

Joel's prophecy  
Acts 2:14-21.  
Sunday, July 26, 2008.

I. Peter's answer. Vs. 14-16.

- A. Some time must have gone by for the 120 to mingle with, and address the gathered crowd in their native languages.
- B. Also some time must have passed for the unbelieving crowd to reach the conclusion that intoxication with sweet wine was the cause of it all.
- C. At some point the 120 stop their prophesying, and give way for Peter to address the crowd in the language of the Roman Empire, Greek, which all could understand.
- D. His clear reasoning and persuasive demeanor must have gone a long way in persuading the crowd that they were indeed not intoxicated. Peter points them to an altogether different explanation; the coming of the Holy spirit as promised by the prophet Joel.

Application:

This event is instructive to us in that it shows us two approaches to events we may encounter in life.

One is cautious; measured and reserved: "Whatever could this mean?" It is patient; it allows for learning more before reaching definite conclusions.

The other is impulsive and presumptive: "They are full of sweet wine." This approach makes too much of one's own wisdom. It is opinionated; it does not allow time for reflection and learning more. It reaches conclusions too fast.

In this event more light and information is given in short order by Peter: "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel." Vs. 16.

What is your approach to events and issues in life?

II. The Holy Spirit brings great blessing. Vs. 17,18.

- A. The blessing of a universal unction and calling. The priesthood of all believers in God's new temple; in New Jerusalem.
  - 1. "I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;"  
This means Jew and Gentile alike; hence the tongues of the nations.
  - 2. On sons and daughters; menservants and maidservants.  
This elevates the women to a place of equality and dignity.
  - 3. On sons and daughters and menservants and maidservants.  
This erases the difference between bound and free.
  - 4. The Holy Spirit is the great equalizer in the body of Christ. "Has not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith?" James 2:5  
The Holy Spirit tears down the walls of separation between people. Eph. 2:14.
- B. The Holy Spirit brings new wisdom and understanding and insight into the meaning of Scripture. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of the OT. Rev. 19:10
  - 1. By dreams and by visions new insights are gained into the OT Scriptures.
  - 2. The "speaking forth of the wonderful works of God" Vs.11, gained by these insights, is the spirit of this prophesying.

The Lord Jesus had begun to open their understanding of the OT Scriptures. Luke 24:27,32. Now the Holy Spirit, the divine Helper, comes alongside to do this work in a big way as is seen by the sermons in the book of Acts.

### III. The Spirit brings great judgment. Vs. 19,20.

A. "I will show wonders in heaven above..."

1. Heaven above is what Moses saw as he was to build the tabernacle after the pattern of heavenly things.
2. The wonder of heaven is that it is now opened up to us by the finished work of Christ as signified by the temple veil that was rent from top to bottom.
3. It is there where we go in the Spirit to commune with Christ and to worship the Father in prayer and praise.

B. "And signs in the earth beneath"

1. Included, but not mentioned here, would be the signs the apostles did, and which pointed to the authenticity of their gospel message.
2. Mentioned here are the blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.  
All stand for the judgment on unbelieving and unrepentant Israel in 68-70 AD
  - The blood. In this great judgment the Romans slaughtered the Jews by the tens of thousands. There are recorded occasions when the waters of the entire Sea of Galilee were colored red with the blood of tens of thousands of slaughtered Jews.
  - The fire and vapor of smoke. The Romans burned the land down to the ground. No cities or villages were spared.
3. "The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood."  
Remember here that the sign and the thing signified blend together into one in Biblical prophecy. The sun is the ruler of the day. Israel was that sun; through her the light of God's eternal day shone into the world. The moon is the ruler of the night. Israel is that moon. Through her there was the light of promise in the deep dark night of sin.
  - Sun darkened. The OT economy perishes.
  - Moon turned to blood. It does so in a great bloodbath in 68-70 AD

### IV. The Spirit brings great promise.

"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

A. Deliverance from impending judgment was the theme of Peter's message. Vs. 40

B. It is both temporal and eternal judgment; the one signifying the other.

It is by repentance and faith.

It is through the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

It is for "whosoever calls on the Name of the Lord."

Application:

Our own days are similar to those of the first century in that judgment hangs over our heads as well as theirs. And Joel's great promise is still good for us as well.

Have you come to that place in your life of doing so?

You don't have to call in faith; you may call for faith. You don't have to call in repentance; you may call for repentance. You will not call in vain.