

Esther's Choice

Esther 4:7-17

Timeline

586 BC Jerusalem and temple destroyed

516 BC New temple completed

478 BC Esther made queen of Persia

458 BC Priest Ezra arrives in Jerusalem

445 BC Jerusalem's walls rebuilt



Medes and Persian Empire

Jerusalem

Susa (Shushan)

Ethiopia

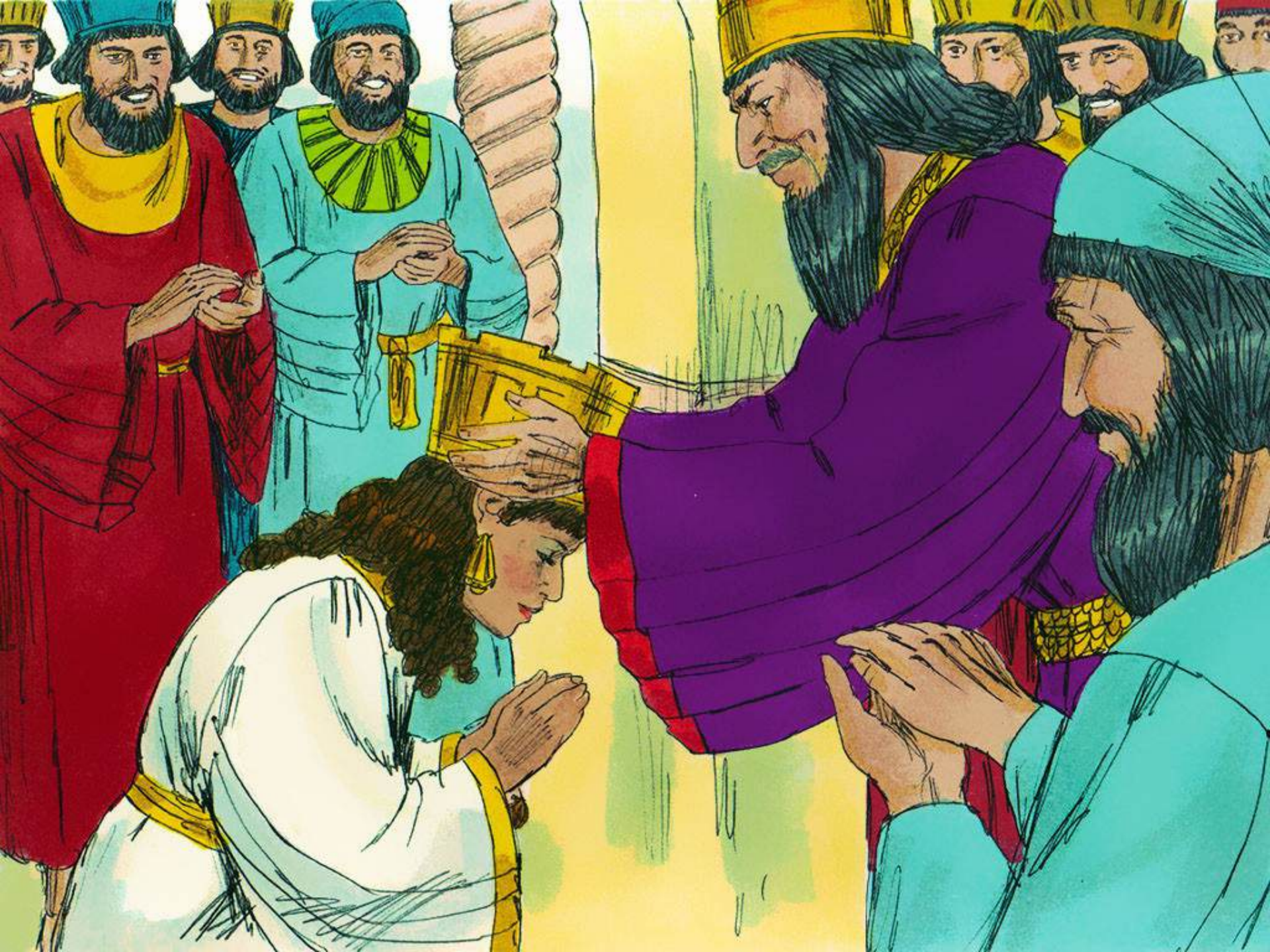
India















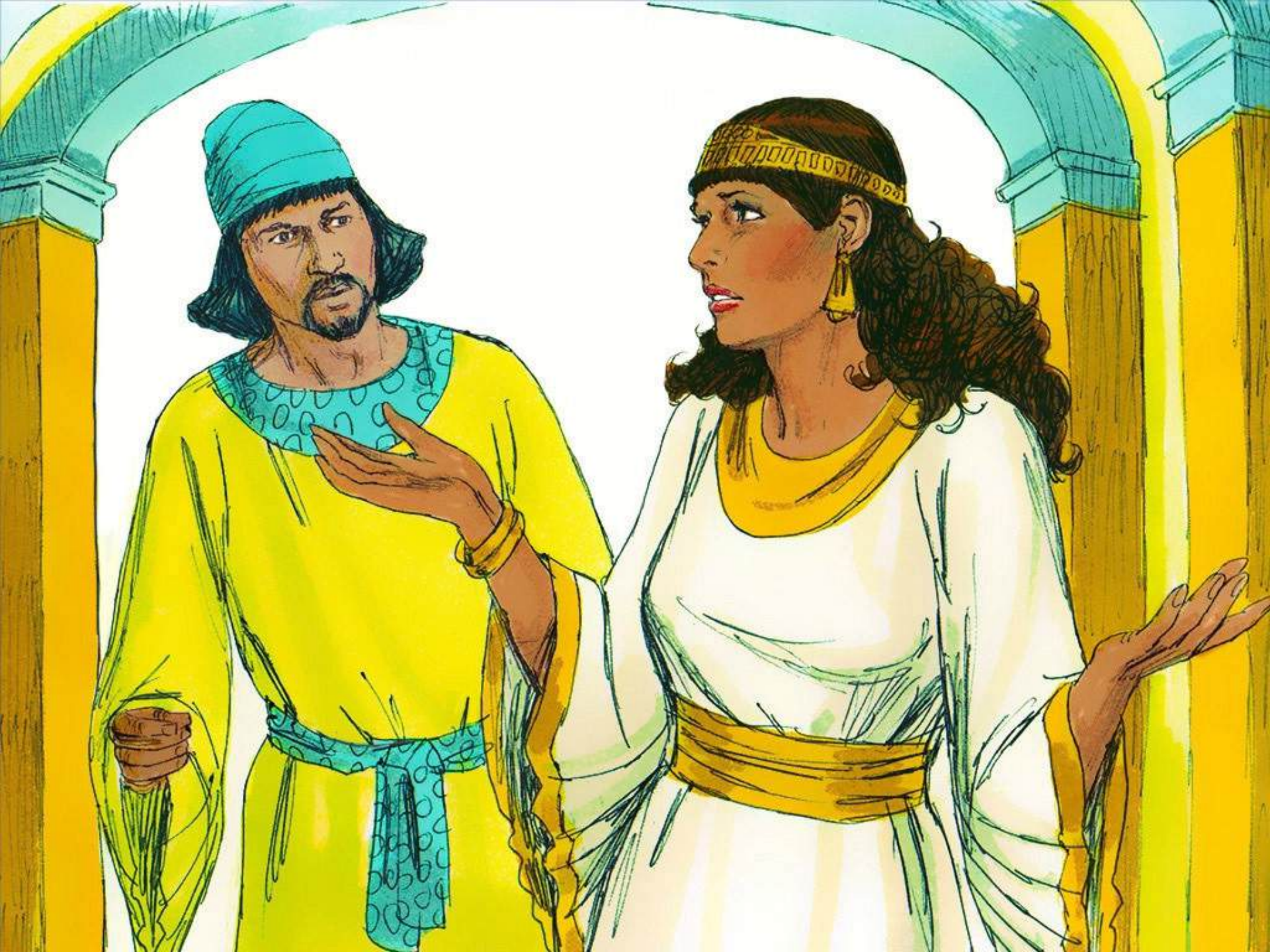




















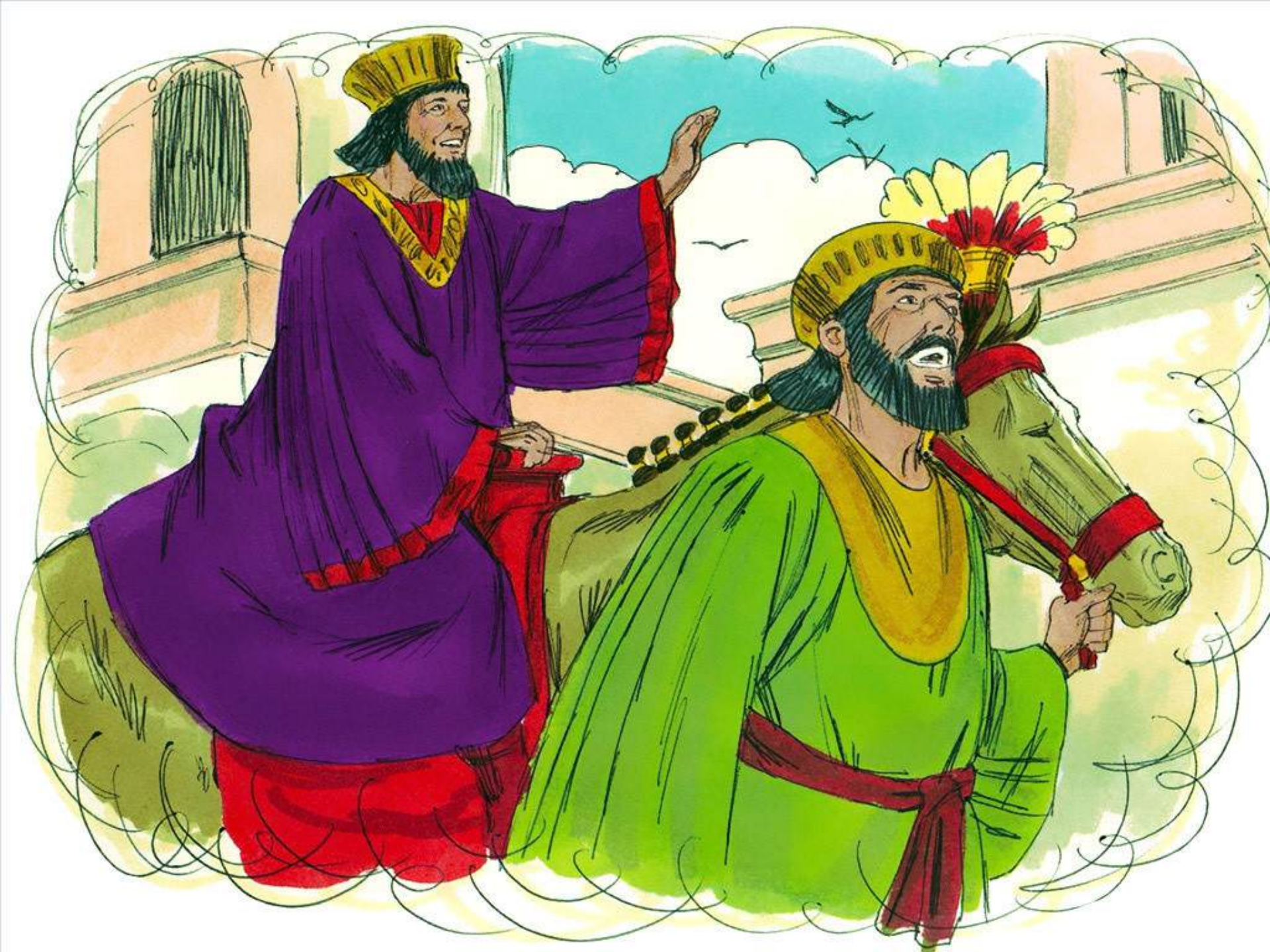




















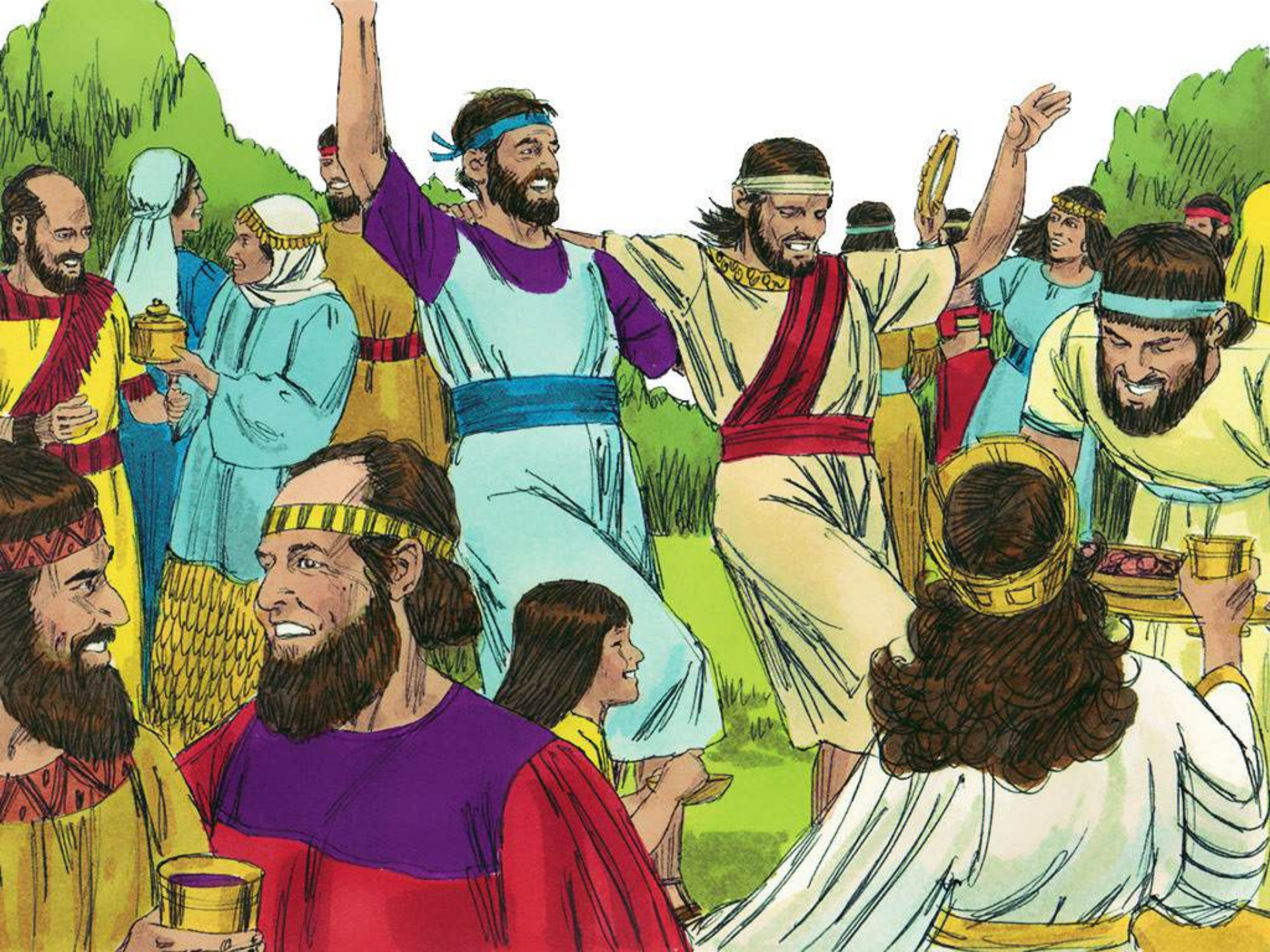












Esther's Choice

- Deadly plots
- Divine plan



