

ESTHER



# Conversation with Mordecai & Esther

Week One  
Esther 1-3

**Week Two**  
**Esther 4**

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

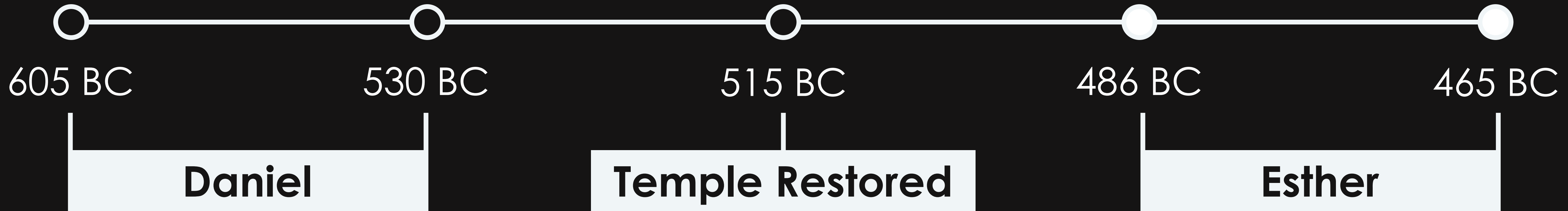
Week Four  
Esther 9-10

# Exile

Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Lamentations

# Return

Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah, Haggai



## **Esther & the Modern Reader**

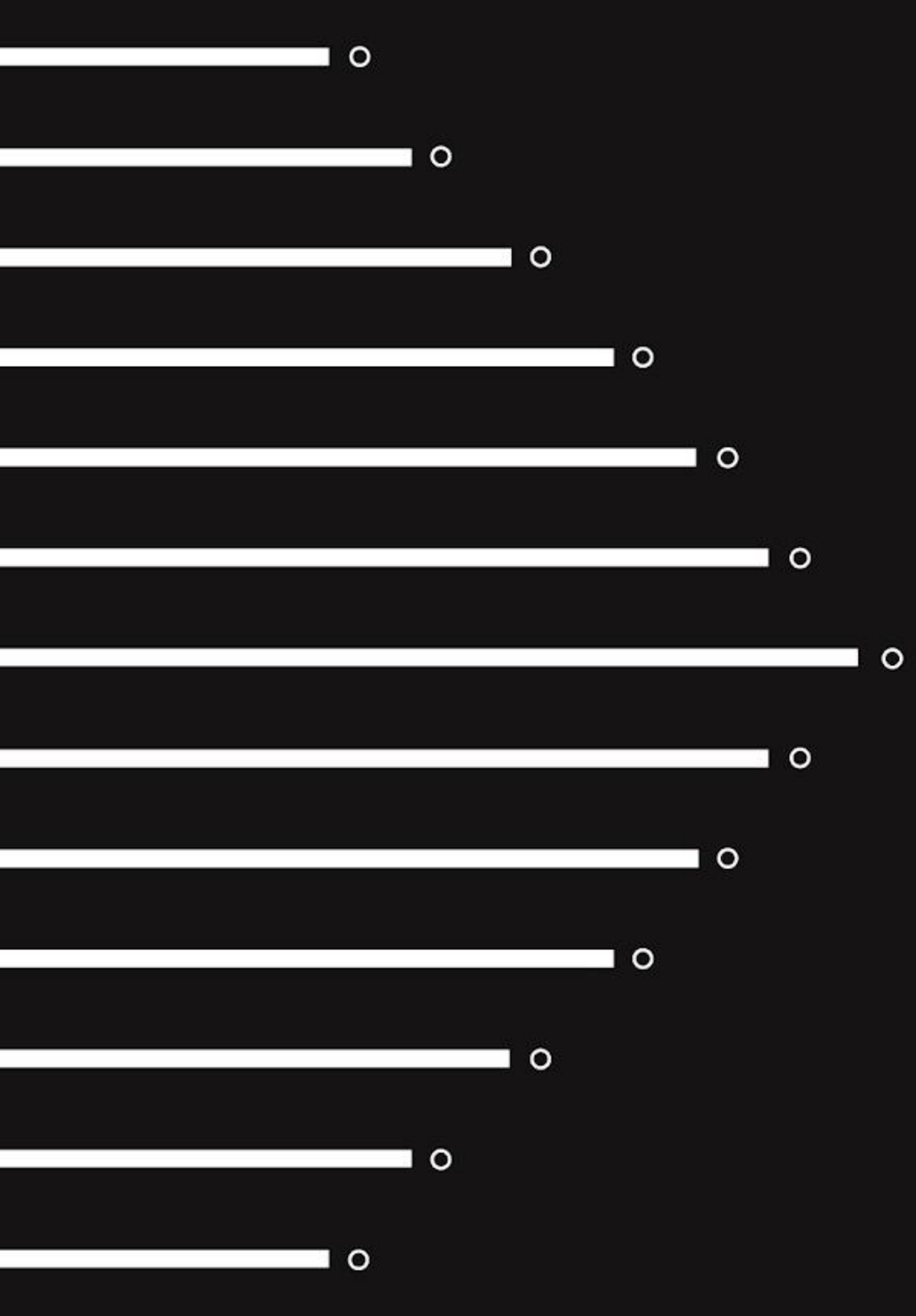
### **Power in Narrative**

- Substance Abuse
- Vanity of Wealth
- Marital Conflicts
- Dysfunctional Relationships
- Corrupt Political Leaders
- Abuse of Power
- Objectification of Women
- Sexual Exploitation
- Trauma
- Racism
- Genocide
- Grief
- Violence
- Vengeance

## The Cast of Esther

Broken people in a  
broken world.

- **Xerxes:** alcoholic, wealthy, indecisive, king demanding obedience
- **Vasthi:** former queen of Persia, deposed for defiance to Xerxes
- **Esther:** young Jewish orphan, chosen to be queen of Persia
- **Mordecai:** Jewish man, cousin and adoptive father of Esther
- **Haman:** short-fused, wealthy, manipulative politician plotting genocide



## **Esther is a story about God's Providence.**

“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, PhD**

## Mordecai's Grief

Mordecai's Request

Esther's Decision

### Esther 4:1, 5 <sup>NIV</sup>

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly... <sup>5</sup> Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

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Mordecai's Grief  
**Mordecai's Request**  
Esther's Decision

## Esther 4:7-8 NIV

Mordecai told him (*Hathak*) everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.<sup>8</sup> He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to **go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.**

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Mordecai's Grief  
**Mordecai's Request**  
Esther's Decision

## Esther 4:14 <sup>NIV</sup>

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

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Mordecai's Grief  
Mordecai's Request  
**Esther's Decision**

