

# UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONS (pt. 1)

## DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY GUIDE

**In this sermon, Pastor Josh Huisman dives into the anticipation and signs of Jesus' return, focusing on the call for believers to maintain their faith amidst challenges.**

### Quotes from the Sermon:

- "The best news of all...He will return and take his people with Him to eternal glory!"
- "The idea that Jesus is returning should send a THRILL into our hearts!"
- "The one who endures to the end will be saved."

### Bible Passages Cited:

- **John 14:1-7:** Jesus comforts His disciples with the promise of His return and the assurance of salvation for those who believe in Him.
- **Matthew 24:3-14:** Jesus speaks of the signs of the End Times, emphasizing endurance and the proclamation of the Gospel to all nations as crucial for salvation.

### Study Questions:

Pastor Josh used the humorous, yet still important illustration of Emo Phillips' joke to highlight divisiveness among Christians, especially regarding End Times interpretations. **How can we maintain unity as believers, despite differing views on the end times (eschatology)?**

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**Reflecting on John 14:1-7**, how does Jesus' promise of return and preparation of a place for us in eternity influence your daily life and faith?

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How does the concept of **Jesus as "the way, the truth, and the life"** influence your understanding of salvation and access to God the Father?

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The sermon emphasizes that while the signs of the End Times (wars, natural disasters, etc.) are concerning, they should not alarm us. **How can we live in awareness of these signs without falling into fear or speculation?**

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**In Matthew 24:3-8**, Jesus outlines the “beginning of the birth pains” for the End Times. What does this metaphor reveal about the nature and purpose of these events?

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**Reflecting on the call to endure to the end** (Matthew 24:9-14), what practical steps can you take to strengthen your faith and perseverance?

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Pastor Josh explored **the role of Jerusalem in End Times prophecy**, particularly as mentioned in Zechariah 12. How does this prophecy shape your understanding of current global events and God’s plan for the nations?

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## Closing Prayer and Next Steps

### **Closing Prayer:**

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for the hope and assurance of Jesus' return. Help us to live in anticipation of that incredible, glorious day, not with fear or speculation, but with a steadfast faith and a commitment to spread Your gospel to the corners of all the earth. We lean on you for the strength to endure in trials and to support one another in love and unity. May we always remember that You have overcome the world and that the ultimate victory is found in You.

In Jesus' Name we pray,  
Amen."

### **Next Steps:**

1. Consider how you can actively participate in the mission of spreading the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20), be that locally, globally, or both.
2. Seek opportunities to strengthen your faith and support fellow believers in their spiritual journey, especially in times of challenge or doubt.