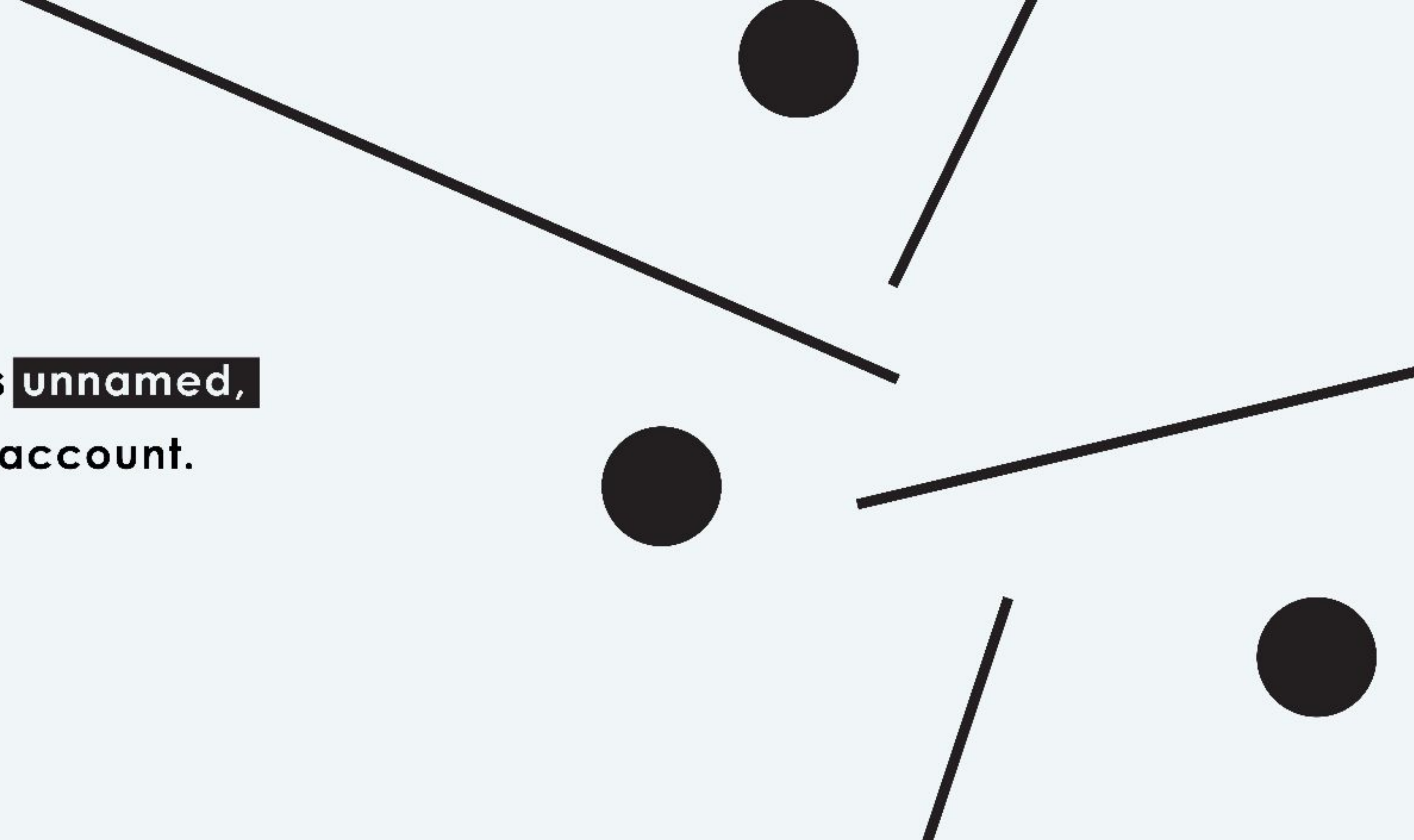


Esther is an Old Testament narrative containing **167 verses** delivered in **10 chapters**.

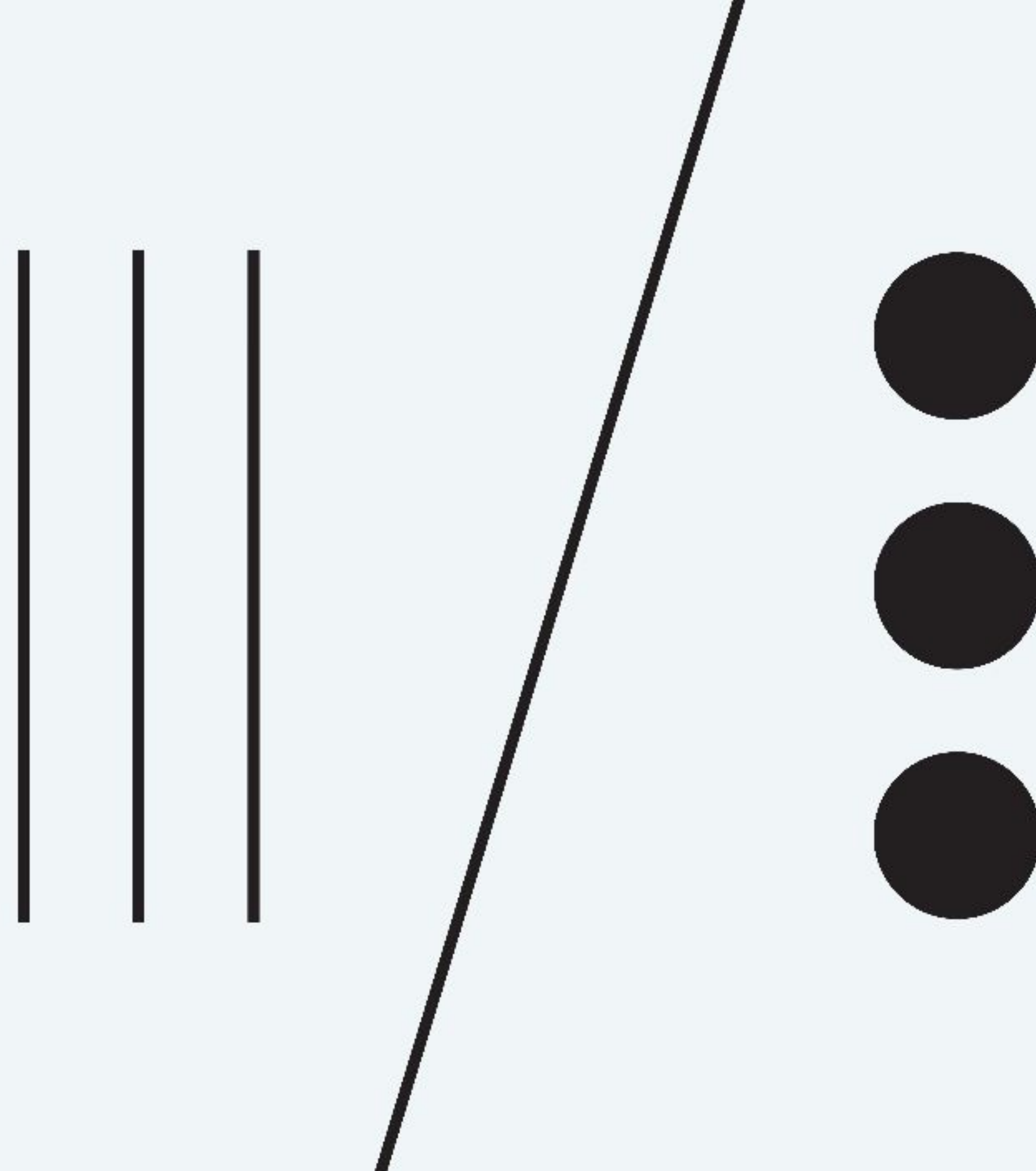
The author of the book of Esther is **unnamed**,  
but it seems to be an eyewitness account.





The book of Esther is **one of only two** books  
of the bible **named after a woman.**  
(the other is Ruth)

Esther, also known by the Hebrew name **Hadassah**, was a young orphan girl who was adopted by her relative Mordecai.

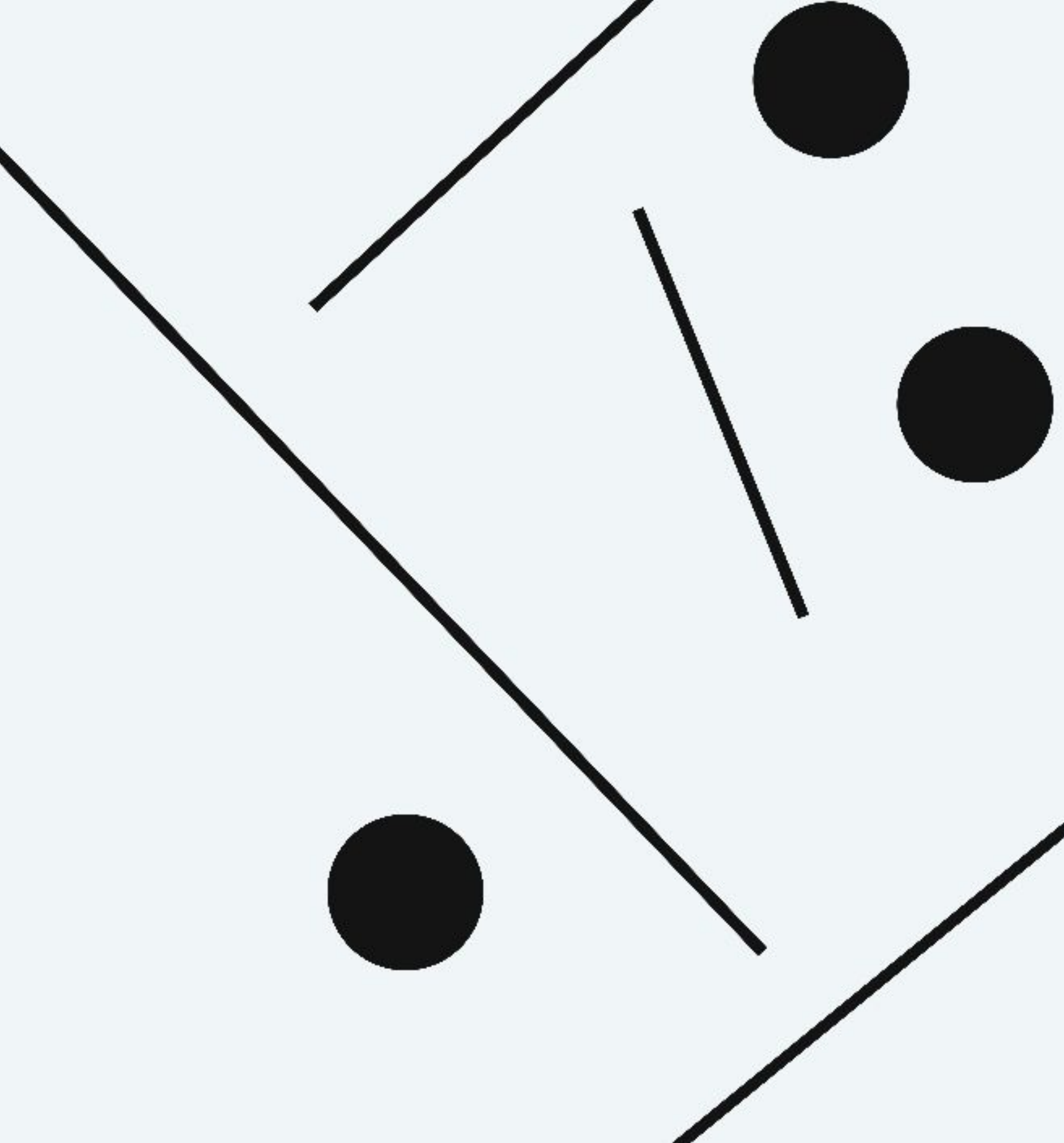


An abstract graphic on the left side of the image. It features three solid black circles arranged in a triangular pattern. Three black lines of varying lengths and orientations intersect the space around the circles. One line is nearly horizontal at the bottom left. Another line is diagonal, passing between the bottom-left and top-left circles. The third line is steeper, passing between the top-left and bottom-right circles.

The book of Esther tells the story of a young woman rising from being an **exiled orphan** to becoming the **Queen of Persia.**

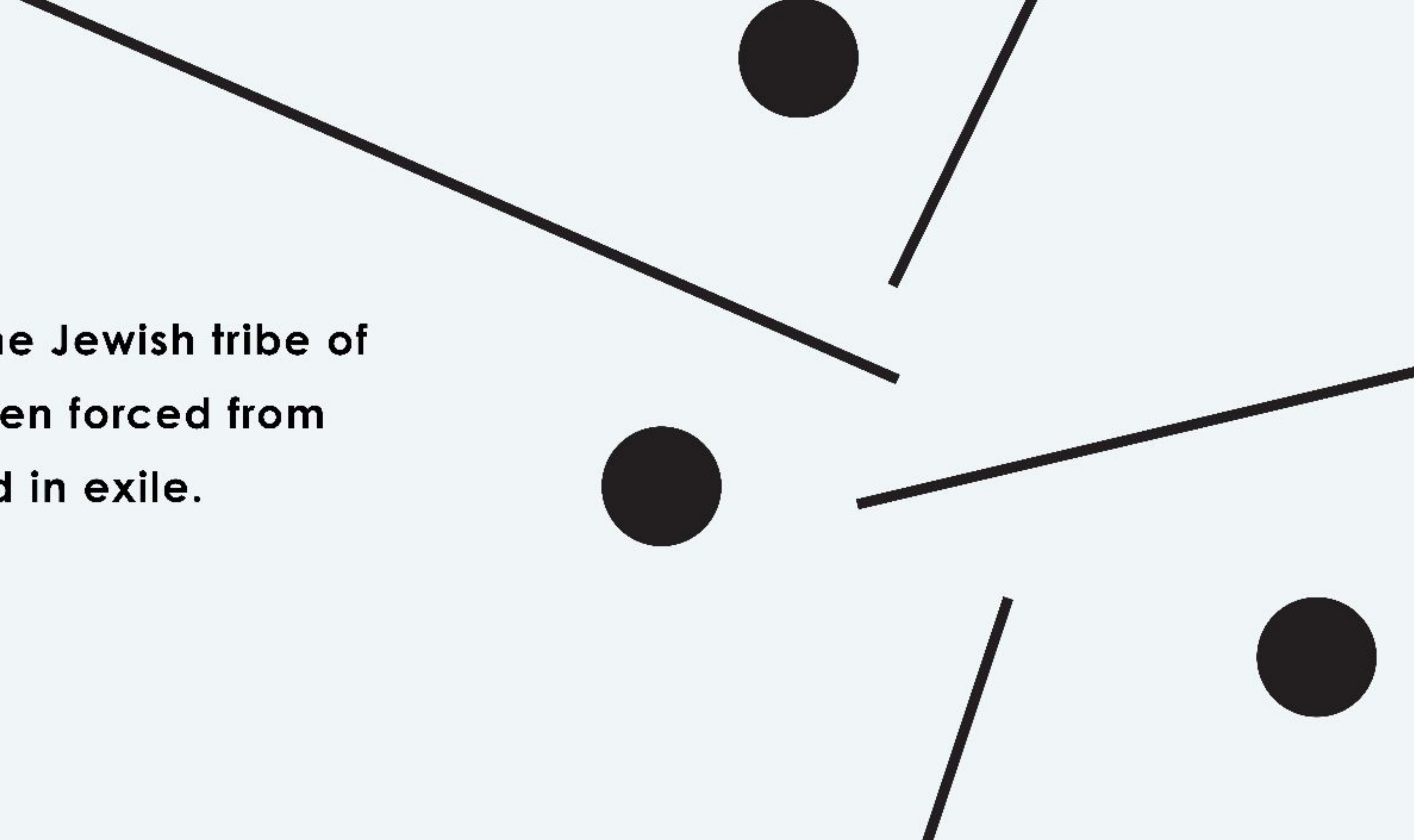
Esther has **more spoken words** recorded  
than any other woman in the bible.





The story of Esther takes place in **Susa**, the capital city of Persia. (located in modern day Iran)

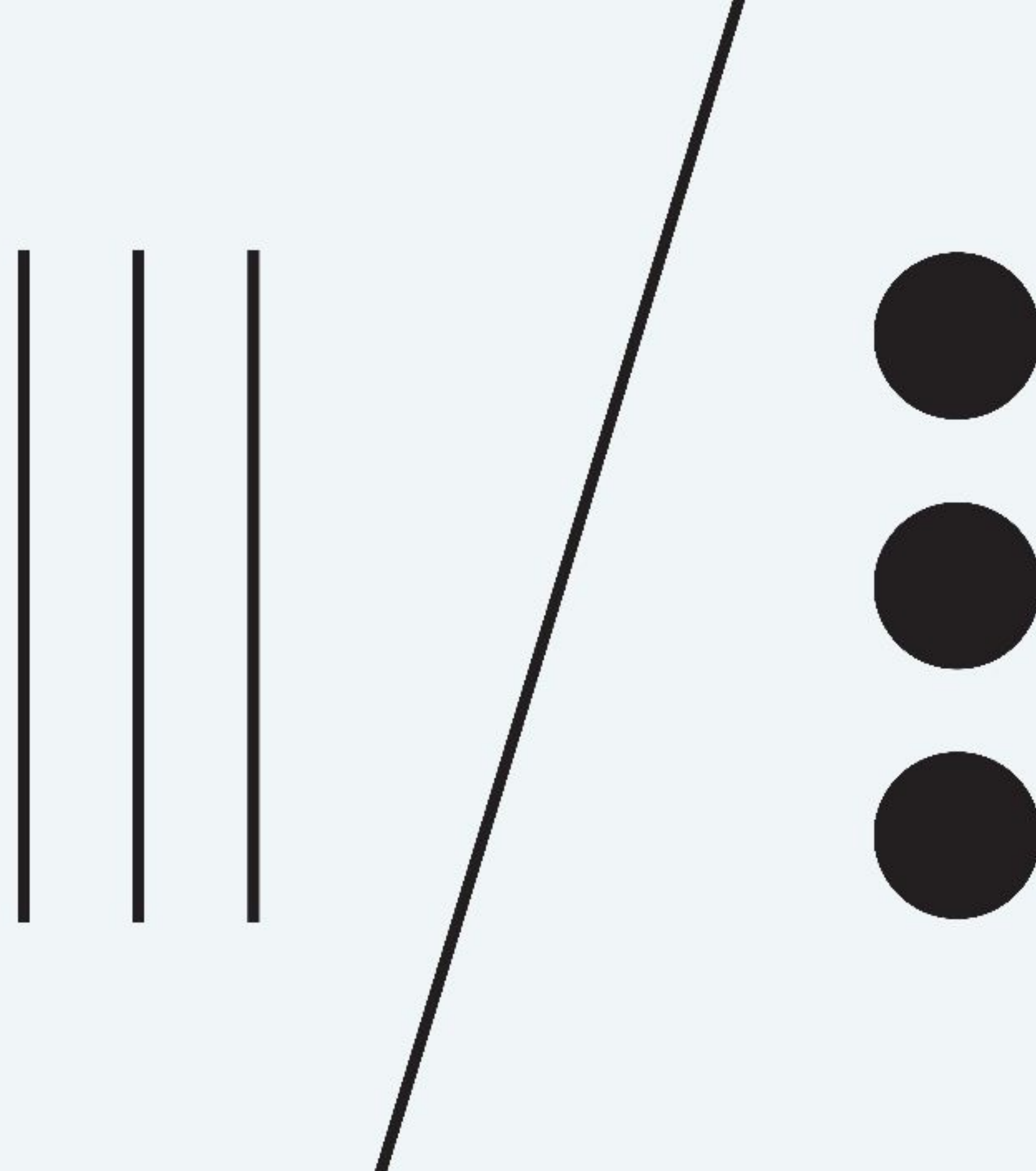
Mordecai and Esther were from the Jewish tribe of **Benjamin**, but their family had been forced from the land of Israel where they lived in exile.

