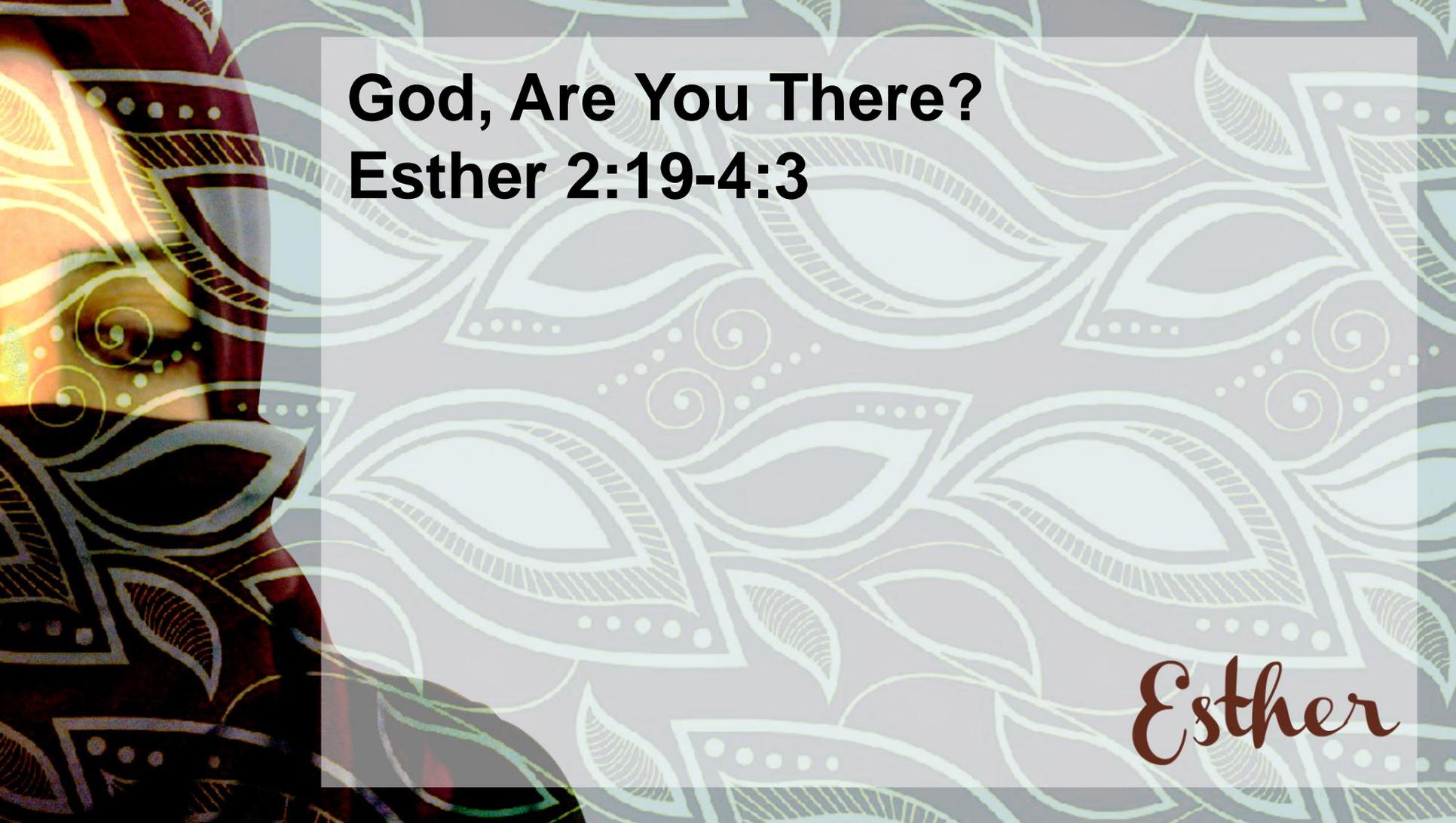


Esther

THE UNSEEN SOVEREIGN



**God, Are You There?
Esther 2:19-4:3**

Esther

Esther 2:19-23 (ESV)

Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

²⁰ Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him.

Esther

Esther 2:19-23 (ESV)

