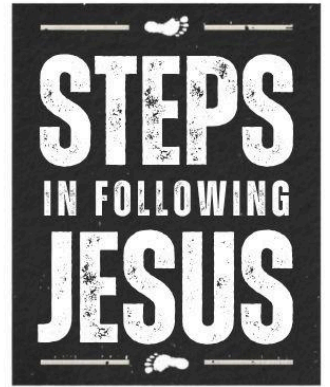


THE BOOK OF JOEL

REIGNING WITH JESUS (JOEL 3)

Memory Verse: "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Joel 2:12-13



The lamenting, repenting, and restoring will culminate in REIGNING with JESUS! Joel reminds us that we are not moving towards chaos, but rather towards a conquering King who will bring peace to all things. 2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 20:4

1. Reigning requires confidence in God's final justice, Joel 3:1-2
 - The word **restore** is the Hebrew word **shuv** (same as repent). The JUDGE restores rightful possessions/positions and brings justice to the offenders (Jehoshaphat means the LORD judges). The LORD changes the direction of the world! Acts 17:31
2. Reigning refuses the World's values: Humility before Honor, Joel 3:5-6
 - Humanity, especially Israelites, were treated as commodities and objects
 - Early Christians in the Roman Empire were known for rescuing abandoned infants and caring for poor/slaves. Matthew 23:11
3. Reigning requires Spiritual Readiness, Joel 3:9-10
 - Joel reverses the order from Isaiah, Isaiah 2:4
 - The word **prepare** is the Hebrew word **qadash** which means to consecrate. Consecration must precede conquering.
4. Reigning requires Standing with JESUS, Joel 3:14, 16
 - The LORD is our refuge; thus, we must stand with HIM, Joel 3:17, 21
 - The word **dwelt** is the Hebrew word **shakan** which means to tabernacle/dwell. God desires relationship not just interaction. Revelation 22:5

We do not reign because we are powerful; we reign because we are IN the KING: JESUS! Romans 8:17

Baptism + Church-wide Cookout at Victory Mountain Camp on August 9th, 12:45-4PM, 3594 Youth Camp Rd, Sophia, NC

Questions:

1. Read Joel 3:1-2; Psalm 96:13; Romans 12:19; Revelation 19:11-16. What does God's judgment teach us about justice and our response to injustice today? How does trusting God's judgement free me to obey Christ today? Are there people that you struggle to forgive because you want revenge rather than a relationship with Jesus?
2. Read Joel 3:3-6; Genesis 1:27; James 2:1-9; Philippians 2:3-4. Why does God judge people for treating people as commodities? How does modern culture repeat these sins today? William Wilberforce helped lead the crusade against slavery and caused the freedom of many slaves. How can you help other people who are mistreated and devalued to be seen as people made in the image of God?
3. Read Joel 3:9-10; Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Timothy 2:3-4. Why does Joel command preparation for battle while Isaiah 2:4 speaks of peace? How spiritually prepared are you for battle against the evil one's attacks on you? What area needs to be strengthened the most in your walk with God? Read Hebrews 4:12. How ready are you to wield the sword of God?
4. Read Joel 3:14; Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:31-46. What does the valley of decision mean? Many times this verse is used from man's response to God; how is it actually God's response to man? What would be God's decision of your life today? Jonathan Edwards preached a powerful message on sinners in the hands of an angry God and reports were given of people holding on to pews for fear of the floor opening up to hell. How does being in Jesus deliver us from the wrathful judgment of God?
5. Read Joel 3:17-21; Psalm 16:11; John 17:24; Revelation 21:3-4. Joel ends his letter with God dwelling with His people; why? How is God's presence the greatest blessing and reward of reigning? What are some ways that Christians value God's gifts over God's presence? What are some practical changes you can make to show your value of fellowship with Jesus?

Our prayer for you: Lord Jesus, thank You for defeating sin and death and inviting us into Your kingdom. Teach us to live as citizens of heaven **now**. Prepare us for spiritual battle, strengthen us in obedience, and help us look forward to the day we reign with YOU forever. Amen.