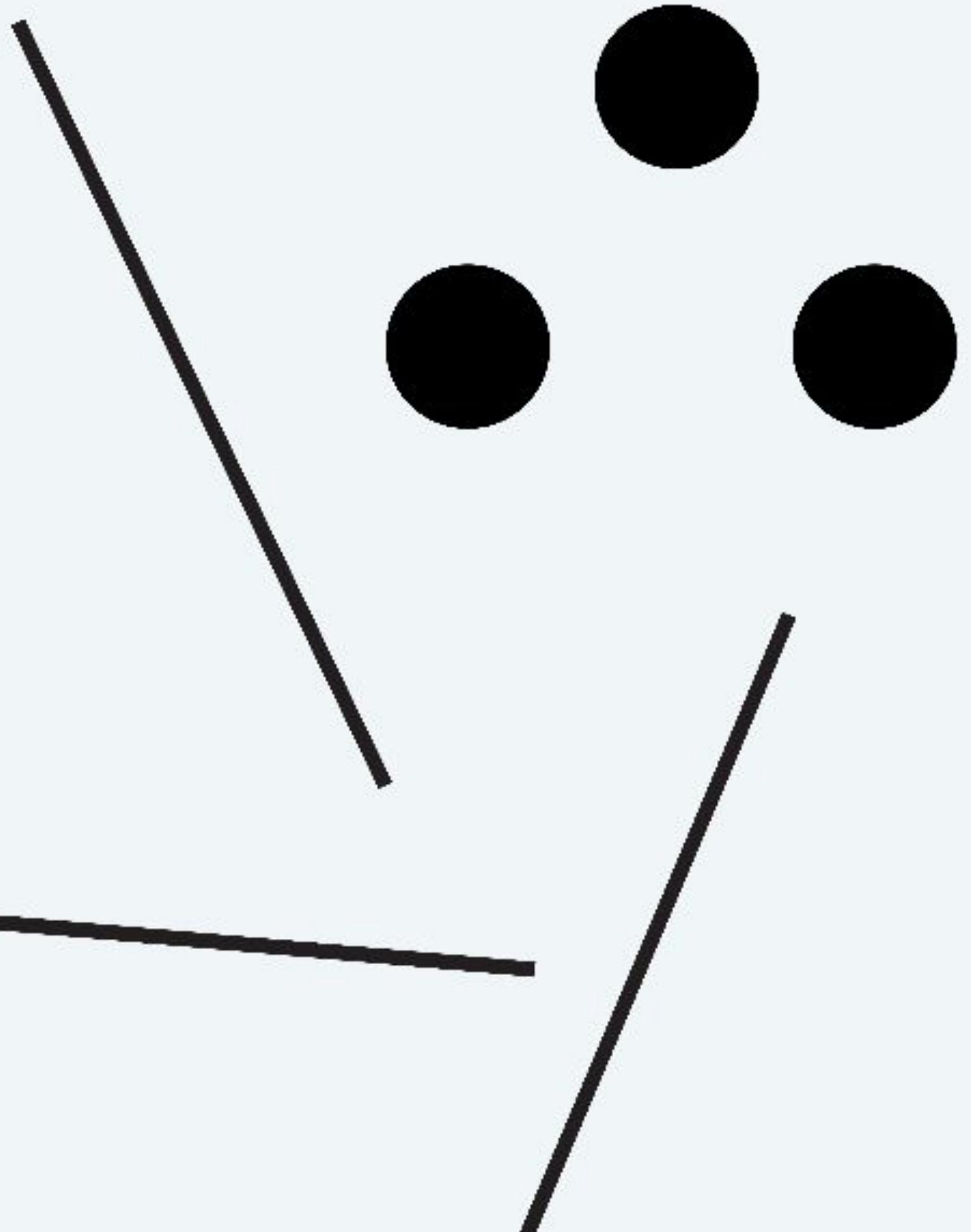




The book of Esther is one of only two books of the bible set entirely **outside of the Promised Land.**  
(Daniel is the other)

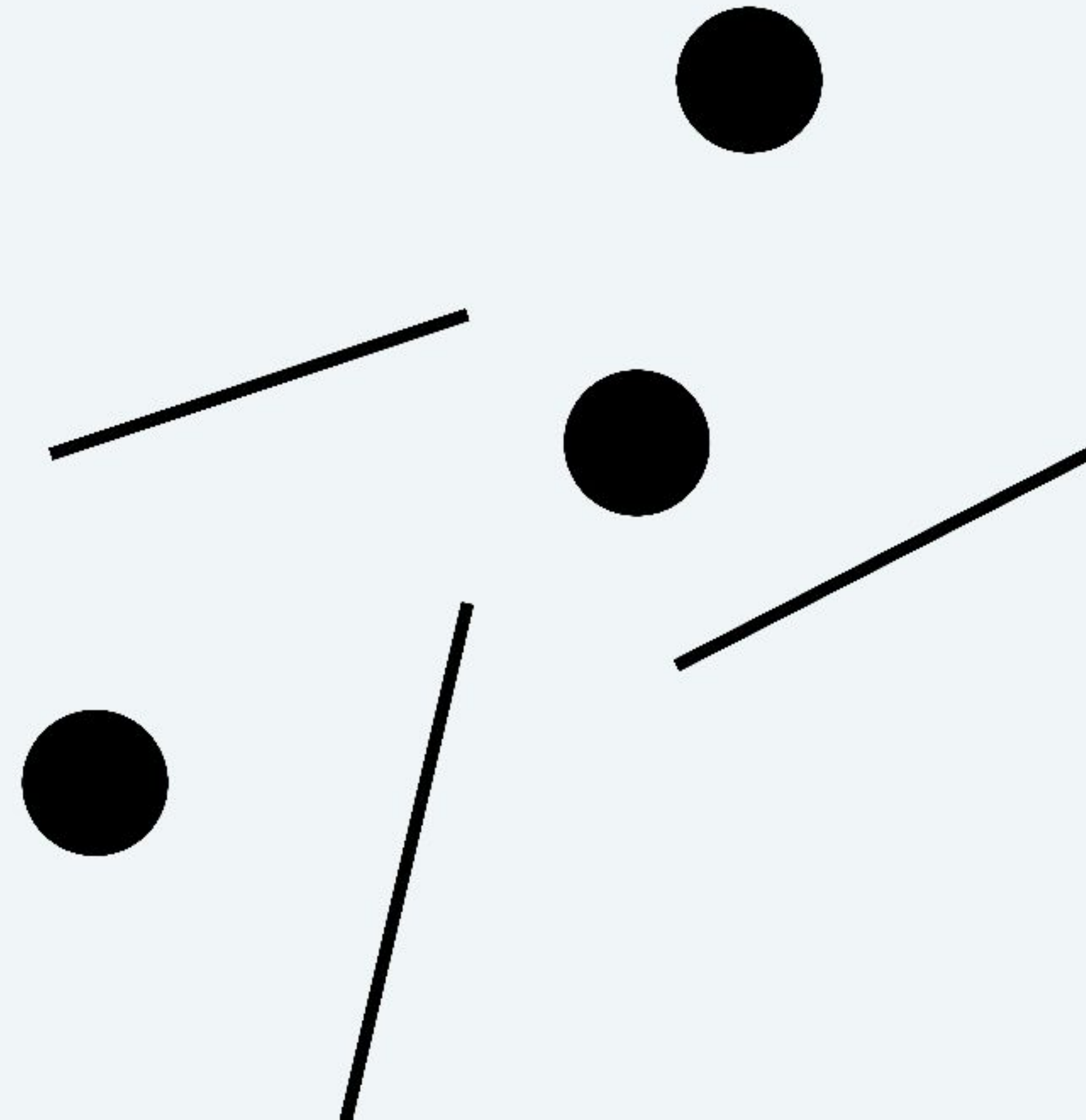
After 70 years of exile, the Jewish people were allowed to return to the land of Israel, but Mordecai and Esther chose to **stay in Persia.**