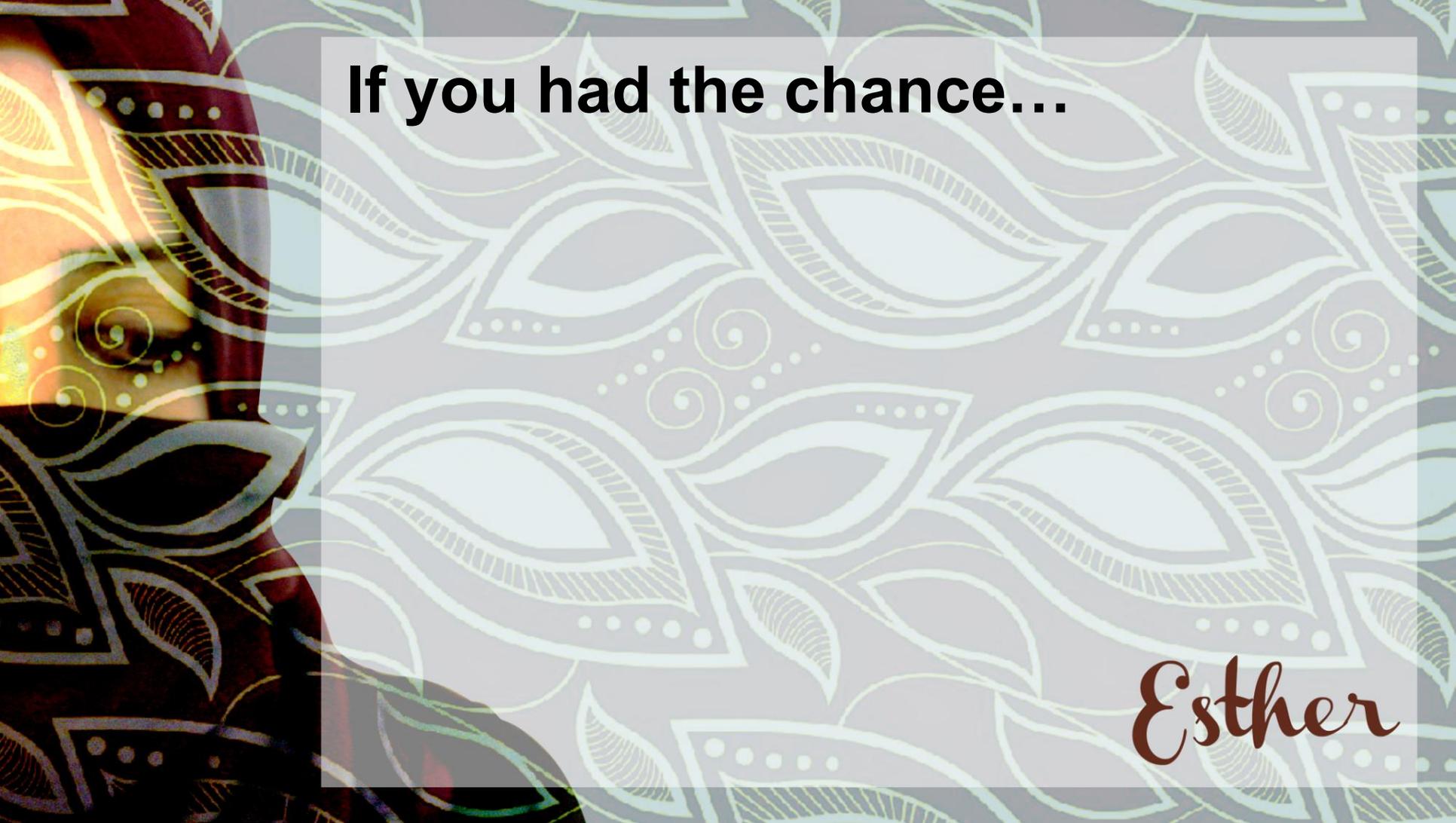
²¹ In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ²² And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther,

Esther

Esther 2:19-23 (ESV)

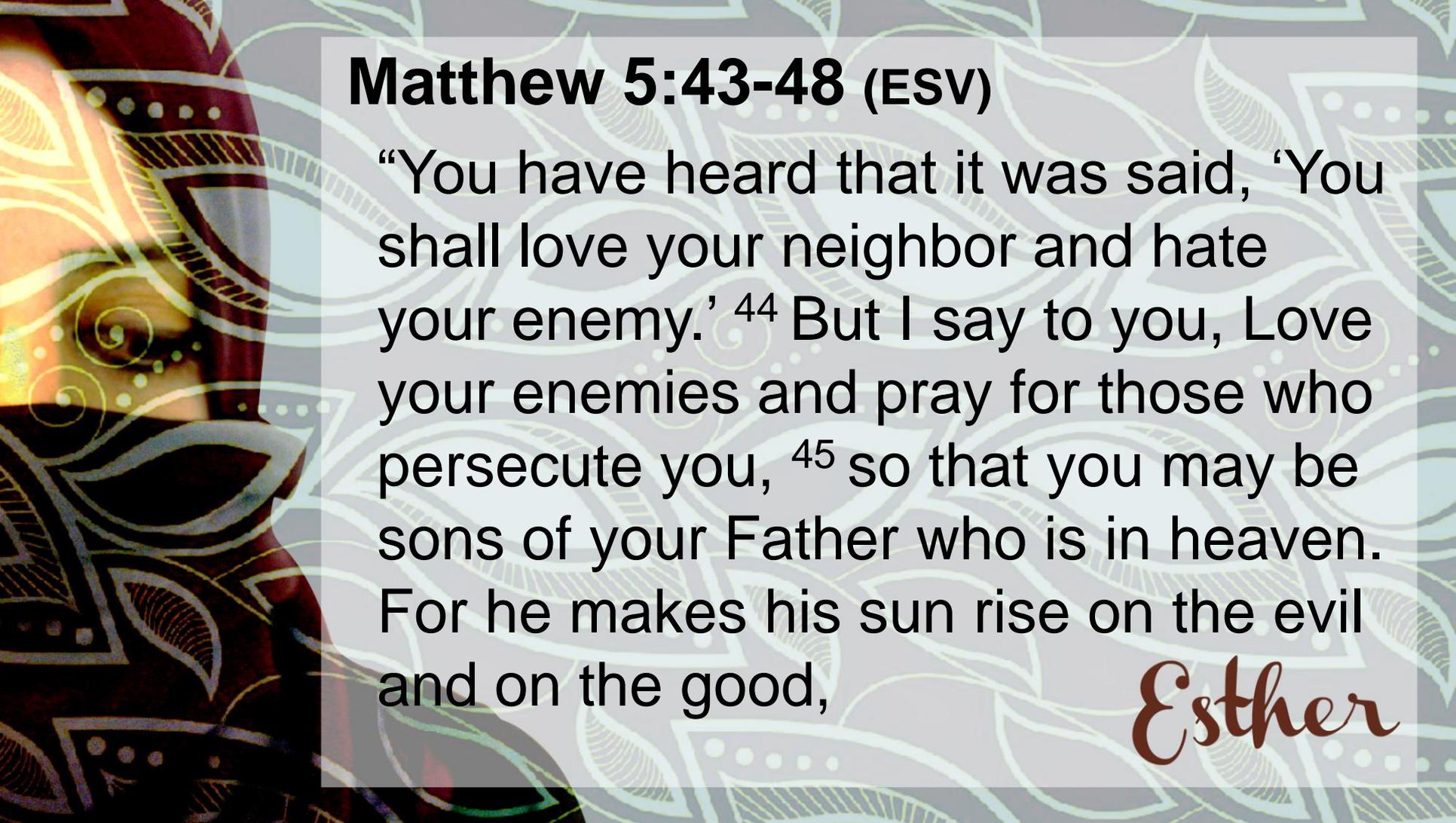
²² and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. ²³ When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

Esther



If you had the chance...

Esther

The background features a complex, layered design. On the left, a vertical strip shows a glowing orange and yellow orb with radiating lines, set against a dark red background with intricate, golden, leaf-like patterns. The rest of the background is a light blue-grey color with a repeating pattern of stylized, white and green leaves and floral motifs.

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good,

Esther

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

⁴⁵ and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Esther

The background features a complex, layered design. On the left, a glowing orange and yellow orb is partially visible, surrounded by intricate, golden, leaf-like patterns. The rest of the background is a light blue-grey color with a repeating pattern of stylized, white-outlined leaves and swirls. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the right side, containing the text.

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Esther

Esther 3:1-6 (ESV)

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. ² And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman,

Esther

Esther 3:1-6 (ESV)

² for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage. ³ Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

Esther

Esther 3:1-6 (ESV)

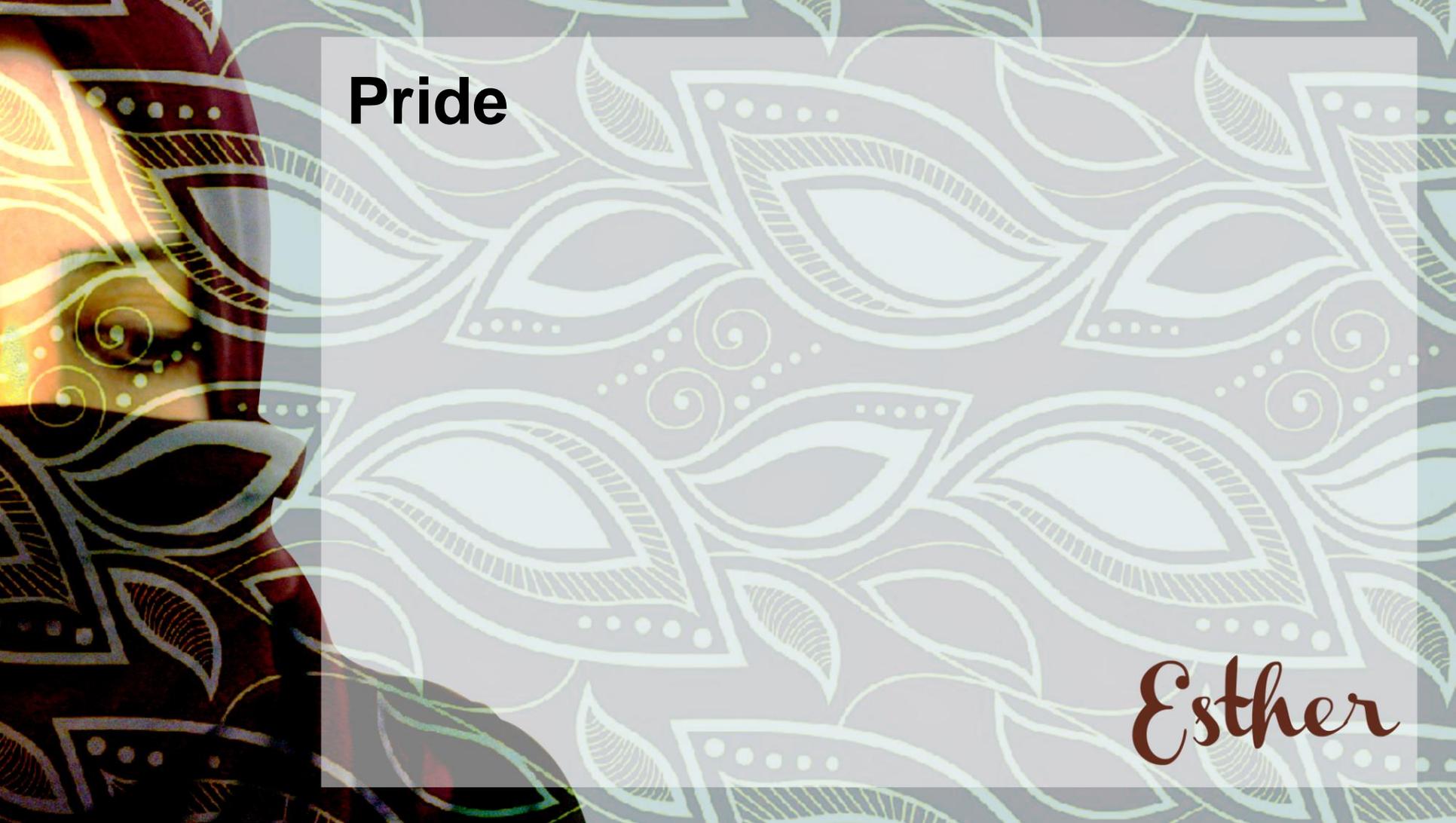
⁴ And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. ⁵ And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him,

Esther

Esther 3:1-6 (ESV)

