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VII.	 The Theology of Esther A. God's Providence 1. Definition: "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." (Jobes, pg. 43) 2. The answer to the question: Are we still God's people?
VIII.	Contemporary Significance A. Powerful Story 1. Purim
	B. Future Salvation 1. Pointing to Christ
	C. The Hand of Providence 1. Still at work
	2. Just like us
	D. God is not Absent

	Introductio	۱n
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II.	Tho	Conundrum	ot Ecthor
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- A. Atypical of Old Testament Writings
 - 1. Not even religiously Jewish
- **B.** Flawed Characters
 - 1. No comment from the author
- C. Ignoring Esther
 - 1. Calvin and Luther
- III. Historical Background
 - A. Solomon
 - 1. After Solomon's death
 - B. Kingdom of Israel (Northern)
 - C. Kingdom of Judah (Southern)
 - 1. Babylon
 - D. Life in Exile
 - 1. Religious life
 - E. Return to Palestine
 - 1. Prophets

	F. Persian Emp	ire – 539 B.C. – 330 B.C.	
	1.	Those who returned to Israel	
	2.	Those who remained in Persia	
	3.	The story of Esther	
	G. Big Theologic	cal Question of the Day	
	1.	Are we still God's people?	
IV.	Authorship and	Date	
	A. Author		
	B. Date		
V.	Historical Issues A. Author's Inte		
	1.	Historical events	
	2.	A few problematic issues	
	3.	The real problem	
	B. Purim 1.	Still celebrated	
VI.	Themes of Esthe	er	
	A. Major Theol	_	
	1.	God fulfills his ugh his	to his people
	B. Primary ther		
	1.	God's	

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