

Jesus: Judge of All Nations

Joel 3:1-21

Big Idea: God keeps His promises. Throughout history, He has preserved Israel to show the world He is Lord. The day of judgment is coming, but there's hope: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Will you return to Him today?

Key Takeaways:

1. God keeps His Word
2. God's plan cannot be thwarted
3. Everyone must choose
4. We are called to be lights
5. God will restore

Scriptures:

- Jeremiah 17:9-10
- Hebrews 9:27
- Isaiah 1:2
- John 14:1-7
- Genesis 12:3
- Ezekiel 37

Opening Question:

Have you ever had a moment when you doubted something you once believed strongly? What helped restore your confidence?

Discussion Questions:

Pastor Tim mentioned that God's plan for Israel was to make them "a light to the Gentile nations." How does understanding God's specific purpose for Israel help us understand His plan for the whole world?

Read Joel 2:27 together: "You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and there is none else." Why does God repeat throughout Scripture that His actions are so people will "know that I am the Lord"? What does this tell us about God's character?

The sermon stated: "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick" (Jeremiah 17:9-10). How does recognizing our own rebellion help us better understand God's grace and mercy?

Joel 2:12-13 says, "Yet even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Is there an area in your life where you need to "return" to God right now? (Allow for vulnerable sharing as people feel comfortable.)

Pastor Tim confessed that he has doubted God's Word at times, just like John the Baptist did when he was in prison. How do you handle moments of doubt? What practices help restore your confidence in God?

The sermon connected Joel's prophecy about Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia to current events in the Middle East. How does seeing biblical prophecy fulfilled in our lifetime affect your faith? Does it make God's Word more real to you?

The sermon emphasized that "we all will face God's reckoning." For believers, we will stand before God clothed in Christ's righteousness. How does this truth give you confidence? How does it motivate you to share the gospel with others?

Read John 14:6 together: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In our culture, this exclusive claim is often rejected. How can we lovingly but confidently share this truth?

Practical Applications:

1. **Study God's Promises** - Pick one promise from Scripture that you struggle to believe. Write it down, memorize it, and pray through it daily this week.
2. **Pray for Israel** - Commit to praying daily for the peace of Jerusalem and for Jewish people to come to know Jesus as Messiah (Psalm 122:6).
3. **Share Your Confidence** - Have a conversation with someone about why you believe the Bible is true. Share how current events align with biblical prophecy.
4. **Examine Your Heart** - Set aside time for honest self-reflection. Ask God to reveal any areas of rebellion in your life, then repent and return to Him.
5. **Memorize Scripture** - Commit Joel 2:32 or John 14:6 to memory this week. These verses are powerful tools for sharing the gospel.
6. **Increase Biblical Literacy** - The pastor emphasized knowing ALL of God's Word, not just favorite passages. Commit to reading through the minor prophets or another often-neglected section of Scripture.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

"The more pieces of the puzzle we can put together, the greater our understanding of what God is doing in the world. And this will increase our faith in His sovereignty."

Final Question: How has studying the book of Joel helped you see a bigger piece of God's plan?
What's one thing you'll take away from this study?