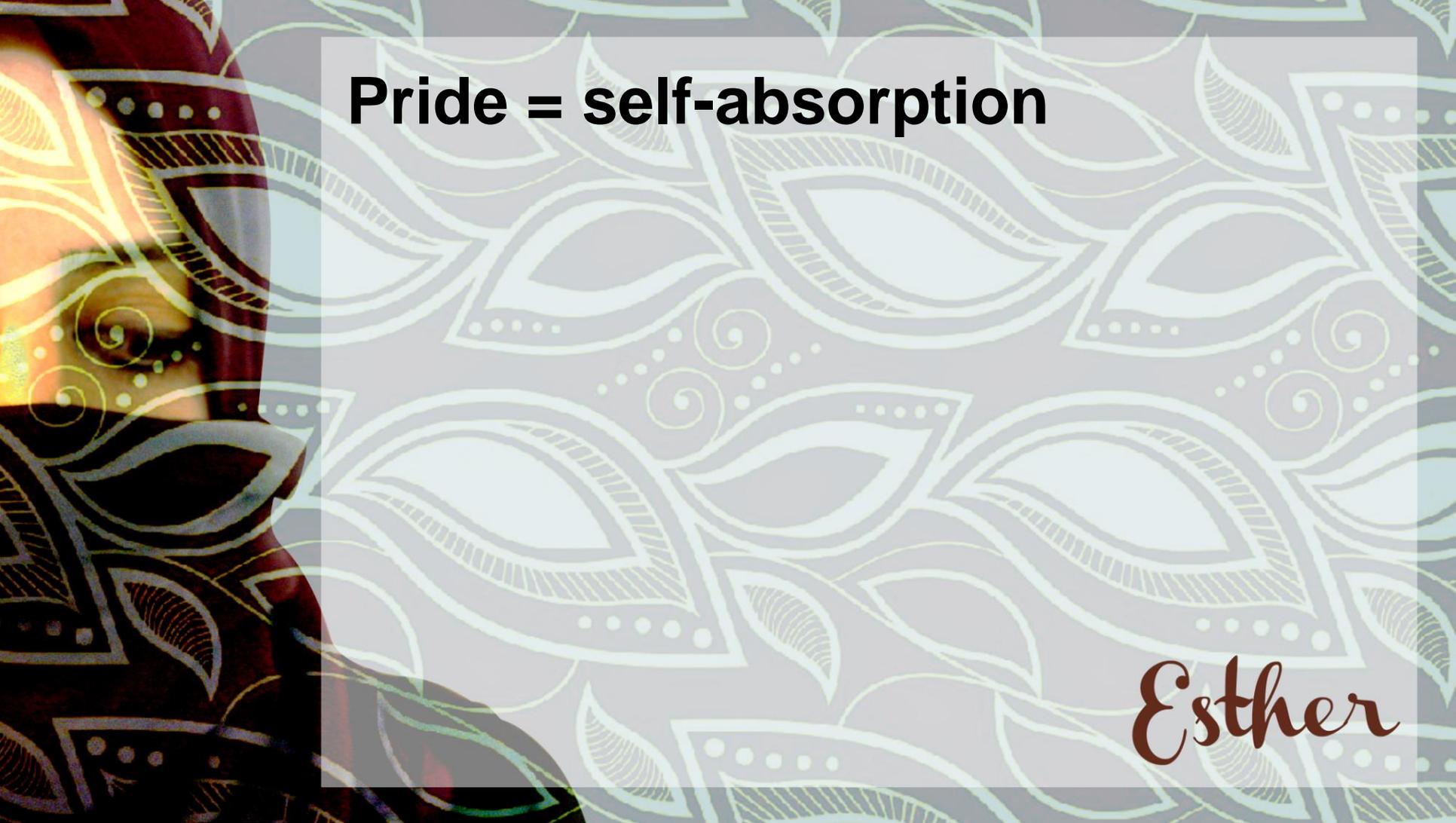
⁵ Haman was filled with fury. ⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

