

Not Forsaken

Masks. Quarantine. Fear. Missing family and friends. These are familiar topics, but not new ones. The Bible mentions several people who wore masks. Esther was one of them, but her mask was not the kind that covered her mouth and nose. Esther masked her Jewish heritage from those around her.

Esther was a beautiful young woman, raised by her older cousin Mordecai. When the king began looking for a new queen, he held a beauty contest. All the lovely young virgins in his vast territory were brought to the palace for the king's scrutiny. The Jewish people were captives in the land and Mordecai warned Esther not to reveal her family ties.

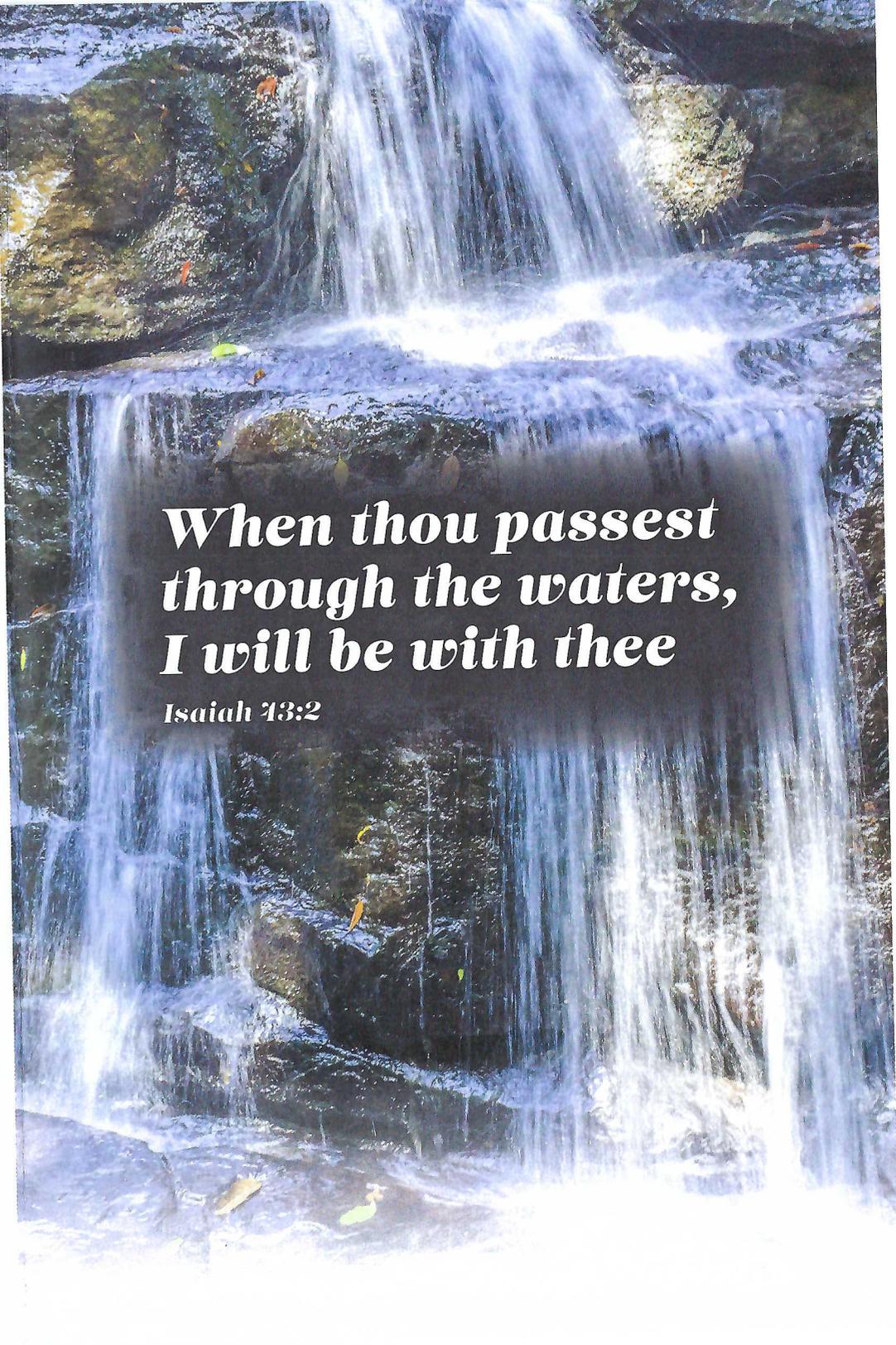
In the palace the young women were quarantined for one year before being allowed to go before the king. During this year they were pampered with beauty treatments—unlike the quarantines common to us. Esther became the “winner” of the contest and the king's favorite, yet she still needed the king's request of her presence to visit him, or she could face death.

Like the coronavirus that spread throughout the world, causing fear and destroying many in its path, a plot to annihilate the Jewish people spread throughout the king's domain. When Mordecai asked Esther to go before the king to plead for their safety, Esther balked, but then decided to fast three days and risk her life going before the king, accepting the outcome.

Although God is never mentioned in the book of Esther, you see Him working behind the scenes. God does not leave His children alone to suffer through the difficulties of life. He has a plan. He is in control. And He will save. “And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Lucinda J. Rollings

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***When thou passest
through the waters,
I will be with thee***

Isaiah 43:2



Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

September 17, 2023

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn # 104 O Worship the King

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn # 105 We Will Glorify

Hymn #106 Worthy, You Are Worthy

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon:

Pastor Don Mauldin

Scripture:

Hymn of Benediction

Pastor Don Mauldin

352-262-5349

Covenant News

Our ministry for this month is Hurricane Relief and relief for those impacted by the fires in Hawaii.

Mark Your Calendar

Peanut Boil Sunday, September 24th at 4:00 p.m.

FCA D&S Classic Car Show

Saturday, September 30th, 2023 | 8:30am-1:30pm
The O'Steen's Barn, 16811 County Road 241 Alachua,
FL 32615

Hmmm....

When you're finally holding all the cards, why
does everyone else decide to play chess?

Funny how a \$10 bill looks so big when you take
it to church,
but so small when you take it to the market.

Always and never are words you should always
remember never to use.

You do not have to attend every argument you
are invited to.