## Esther 4:15-16 NIV

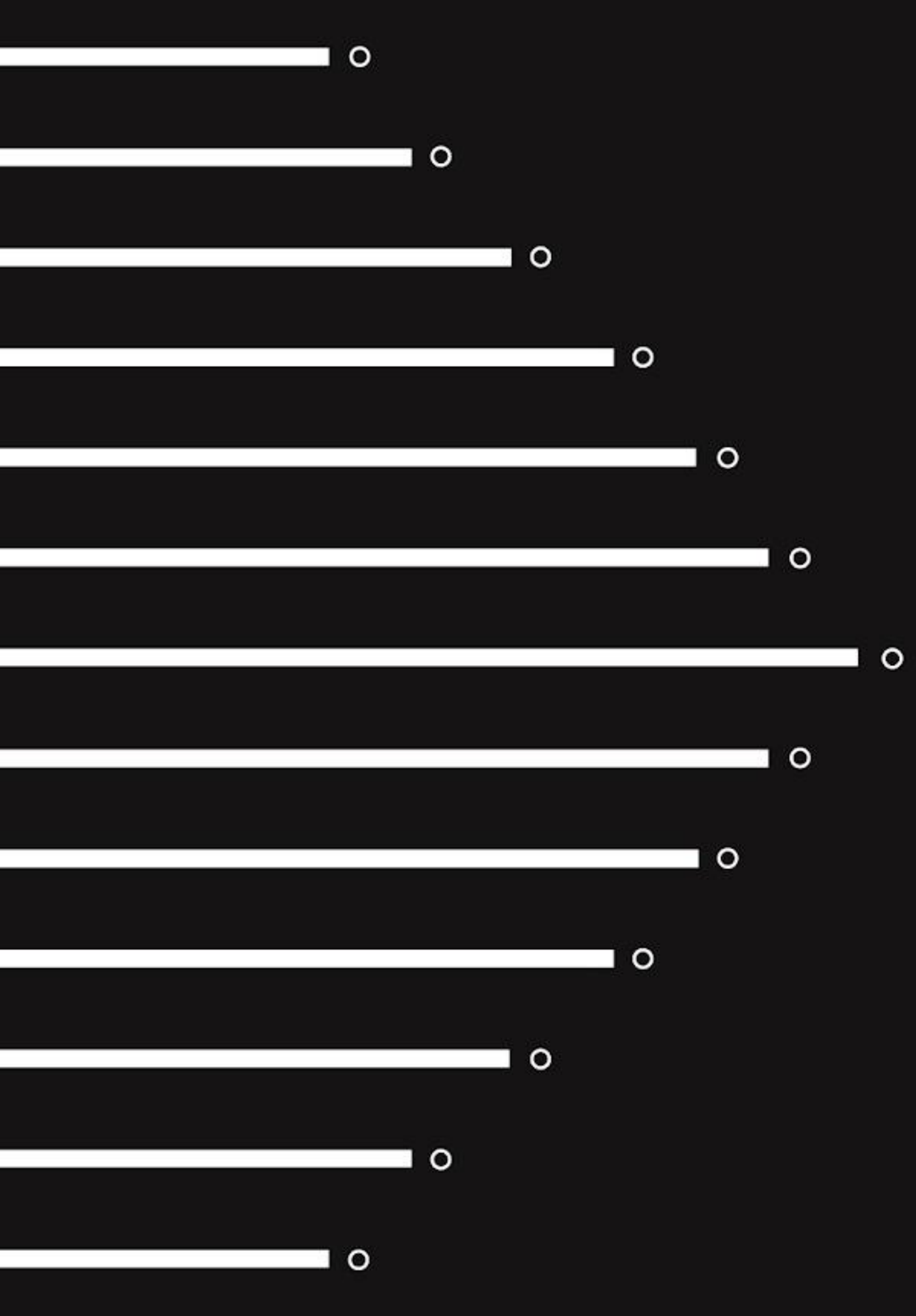
Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

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It is natural to read Esther as a morality tale about cousins who stand in the gap to save a nation. As a consequence, women may be told, “*Be compliant and brave like Esther!*” Men are encouraged, “*Be faithful and wise like Mordecai!*” We’re all admonished, “*Don’t be proud like Haman—you might end up on the gallows!*” But is Esther fundamentally a morality tale about how we should stand tall in the midst of our earthly captivity?

- Elyse Fitzpatrick, **The Gospel In Esther**

Esther reminds us  
of a **better story.**

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**A person  
in a royal  
position...**