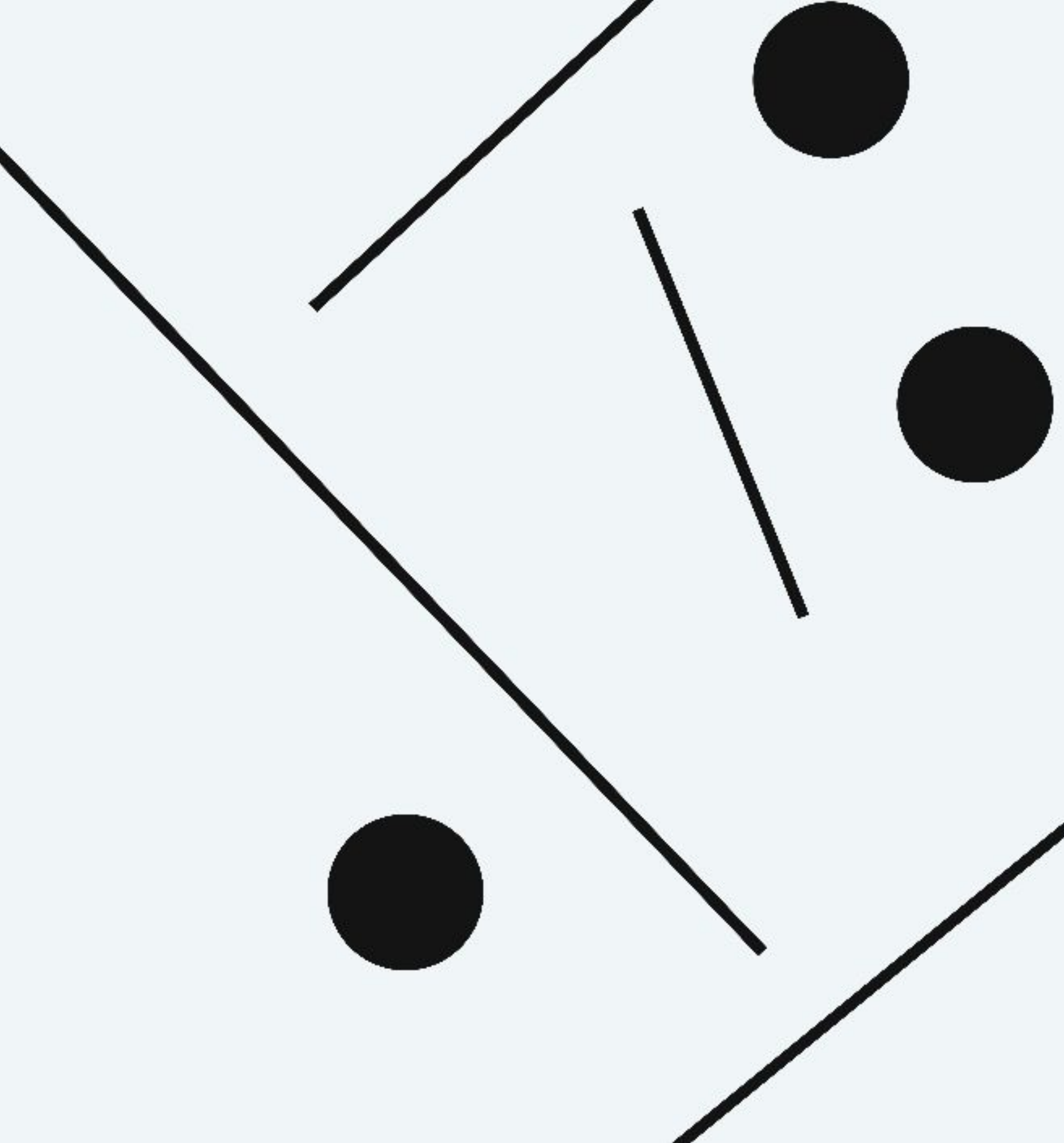


An abstract graphic design featuring three solid black circles arranged in a triangular pattern. Four black lines of varying lengths and orientations intersect the scene: one line slopes steeply down from the top left, another slopes more gradually down from the top left, a third slopes steeply up from the bottom left, and a fourth slopes very gradually down from the left edge. The text is positioned to the right of these elements.

King Xerxes, also known by the Hebrew name of **Ahasuerus**, reigned over the Persian Empire from 485-465 BC.

The events in the Book of Esther occur over a **ten year period** from 483 B.C. to 473 B.C. These fit chronologically into the book of Ezra.





The evil oppressor of the Jewish people in the book of Esther is named **Haman.**

An abstract geometric design featuring several black lines and circles on a light blue background. The lines are of varying lengths and orientations, creating a dynamic composition. Three solid black circles are also present, adding to the geometric elements.

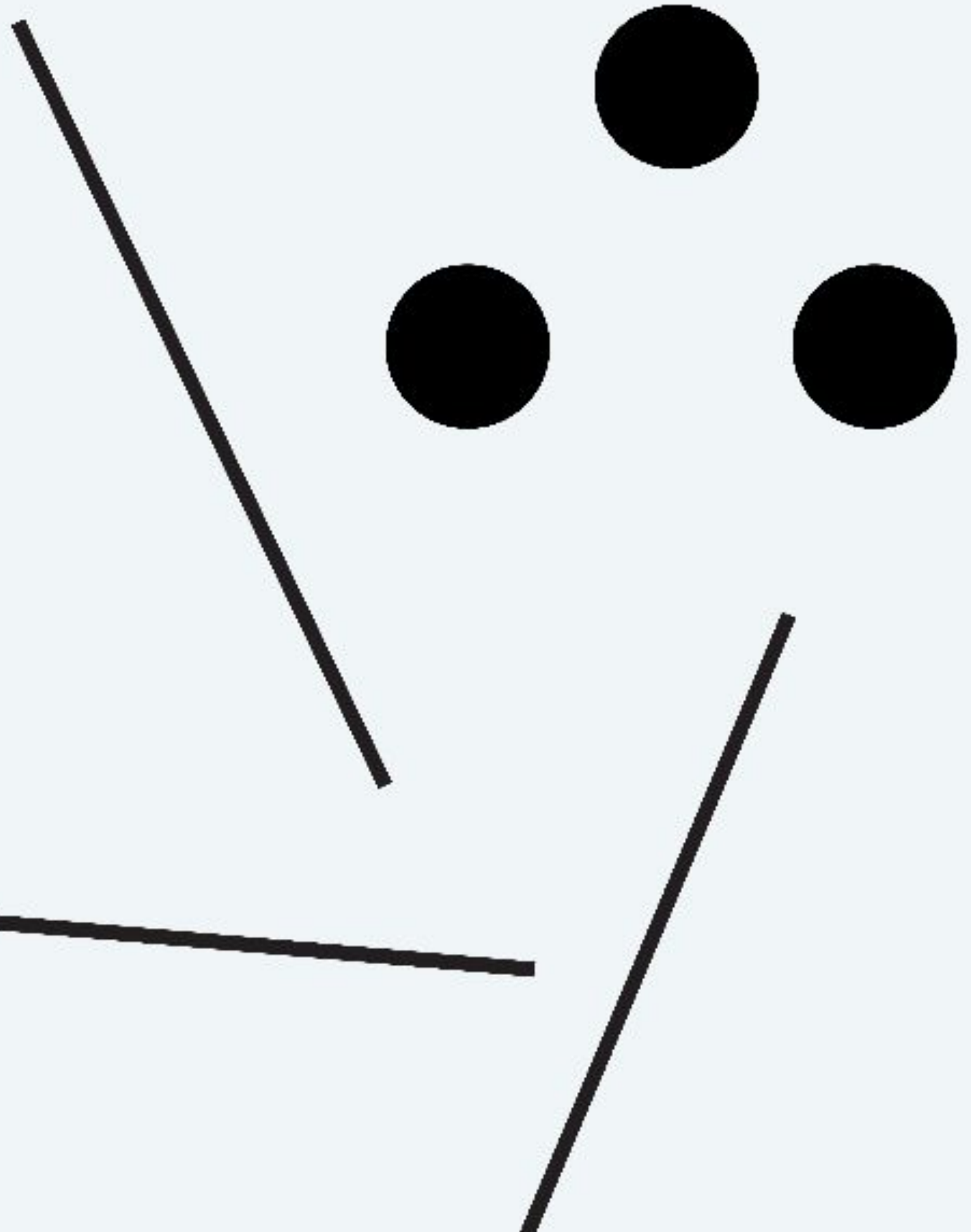
Esther is the only book of the bible in which  
the **name of God is not mentioned.**



King Xerxes is mentioned **over 170 times** in the  
book of Esther.

