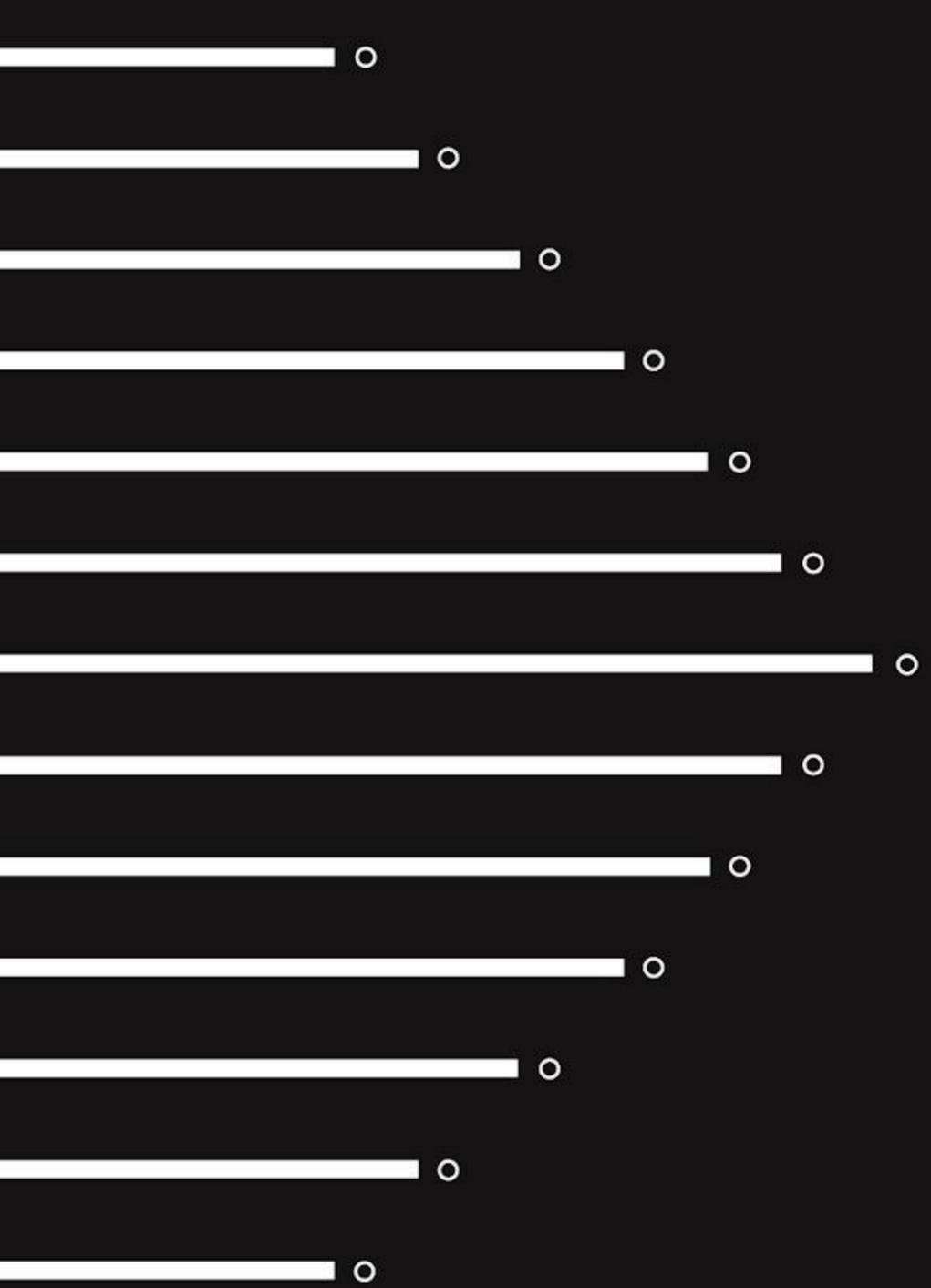
In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

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“My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things:
that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior.”

- **John Newton**