Esther



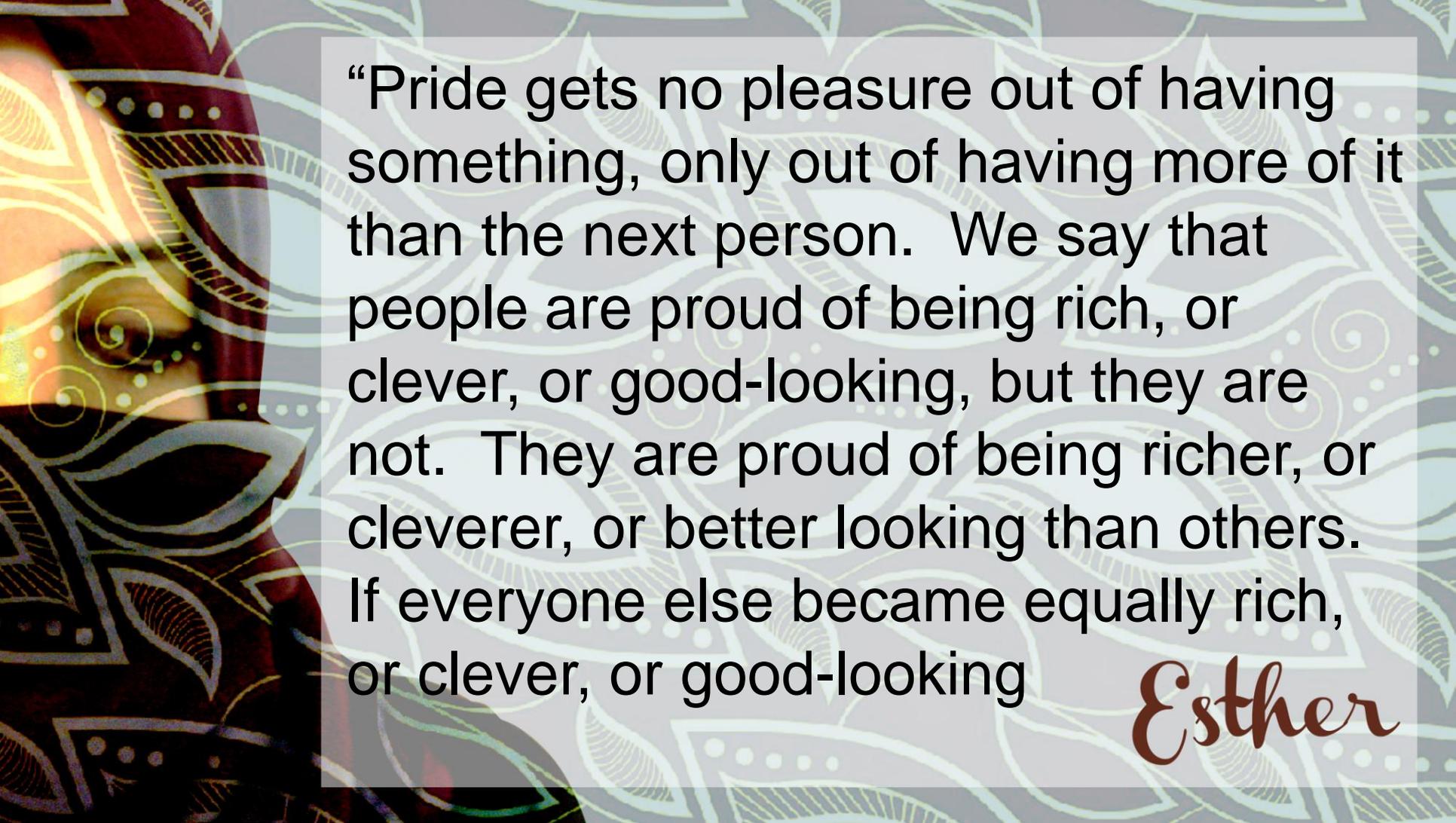
Pride

Esther



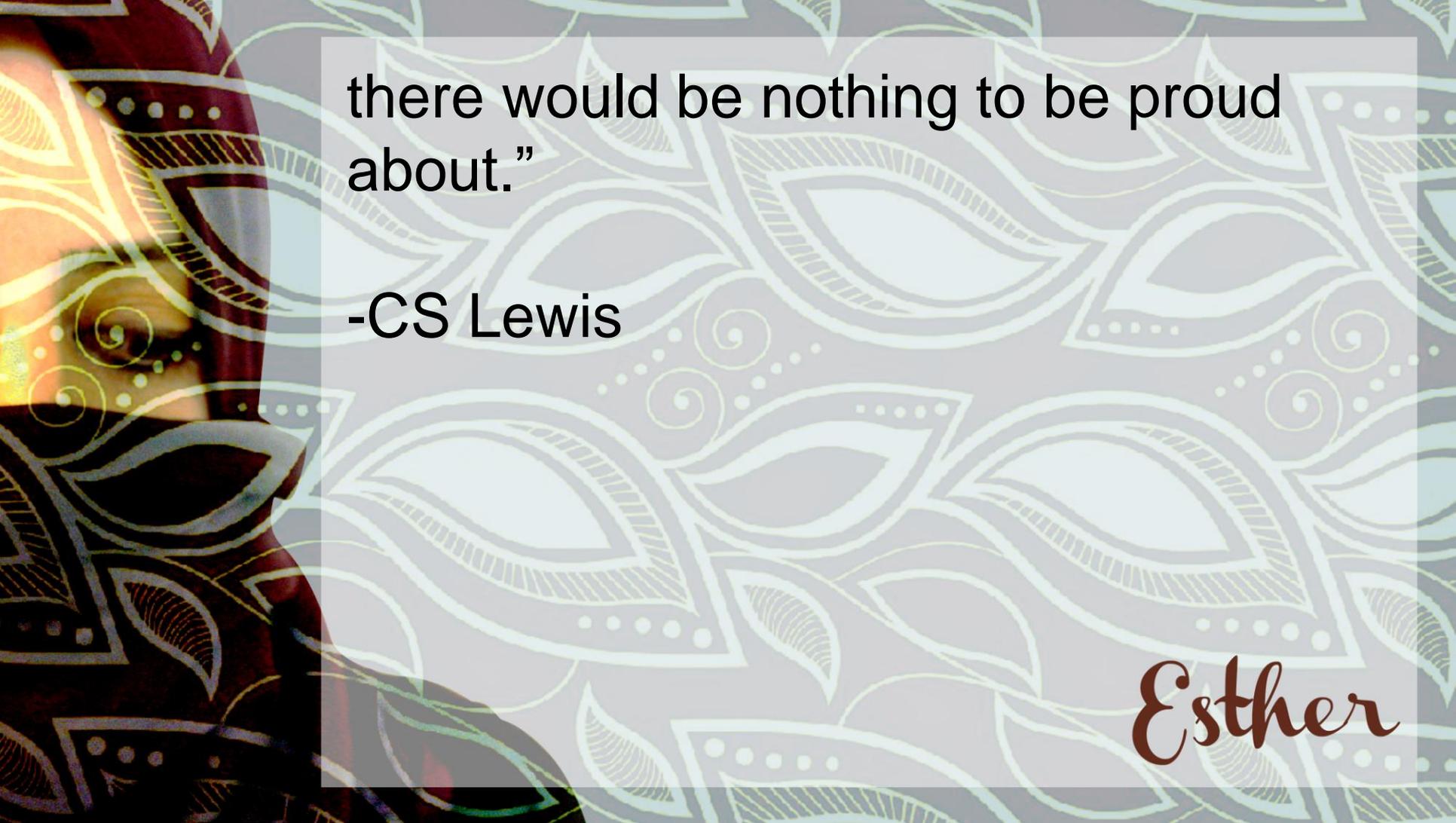
Pride = self-absorption

Esther



“Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next person. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better looking than others. If everyone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking