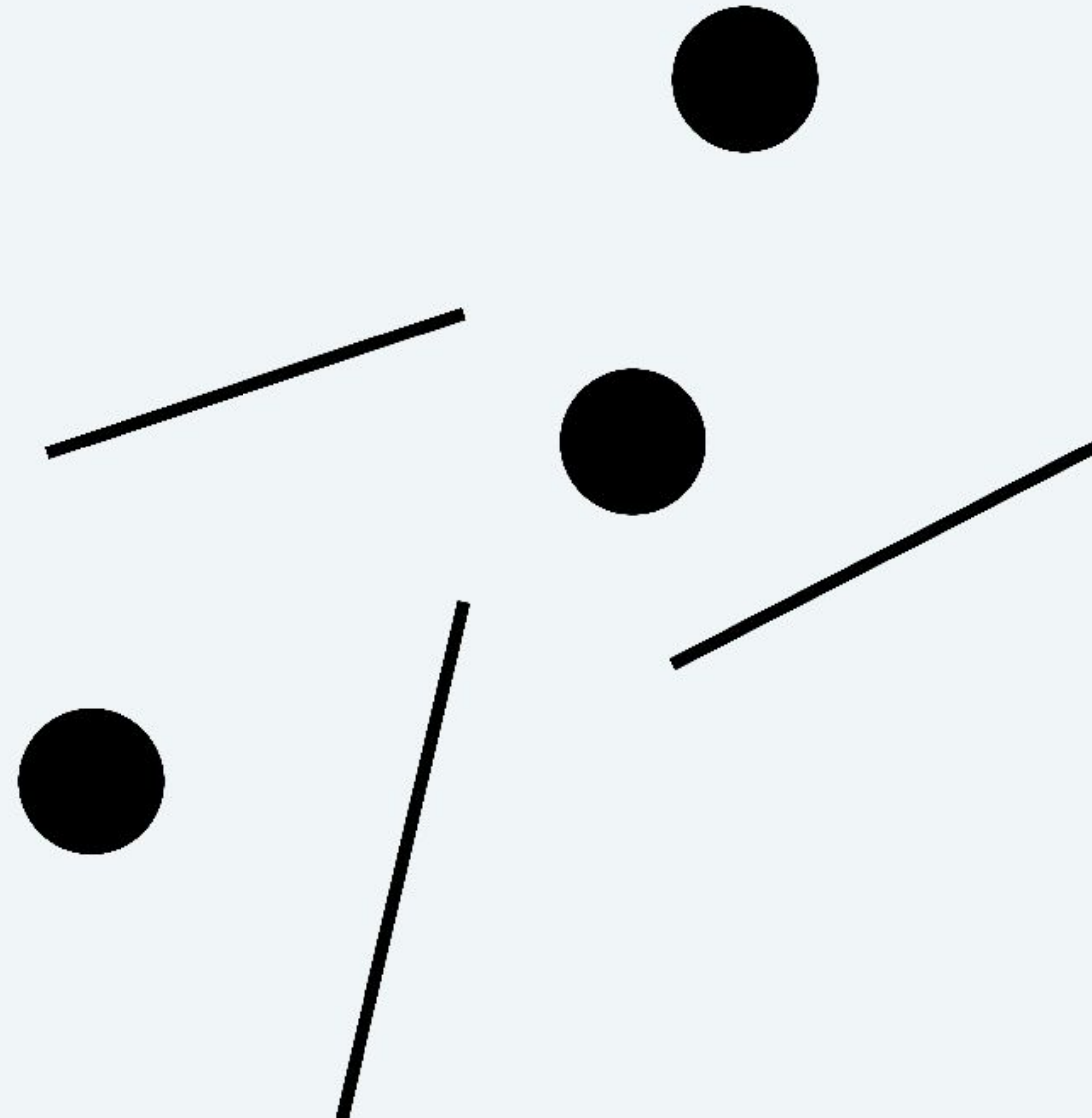
Esther **risked her life** to save her people.

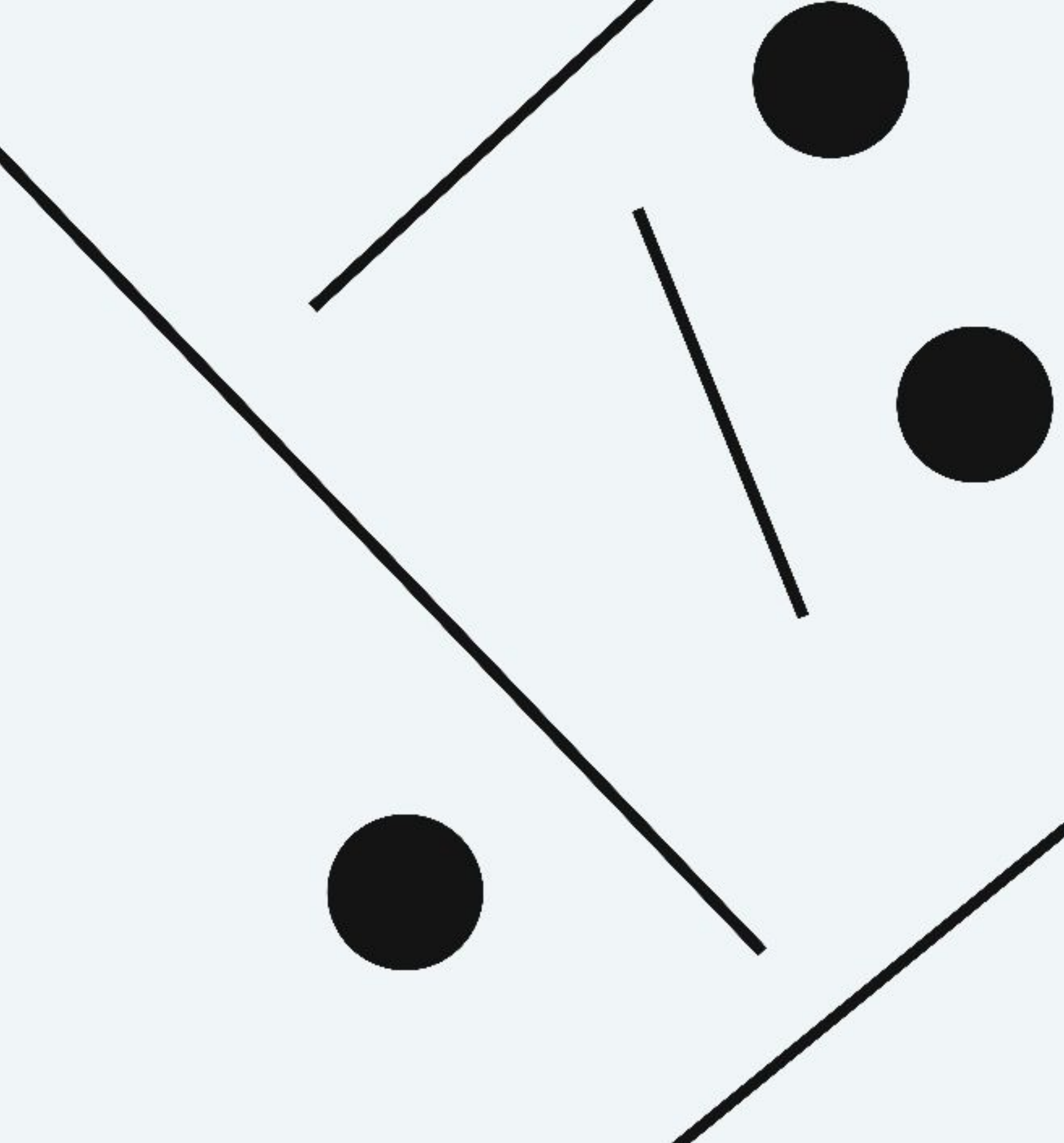


An abstract graphic design featuring three solid black circles arranged in a triangular pattern. Three black lines intersect the scene: one line slopes downward from the top left towards the center, another line slopes upward from the bottom left towards the center, and a third line is nearly horizontal at the bottom left. The text is positioned to the right of these geometric elements.

