

# CULTURAL SIGNS

## DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY GUIDE

**Pastor Josh examines the cultural shifts and moral relativism indicative of the times leading up to Christ's return. Anchoring his message in Psalm 119:89, he compares the steadiness of God's word to a lighthouse, a fixed point of guidance amidst society's ever-changing moral compass. Pastor Josh draws parallels between today's societal norms and the days of Noah and Lot, emphasizing the importance of standing firm in faith as the world grows increasingly dismissive of divine authority.**

### Primary Bible Passage:

- **Luke 17:20-30 (ESV)**

### Study Questions:

#### **Introduction:**

Pastor Josh prompts us to consider the cultural signs of our times through the lens of Scripture. As we see society's values shift and sway, the sermon invites us to hold steadfastly to the unchanging truth of God's Word. This era, much like the days of Noah and Lot, is marked by moral ambiguity and a departure from God's commands. Yet, in these times, believers are called to be countercultural — to uphold biblical truth and righteousness amidst widespread moral flexibility.

#### **Standing Firm in Faith:**

This sermon encourages us to not only recognize the signs of the end times but also to respond by solidifying our stance in faith. Pastor Josh reminds us that Jesus, our solid foundation, stands in stark contrast to a world that is increasingly characterized by lovers of self and wealth. He urges the church to not be swayed by cultural tides but to live by faith, as a living example of the Gospel.



**The Cultural Mirror and Self-Examination:**

As the culture around us drifts further from God's design, it's crucial to look into the 'spiritual mirror' and allow Jesus to examine and purify our hearts. The sermon calls us to introspection and repentance, challenging us to forego the ways of the world and to align ourselves with Christ's imminent return.

**What practical things can you do to help you regularly examine your heart and align your life with God's Word?**

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**How does the reality of Christ's return inspire you to live differently in the present?**

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## **Reflecting on the Culture and Self-Examination:**

Reflecting on our lives in light of the cultural signs that Pastor Josh highlights is not just some exercise to do because this devotional tells you to. But rather, it's a call to a continuous, ongoing journey of self-examination and growth. The signs of the times are not just markers of what is to come, but they are also mirrors reflecting the state of society, people's hearts, and the direction of our lives. They compel us to ask: Are we conforming to the pattern of this world, or are we being transformed by the renewing of our minds, as Romans 12:2 urges us?

In navigating these times, it's essential to commit to a set of concrete, actionable steps:

1. **Anchor Yourself in Prayer and the Word:** Begin each day by centering your thoughts on Scripture and prayer. This daily practice will not only offer guidance but also serve as your compass, helping you to stay focused on God's Word rather than the shifting sands of culture.
2. **Cultivate Spiritual Disciplines:** Beyond regular Bible study, engage in things like fasting, solitude, or practicing silence and listening. These disciplines quiet the noise of the world, sharpen our spiritual discernment, and deepen our reliance on the Holy Spirit for living out biblical truths in contemporary contexts.
3. **Build Accountability:** Surround yourself with a community of believers who are not afraid to speak the truth in love. Accountability relationships can help you to stay true to your convictions and provide support as you navigate the complexities of modern culture.
4. **Educate and Equip:** Take time to understand the cultural changes around you. This involves educating yourself on contemporary issues and equipping yourself with a biblical response that is both gracious and grounded in truth.
5. **Share the Message:** Share any insights or things you learned from the sermon with friends, family, or on social media. Spreading awareness about the importance of Israel from a biblical perspective is so important, especially in our society today.
6. **Attend the Series:** Make a commitment to continue attending the upcoming sermons of "Reading the Signs."