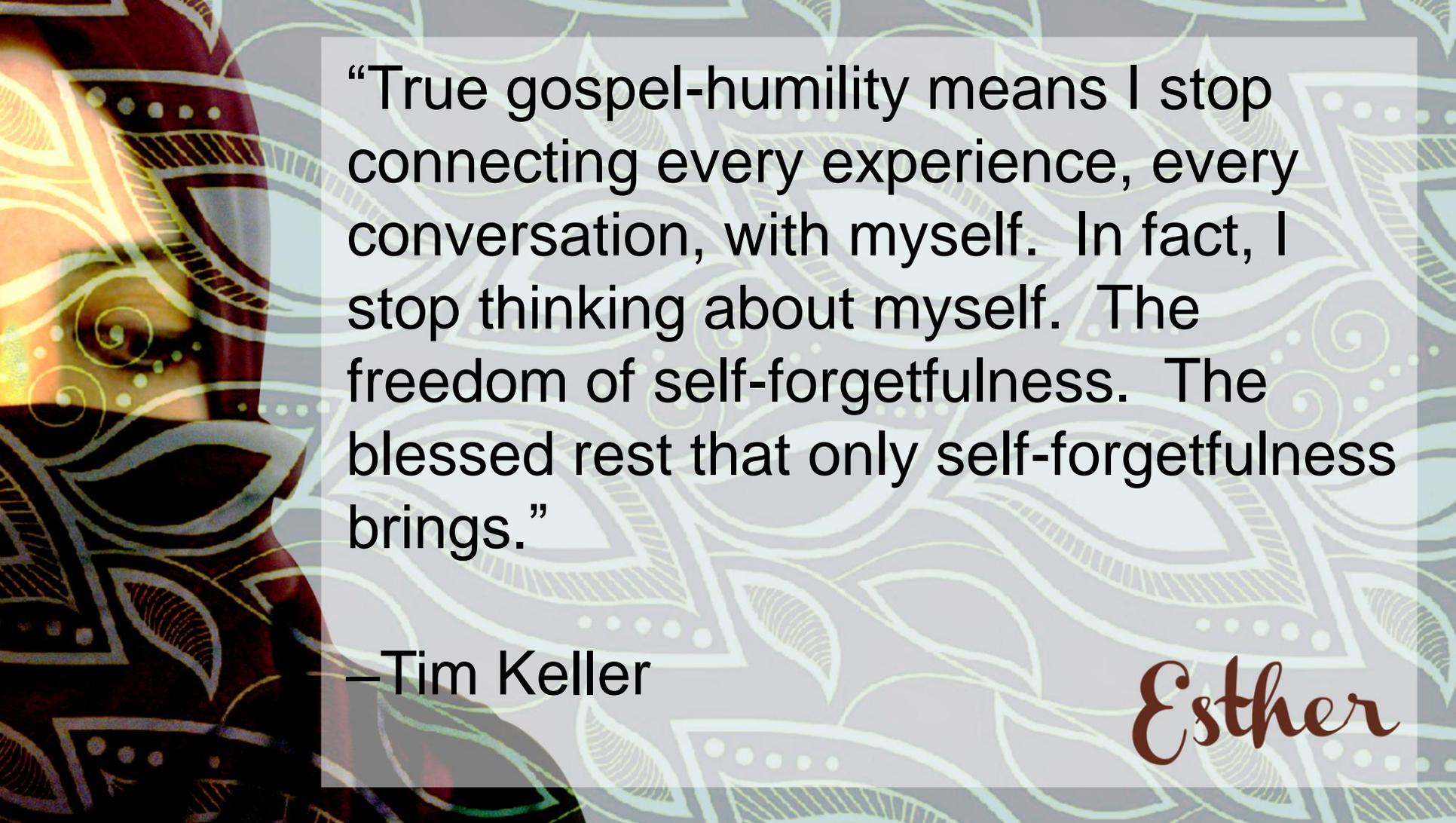
Esther



there would be nothing to be proud about.”

-CS Lewis

Esther



“True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings.”

–Tim Keller

Esther

Esther 3:8-11 (ESV)

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not to the king’s profit

Esther

Esther 3:8-11 (ESV)

⁸ to tolerate them. ⁹ If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries." ¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his hand

Esther

Esther 3:8-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. ¹¹ And the king said to Haman, “The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you.”

Esther

Esther 3:13-15 (ESV)