**Esther reminds us  
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**A person  
in a royal  
position...**

**willing to lay  
down their life  
for others...**

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**A person  
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**to offer  
relief and  
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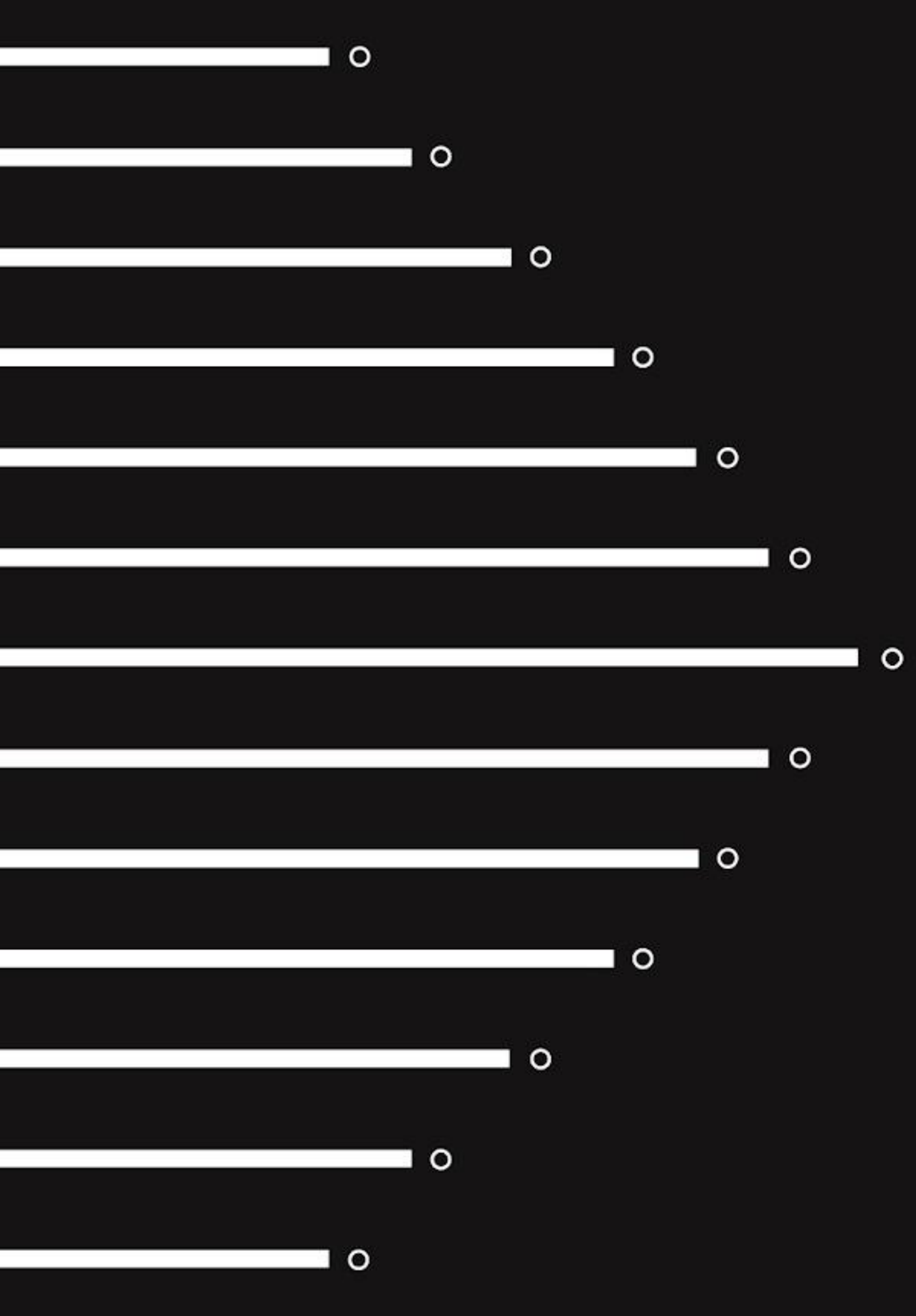
### Esther 4:14 NIV

For if you remain silent **at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another** place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

