

The Apple of His Eye

Revelation 14:1-5

Big Idea: God's plan for Israel reveals His faithfulness to all. The 144,000 sealed witnesses remind us: God keeps His promises. Just as He'll restore Israel, He's faithful to save all who trust in Jesus. Are you marked by the Lamb? Trust Him today.

Main Points

1. **God has not rejected Israel** - They remain the apple of His eye and central to His redemptive plan
2. **The 144,000 are Jewish believers who will trust Jesus during the tribulation period**
3. **It is foolish to oppose God's chosen people** - "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you" (Genesis 12:3)
4. **God's faithfulness to Israel increases our faith** - Watching prophecy unfold confirms Scripture's reliability
5. **We should embrace and pray for the Jewish people while sharing the gospel with all nations**

Scriptures:

- ☐ Psalm 2
- ☐ Romans 11
- ☐ Zechariah 12:1-10
- ☐ Revelation 7
- ☐ Psalm 48:1-2
- ☐ Isaiah 24:23
- ☐ Isaiah 35:10
- ☐ Psalm 96:1

Opening Question:

Share a time when you learned an important lesson "the hard way" (like Pastor Tim's story about Bandit and the skunk). How did that experience change your behavior?

Discussion Questions:

Read Revelation 14:1-5 together. What stands out to you most about the description of the 144,000?

How does Psalm 2 (referenced in the sermon) connect to what's happening in the world regarding Israel today?

What does it mean that these 144,000 have God's name written on their foreheads? How does this contrast with the mark of the beast?

Pastor Tim mentioned that "not everything in Scripture is about you or me." Why is it important to celebrate what God is doing for others, even when it doesn't directly apply to us?

How does understanding God's faithfulness to Israel throughout history strengthen your personal faith?

The 144,000 are described as "wholehearted followers" who "follow the Lamb wherever He goes." On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your own wholehearted commitment to following Jesus? What holds you back?

How should Christians respond to rising anti-Semitism in our culture today?

Read Zechariah 12:1-10. How does this prophecy relate to current events in the Middle East? How should this affect our prayers?

Why do you think God chose to work through one specific nation (Israel) to bring salvation to the world?

How does God's unwavering commitment to His promises regarding Israel give you confidence about His promises to you personally?

Practical Applications:

1. Pray daily for the Jewish people and for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)
2. Research and support a ministry that shares the gospel with Jewish people
3. Study one Old Testament prophecy about Israel and track how it has been/will be fulfilled
4. Have a conversation with someone about God's ongoing plan for Israel
5. Examine my own heart: Am I a "wholehearted follower" or just going through the motions?
6. Share the gospel with someone this week, remembering that the 144,000 will boldly share Christ during intense persecution

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Lord, deepen our trust in Your faithfulness to Israel and to us, and make us bold, truthful followers of the Lamb wherever He leads.