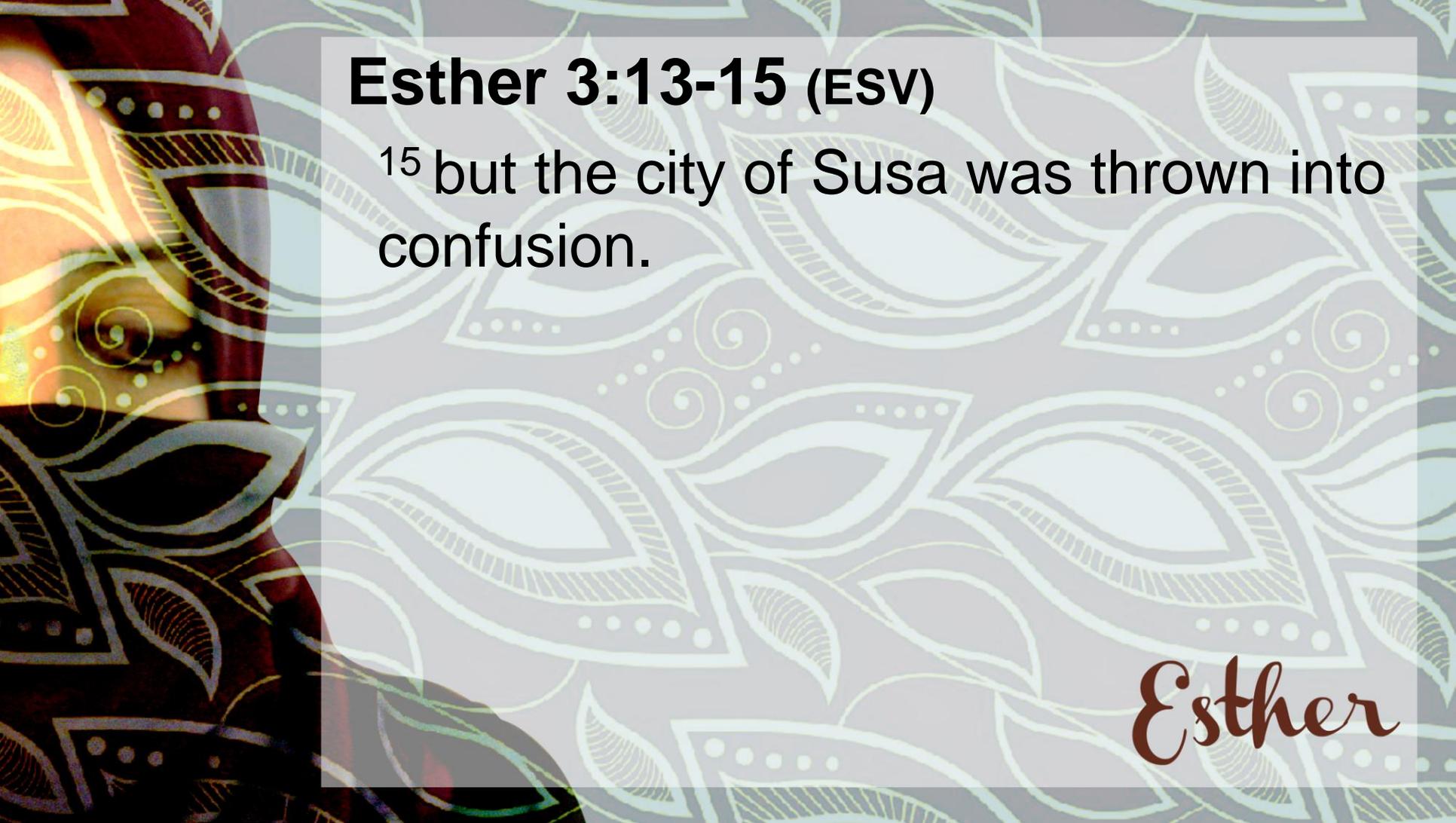
Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. ¹⁴ A copy of the

Esther

Esther 3:13-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. ¹⁵ The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink,

