

The Day of the Lord

Joel 1:1-20

Big Idea: Studying prophecy isn't about fear—it's about preparation. 27% of the Bible is prophetic, pointing us to God's faithfulness. Joel's warning calls us to wake up, weep over sin, and cry out to the Lord. Are we listening? Will we tell our children?

Key Takeaways:

1. Prophecy builds confidence
2. We must be students, not spectators
3. Consequences follow disobedience - The locust plague was a result of Israel's idolatry and a warning of future judgment
4. Tell your children - We have a responsibility to pass down God's truth to the next generation
5. Spiritual famine is real
6. God calls for action

Scriptures:

- Acts 17
- James 4
- Titus 2:13
- Amos 8:11
- 1 John 3
- 1 Thessalonians 4
- Deuteronomy 6:4-6
- Deuteronomy 28

Opening Question:

What's one family story or lesson that was passed down to you from your parents or grandparents that has stuck with you?

Discussion Questions:

Read Joel 1:1-4. Why do you think God commanded the people to tell their children and grandchildren about this devastation? What does this teach us about the importance of spiritual heritage?

Read Joel 1:13-15. What actions did God call His people to take in response to the crisis? Why were these responses appropriate?

The sermon mentioned three "days of the Lord" - immediate, imminent, and ultimate. How does understanding this progression help us interpret prophecy more accurately?

Pastor Tim asked, "When was the last time you wept over your sin?" How comfortable are you with the idea of mourning, weeping, and lamenting before God? Why do you think this is difficult for many Christians today?

The sermon stated that "the church has NOT replaced Israel." Why is this distinction important for how we understand prophecy and God's plan?

Read Amos 8:11. Do you see evidence of a "spiritual famine" in our culture today? What about in your own life? What does spiritual hunger look like?

The sermon listed several action verbs: hear, tell, wake up, weep, wail, cry, call. Which of these do you feel God is calling you to do right now? Be specific.

How are you currently passing down your faith to the next generation (whether your own children, grandchildren, or young people in your sphere of influence)? What obstacles do you face in doing this?

Read James 4:8-10. What would it look like practically for you to "cleanse your hands" and "purify your heart" this week?

The sermon emphasized approaching prophecy with humility rather than arrogance. Have you encountered teachings about end times that felt manipulative or fear-based? How can we study prophecy in a healthy, balanced way?

Practical Applications:

1. Personal Repentance - Set aside 30 minutes for prayer, fasting, or solitude. Ask God to reveal areas of sin, pride, or spiritual complacency. Practice genuine mourning and repentance.
2. Generational Impact - Write a letter or record a video sharing your testimony and God's faithfulness for your children/grandchildren/spiritual children. Schedule time to have a spiritual conversation with a younger believer. Share a specific way God has worked in your life
3. Spiritual Awakening - Identify one "intoxication" in your life (social media, entertainment, busyness, etc.) and fast from it for a week. Use that time to read through the book of Joel and journal your reflections. Ask God to wake you up to spiritual realities you may have been missing
4. Intercessory Prayer - Create a prayer list for your family, church, and nation. Commit to crying out to God daily with the urgency Joel describes. Consider joining with others for a time of corporate prayer and fasting.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Lord, help us wake up to Your Word, turn from our sin with humble hearts, and teach the next generation to trust and follow You before the day of the Lord comes.