Offspring at War

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.



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Deadly plots

- Cain
- Pharaoh
- Athaliah
- Haman
- Herod

Divine plan

- Eve gives birth to Seth.
- Shiphrah, Puah, Jochebed, Miriam, and princess rescue baby boys.
- Jehosheba rescues baby Joash.
- Esther and Mordecai rescue Jews.
- Mary and Joseph rescue Jesus.
- Jesus rescues all God's people.

Satan's targets

- **Jews** mothered the Messiah
- **Babies** resemble baby Messiah
- **Christians** stand with Messiah

Esther's Choice

- Deadly plots
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Esther's choice

If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? (4:14)

I will go

Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish. (4:16)

Active faith

- Know vital purpose
- Seek higher help
- Dare face danger
- Plan with wisdom
- Seize the moment

Hidden hand

- Vashti's refusal of Xerxes
- Miss Universe contest
- Esther's exquisite beauty
- Guards' assassination plot
- King's sleepless night
- Haman's hateful haste

Haman's lucky day

The pur (lot) was cast in Haman's presence to select a day and month. (Esther 3:7)

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. (Prov 16:33)

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord. (Prov 21:30)

Self destruction

They hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. (Est 7:10)

Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling. (Proverbs 26:27)

The Lord works out everything to its proper end— even the wicked for a day of disaster. (Proverbs 16:4)

Savior

- Unbowed like Mordecai
- Mediator like Esther
- Executed like Haman
- Sovereign like Xerxes
- God with us