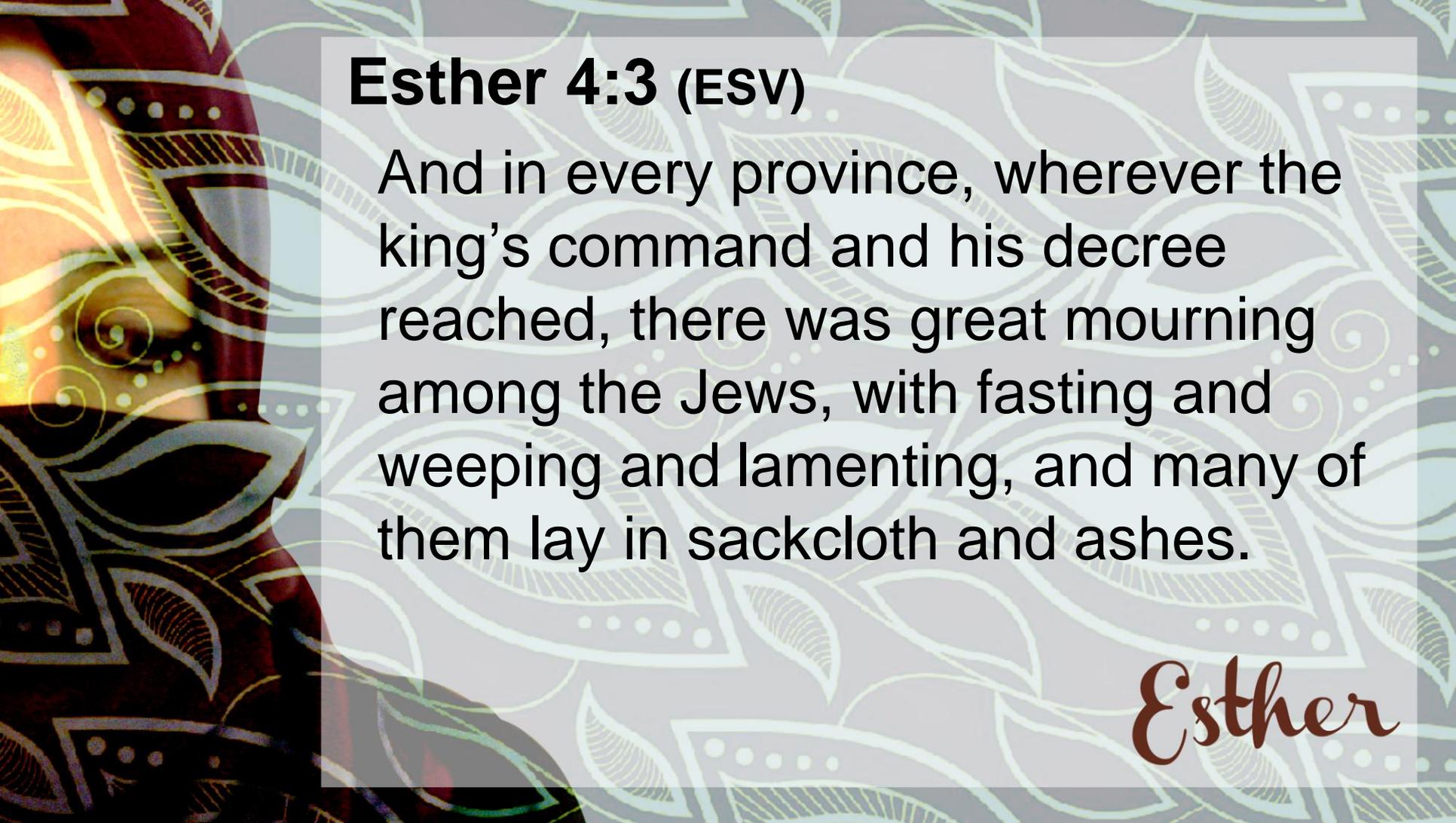
Esther

The background features a complex, layered design. On the left, a glowing, golden-yellow orb with a textured, flame-like surface is partially visible. The rest of the background is filled with intricate, repeating patterns of stylized leaves and teardrop shapes in shades of light blue, green, and white, set against a dark, almost black background. The patterns are reminiscent of traditional Islamic or Persian art.

Esther 3:13-15 (ESV)

¹⁵ but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

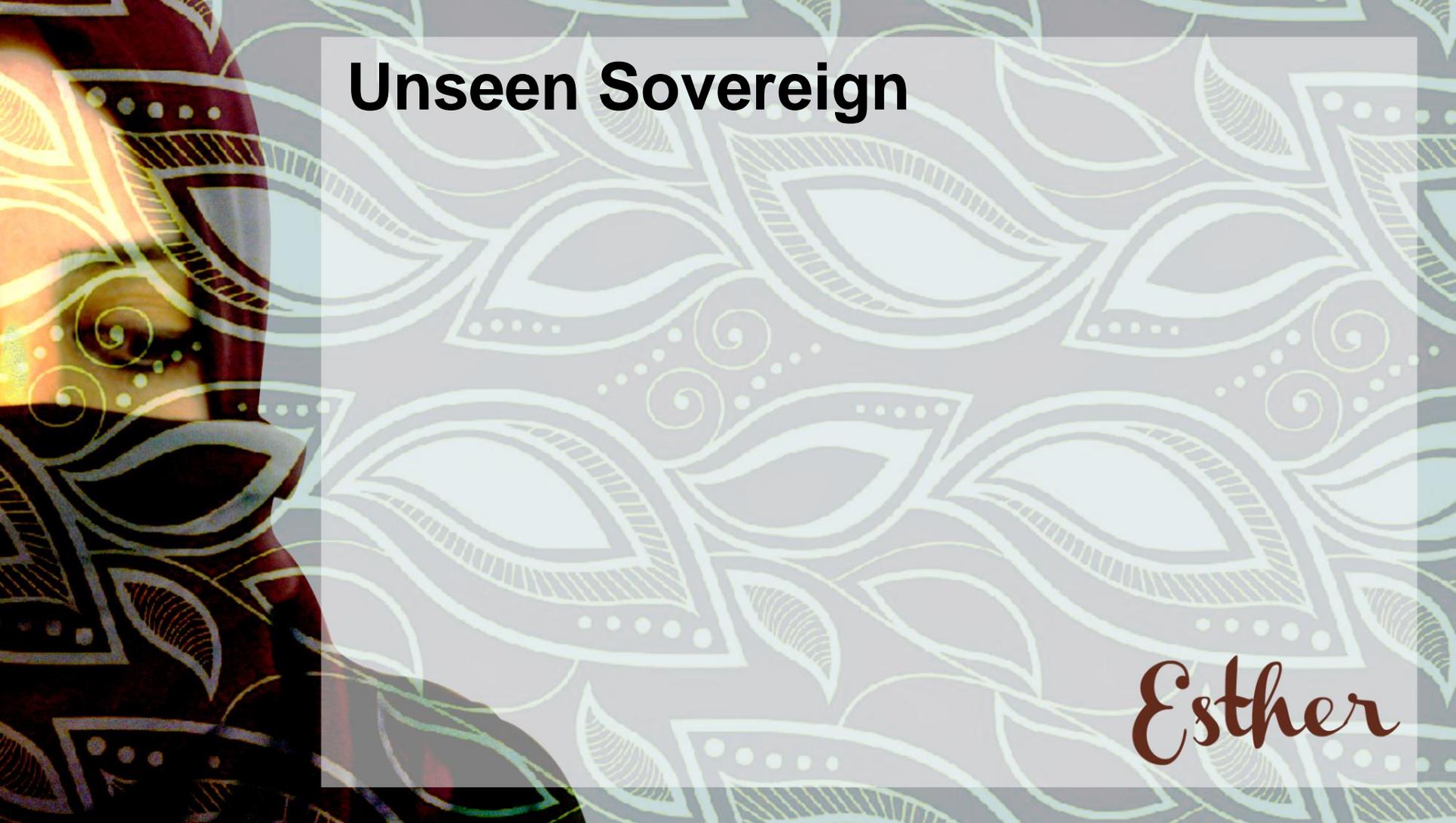
Esther



Esther 4:3 (ESV)

And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Esther



Unseen Sovereign

Esther