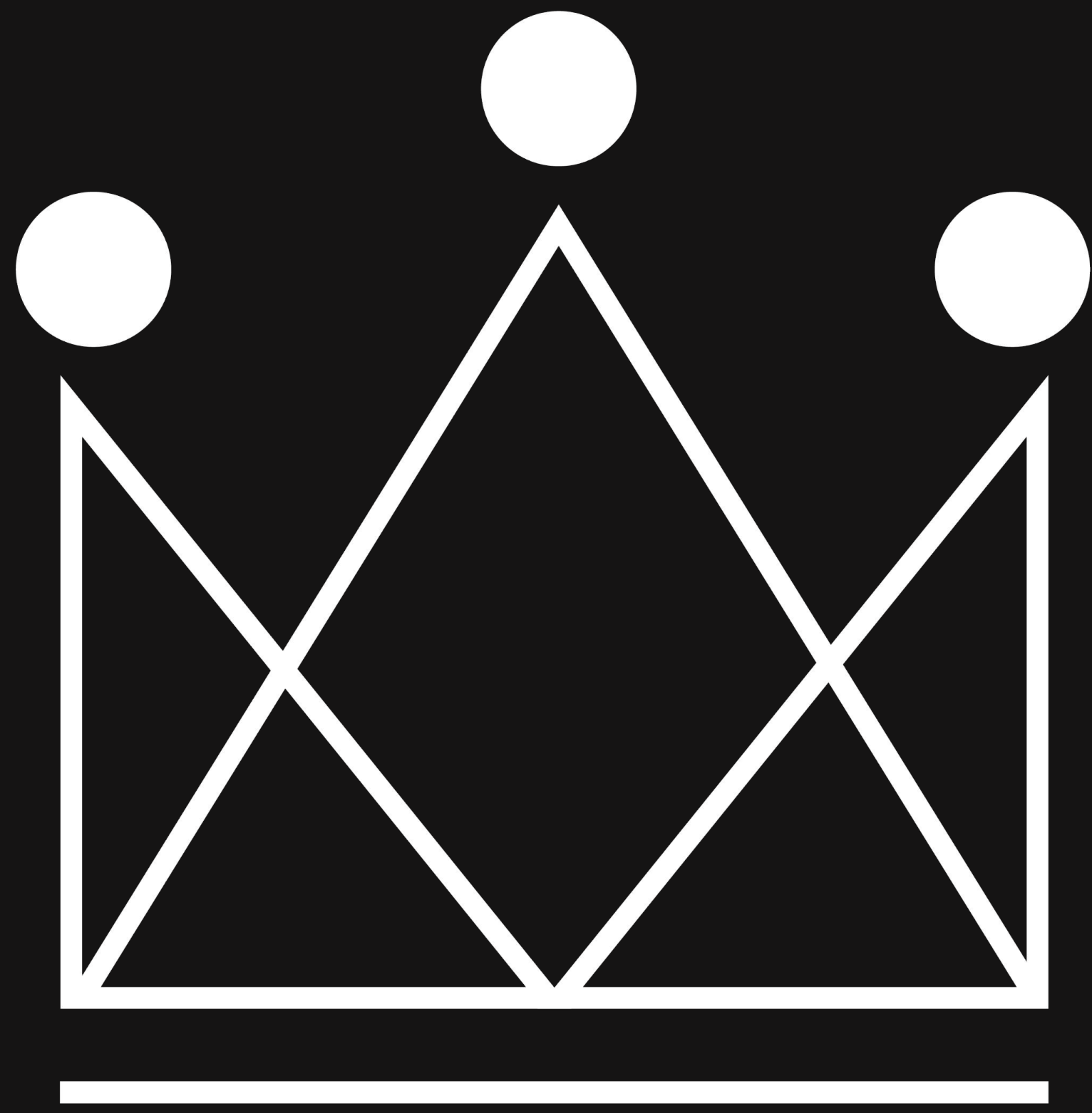
The **feast of Purim** is held each year to remember  
God's deliverance of his people in the time of Esther.  
This year Purim will be observed on March 6-7.

The word Purim comes from the Hebrew word **“pur” which means “lots”** - which Haman cast to determine the date for the extermination of the Jewish people.





The Book of Esther was written to **encourage the returned Jewish exiles** by reminding them of the faithfulness of God who keeps His promises to the nation.



ESTHER

**Abraham (Patriarchs)**  
**Exodus (Redemption)**  
**David (Kingdom)**  
**Exile (Return)**

**Week One**  
**Esther 1-3**

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

## Abraham (Patriarchs)

Exodus (Redemption)

David (Kingdom)

Exile (Return)

## Genesis 17:7-8 <sup>NIV</sup>

“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup> The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

Abraham (Patriarchs)

**Exodus (Redemption)**

David (Kingdom)

Exile (Return)

## Deuteronomy 28:15; 36 <sup>NIV</sup>

However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you...

The LORD will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your ancestors. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

Abraham (Patriarchs)  
Exodus (Redemption)  
**David (Kingdom)**  
Exile (Return)

## 2 Samuel 7:12-14 NIV

“When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.”

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

Abraham (Patriarchs)  
Exodus (Redemption)  
David (Kingdom)  
**Exile (Return)**

## Ezra 1:1-3 <sup>NIV</sup>

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

Abraham (Patriarchs)  
Exodus (Redemption)  
David (Kingdom)  
**Exile (Return)**

## Ezra 1:1-3 NIV

“This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.’”

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Abraham (Patriarchs)**  
**Exodus (Redemption)**  
**David (Kingdom)**  
**Exile (Return)**



**Exile**  
1. Babylonians  
2. Persians

**Week One**  
**Esther 1-3**

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

**Week Three**  
**Esther 5-8**

**Week Four**  
**Esther 9-10**

# Scene 1

## Xerxes & Vashti

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 1:1-3** NIV

This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush:  
<sup>2</sup> At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, <sup>3</sup> and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 1:10-12** NIV

On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas—<sup>11</sup> to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. <sup>12</sup> But when the attendants delivered the king’s command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

# Scene 2

## Mordecai & Esther

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 2:1-2** NIV

Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. <sup>2</sup> Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king."

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 2:5-7** NIV

Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, <sup>6</sup> who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 2:8** NIV

When the king’s order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king’s palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 2:10** NIV

Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 2:21-22** NIV

During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. <sup>22</sup> But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

# Scene 3

## Mordecai & Haman

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 3:1-2** NIV

After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. <sup>2</sup> All the royal officials at the king’s gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 3:5-6** NIV

When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. <sup>6</sup> Yet having learned who Mordecai’s people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai’s people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 3:7** NIV

In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Esther 3:8-9** NIV

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. <sup>9</sup> If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

## 2 Timothy 2:13 NIV

If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

Week Four  
Esther 9-10

**Romans 8:28** NIV

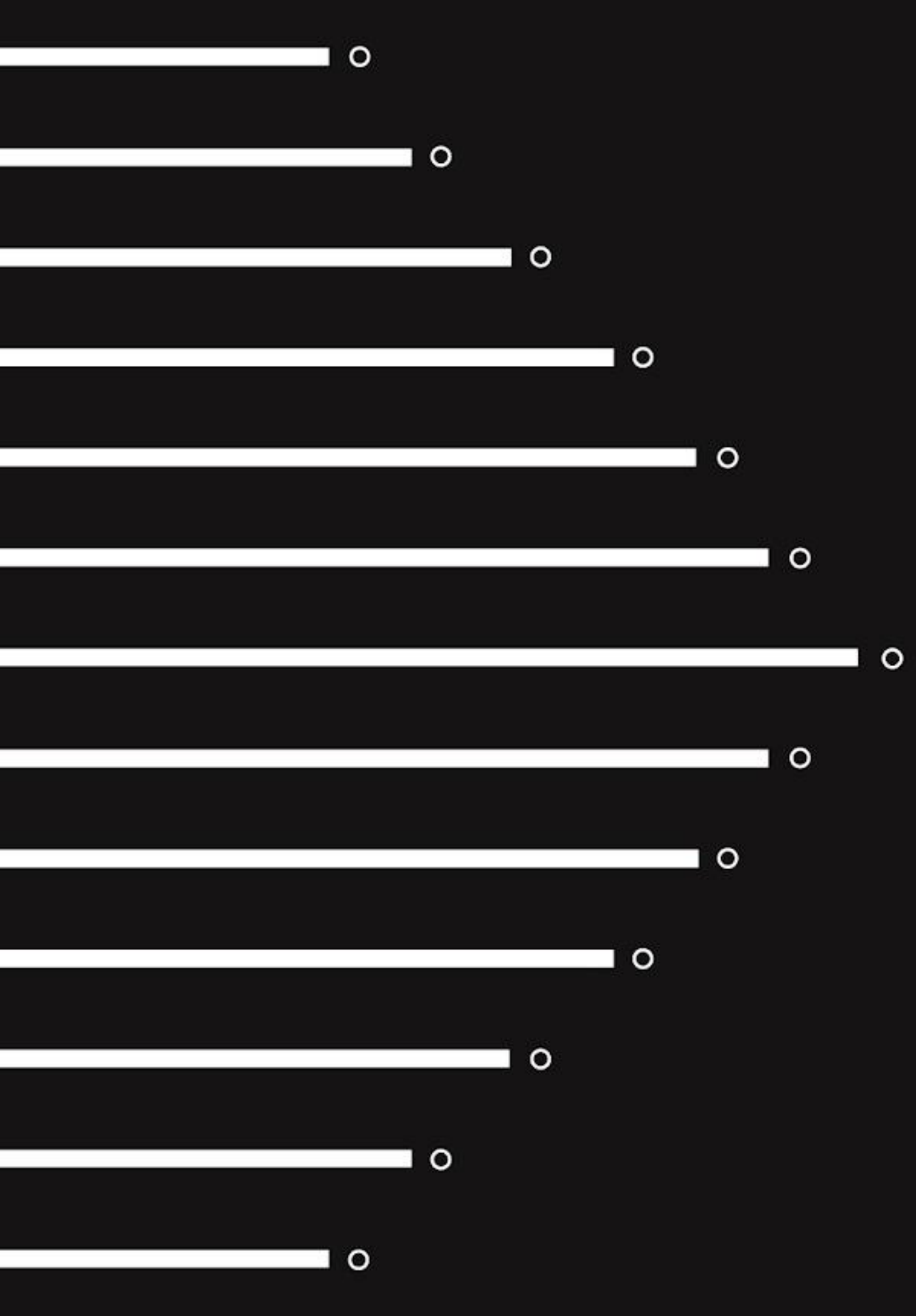
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Week One  
Esther 1-3

Week Two  
Esther 4

Week Three  
Esther 5-8

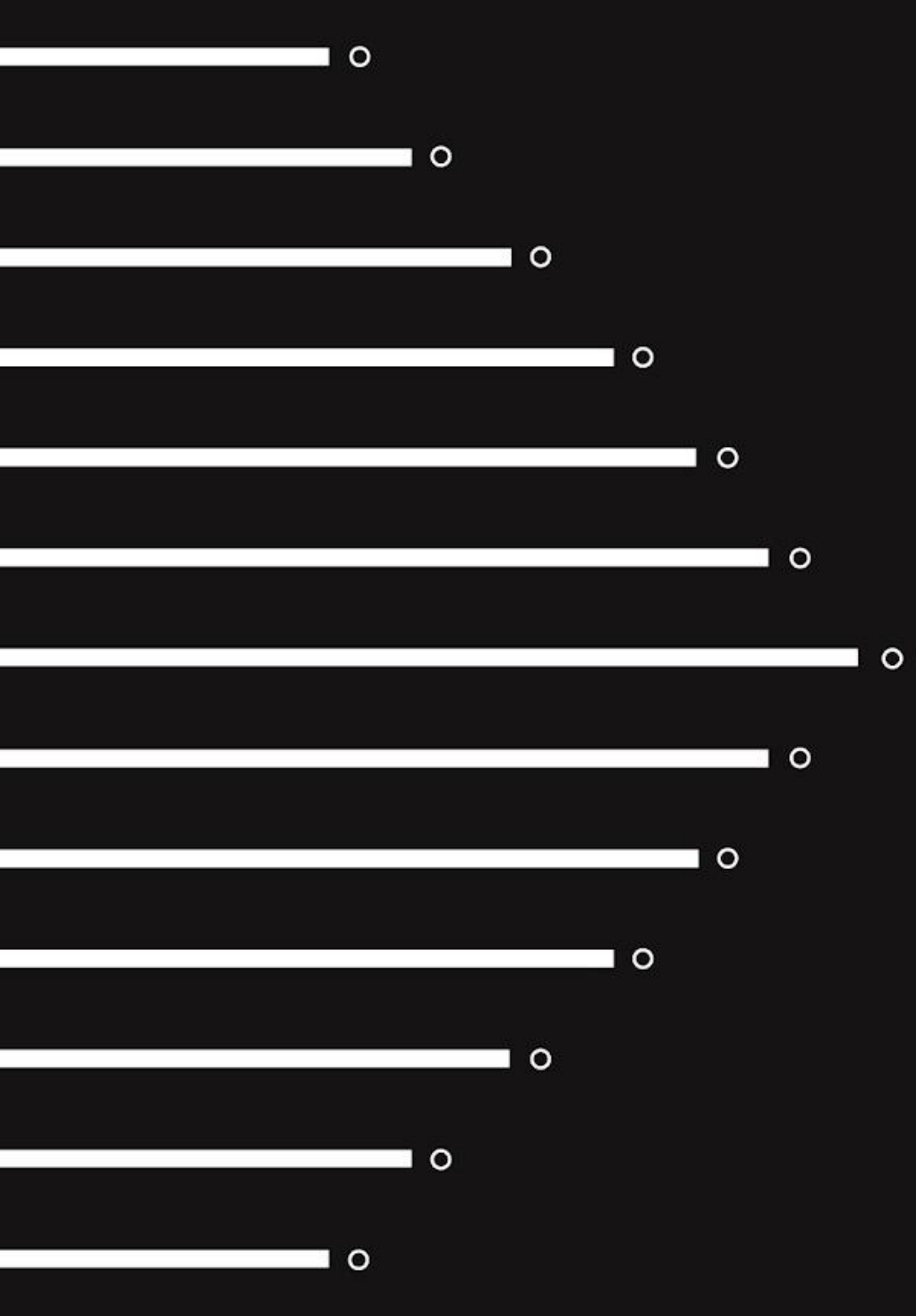
Week Four  
Esther 9-10



## **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



“The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own' or one's 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls interruptions are precisely one's real life - the life God is sending one day by day; what one calls one's real life is a phantom of one's imagination.”

- C. S. Lewis