

SEEKING GOD DURING TIMES OF JUDGMENT

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.” Now return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind Him . . . ? (Joel 2:12-14 NASB).

- 1 Sensing that our world could be under the judgment of God, pray that the church will return to God with her whole heart, with fasting, weeping, mourning, and genuine repentance (Joel 2:12).
- 2 Pray that we will become heartbroken over our personal and corporate sins—acts of rebellion and self-centeredness that offend God. Pray that our external acts of repentance will be sincere, not for the purpose of making us look good in the eyes of others (Joel 2:13).
- 3 Pray that your pastor and other pastors in your city will make the connection between God’s judgments and our sins. Pray that they will be broken to the point of weeping together over their personal sins and the sins of their people (Joel 2:17).
- 4 Pray that during these days of judgment, God will take pity on His repentant children and be zealous in restoring His manifest presence throughout the land (Joel 2:18).
- 5 When Christians continuously fail to repent and return to God, their land may become “a reproach among the nations” (Joel 2:19). Pray that our nation will be moved by the pressure of international reproach and will begin to take repentance seriously.
- 6 When Nehemiah heard of God’s judgment against Jerusalem, he “sat down and wept and mourned for days” (Nehemiah 1:4). Pray that we will have Nehemiah’s passion and will not rush through these days simply looking for some new church programs to fix our problems.
- 7 Nehemiah did not blame others for God’s judgment, but saw himself as part of a nation that had sinned against God (Nehemiah 1:6). Pray that we too will see ourselves responsible before God for the sins of our churches and nation.
- 8 God was so gracious that when Israel sinned, He promised to have compassion and bless them if they would return to Him and obey His commands (Deuteronomy 30:2-3). Pray that today’s church will seek repentance for her sins and that God will be just as gracious to us.
- 9 In order to avoid God’s remedial judgments, pray that your Christian friends will turn away from loving the world. James tells us that this type of hostile, sinful behavior makes those who are disloyal to Christ enemies of God (James 4:4).
- 10 Jeremiah declared that God’s judgments would fall on those who did not listen to His words (Jeremiah 29:17-19). Pray that your church family will be committed to seeking God, listening to His words, and obeying His commands.
- 11 Pray that God will revive us again, show us His lovingkindness, and grant us the blessing of seeing another great spiritual awakening take place in our day (Psalm 85:6-7).
- 12 After Nathan approached David regarding his sin, David wrote, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). Pray that your church family will always come before God with humility and brokenness regarding sin.
- 13 Knowing that Christians have been called to walk in the righteousness of Christ, pray that believers in your city will draw near to God, cleanse their hands, and purify their hearts (James 4:8).
- 14 Jesus denounced “the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent” (Matthew 11:20). Pray that your congregation will experience Christ’s presence in miraculous, tangible ways. Pray that the lost in your city will see and hear of Christ working powerfully at your church and will want to repent and be saved.

- 15** According to Romans 1:20-32, being given over to impurity, degrading passions, and depraved thinking are severe judgments of God. Pray that as these attitudes are becoming more rampant in our country, we will turn back to acknowledging the one true God and that we are not His equal.
- 16** When Jeremiah pronounced judgment against Jerusalem, he mentioned that the people were not ashamed of their sins and did not even know how to blush (Jeremiah 6:15). Pray that our nation will regain the moral compass found in knowing Christ and following the Word of God.
- 17** Knowing that final judgment is a reality for all, pray for the salvation of those who have not received God's gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). Pray that during these challenging days, more and more people will respond to the truths of the gospel.
- 18** Pray that those in your community will cease doing evil and learn to do good. Pray that they will "seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:16-17).
- 19** In Isaiah 5:3-5, God told the people that judgment was coming because there had been no response to all that He had done for His "vineyard." Pray that God will continue to be patient toward us as we seek His heart and will for our lives. Pray that we will repent of all our evil ways.
- 20** Knowing that "it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God," pray that Christians across the country will not trample the Son of God under foot by continuing to sin when God disciplines us (Hebrews 10:29-31).
- 21** Pray that God will protect us today from false prophets, pastors, and church leaders who fail to turn us back from our evil and disobedient ways (Jeremiah 23:21-22).
- 22** Many Christians are facing trials today. Pray that those around you whose faith is being tested will endure and will become "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4).
- 23** Pray that those in your church family facing hardships will remember today that "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).
- 24** Many Christians today seem to be downcast, struggling under the pressures of life. Pray that those you know who fit this description will submit their lives anew to Christ, trusting God to use life's pressures to conform them even more to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).
- 25** Pray that those in your church family currently being pruned by God will bear up spiritually, physically, and emotionally under the weight of God's activity in their lives. Pray that they will be comforted by the thought of God's pruning producing more fruit in their lives (John 15:2).
- 26** As we watch others fall under the loving discipline of God, pray that we will not judge them, but will learn ourselves how to walk humbly and obediently before God in all our ways (Romans 2:1-3).
- 27** When the righteous judgments of God fall on our lives, pray that we will not be stubborn and unrepentant, but will turn away from evil to seek God's glory, honor, and peace (Romans 2:8-10).
- 28** Knowing that "mercy triumphs over judgment," pray that your church family will excel in showing mercy to others. Pray that your Christian friends will understand that "judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy" (James 2:13).
- 29** As we conclude this month of seeking God in the midst of judgment, let's thank Him for being loving and just. Let's praise Him as the only One who truly "knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment" (2 Peter 2:9).
- 30** With each passing day, pray that we will grow in our love and fear of God, giving Him glory, because the hour of His judgment will come. Let us worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and the seas (Revelation 14:7).