

HOW GOD WORKS IN THE WORLD / *Esther 8*

God's Will	What God wants done—he works through . . .		
	➤ <i>Natural Order</i>	➤ <i>Miracles</i>	➤ <i>Providence</i>
God's Action	➤ God set into action through Creation a normal working of his universe. He also revealed his expectations of people through his Word and people's consciences.	➤ God breaks into the natural order to respond to the expressed needs of people.	➤ God overrules the natural order to accomplish an act that people may or may not have requested.
Examples from Esther	➤ God gave Esther natural beauty.	➤ God allowed Esther to speak to the king.	➤ God allowed Mordecai to overhear a plot.
	▲ Esther planned a way to save her people.	▲ The people prayed and fasted.	▲ Mordecai trusted God to accomplish what was impossible in human terms.
People's Will	What people want done—they either . . .		
	▲ <i>Plan</i>	▲ <i>Pray</i>	▲ <i>Trust and Obey</i>
Action We Can Take	▲ Can make plans based on the order and dependability of God's creation. Know and obey his words.	▲ Can ask God to intervene in certain affairs while realizing that our knowledge and perspective are limited.	▲ Can trust that God is in control even when circumstances seem to indicate that he is not.
	or . . .		
Mistakes We Can Make	➤ <i>Disobey</i> ➤ Can violate the natural order; disobey God's commands.	➤ <i>Demand</i> ➤ Can assume that we understand what is needed and expect God to agree and answer our prayers that way.	➤ <i>Despair</i> ➤ Can assume God doesn't answer prayer or respond to our needs and live as though there is nothing but the natural order.