### Romans 5:6-8 NASB

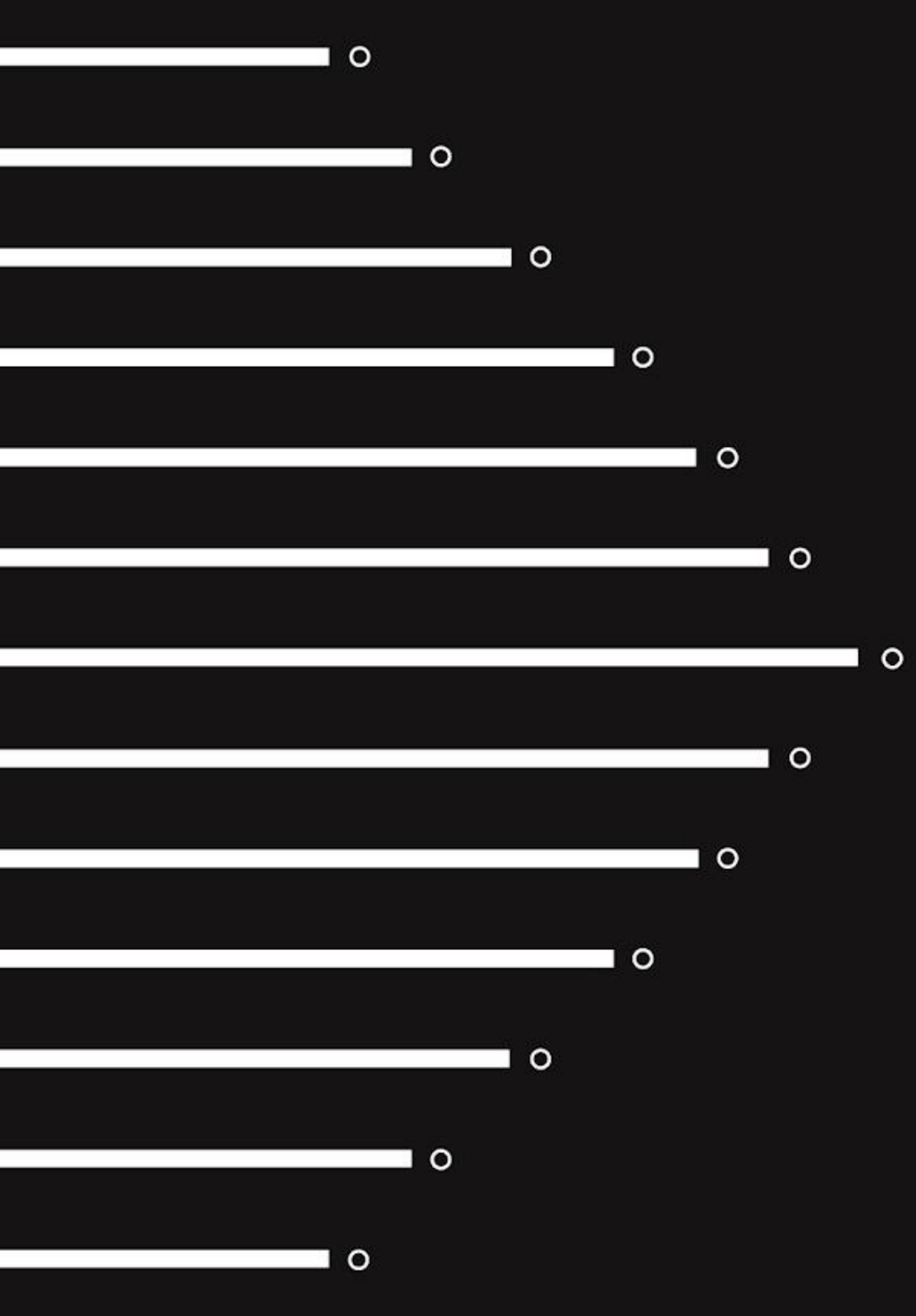
For while we were still helpless, **at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

<sup>7</sup> For one will hardly die for a righteous person; though perhaps for the good person someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



But is Esther fundamentally a morality tale about how we should stand tall in the midst of our earthly captivity? Or is it a gospel message ultimately about our need for dependence upon Jesus Christ, our Mediator who himself stood in the gap and accomplished our deliverance? For believers today, the significance of the book of Esther is that it coordinates with the rest of the Old Testament to foreshadow Jesus as deliverer and mediator for God's people.

- Elyse Fitzpatrick, **The Gospel In Esther**



God is good and  
faithful to His promises,  
**even in moments of crisis.**

*So, will you **trust** and **rest in Him**?*

The image features a minimalist design with abstract white geometric shapes on a black background. In the top-left corner, there is a small white circle and two intersecting white lines. In the bottom-right corner, there is another small white circle, a larger white circle, and two intersecting white lines. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

## PRAYER FOR SERENITY

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;  
trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will;  
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.