Title: ***'For Such a Time as This' Pt. 1- 'Background & context'***

Main text: Esther- an introduction

Key verse: Esther 4:14

Introduction: Today, we begin a new & exciting series that is very relevant to our day. Join me as we study Esther.

1. **Where's *God*?**
   - Not a ***morality*** tale. A ***sovereignty*** story.
   - God's ***supreme*** right & ***dominion***.
   - The ***exercise*** of God's will through ***active*** guidance.
   - A ***chance*** event, or a ***fortunate*** occasion.
   - The Achaemenid Empire lasted for ***200*** years.
   - This is Persia long before ***Islam***.
   - What's Divine ***Hiddenness***?
   - ***Assertively active*** far beyond a ***theistic*** worldview.
2. **Where's *Christ*?**
   - Any ***types*** & ***shadows***?
   - Trying to ***destroy*** the Promised Seed.
   - Satan ***schemes***, but God ***saves***.
3. **Where are God's *people*?**
   - They are facing ***extinction***.
   - The ***genocidal villain***.
   - The ***first cousin*** of Esther.
   - Hebrew name: ***Hadassah***, meaning '***myrtle***'.
   - Derived from Persian word meaning '***star***'.
   - An exiled ***orphan*** who was ***adopted***.
   - No ***author*** is named or mentioned.
   - Possibly Esther, Mordecai, ***Ezra***, or ***Nehemiah***.
   - The Feast of ***Purim*** (or ***lots***).

Sermon notes:

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1. **Where's _____?**
   - Not a _____ tale. A _____ story.
   - God's _____ right & _____.
   - The _____ of God's will through _____ guidance.
   - A _____ event, or a _____ occasion.
   - The Achaemenid Empire lasted for _____ years.
   - This is Persia long before _____.
   - What's Divine _____?
   - _____ _____ far beyond a _____ worldview.
2. **Where's _____?**
   - Any _____ & _____?
   - Trying to _____ the Promised Seed.
   - Satan _____, but God _____.
3. **Where are God's _____?**
   - They are facing _____.
   - The _____ _____.
   - The _____ _____ of Esther.
   - Hebrew name: _____, meaning '_____'.
   - Derived from Persian word meaning '_____'.
   - An exiled _____ who was _____.
   - No _____ is named or mentioned.
   - Possibly Esther, Mordecai, _____, or _____.
   - The Feast of _____ (or _____).

Sermon notes: