

Brookland Baptist Church
Bible Study
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Lecture VI

March 9, 2022

The Book of Acts
Acts 2:17-22

Acts 2:17-18 –

17 “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

These are the last days, the days of God’s last work on earth. Standing there before the throng of thousands, Peter declared:

- Today, this day, the *great prophecy of Joel begins* to be fulfilled.
(*Joel 2:28-32*).

The *last days* include all the days between Christ's first and second comings; it is another way of saying “*from now on*.” Peter was reminding these Jewish listeners that from prophecies like this one recorded by Joel, *I will pour out my Spirit on all people*; they should recognize the event they had just witnessed as the work of the Spirit. It would be to all kinds of people—Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor; — not just to kings and priests.

The “**prophesying**” mentioned by Peter is likely not only a prediction of the future but also a declaration of the nature and will of God. The *visions* and the *dreams* were common means that God used to reveal Himself to all people. The point was that the insight into these visions and dreams would be the product of the Spirit's work.

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was released throughout the entire world — to men, women, slave owners, slaves, Jews, and Gentiles. Everyone can receive the Spirit. This was a revolutionary thought for first-century Jews. Pentecost was designed to be a clear indication — to Jew and Gentile alike — that the messianic age had arrived. The Messiah had come!

❖ DAY OF THE LORD (JEHOVAH)

Acts 2:19-21 -

“19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

There are two aspects of the concept the day of the Lord:

1. The first is the idea of blessing and favor to the people of God. One of deliverance and salvation, signs and wonders.
2. The second aspect of the Day of Lord means judgement and punishment for Israel and defeat for their enemies.

The Day of the Lord is to be characterized by several things:

- **Wonders** (*terata*): marvels, signs, happenings, portents (*warnings*) in heaven above, that is, in outer space; happenings and marvels that point to something unusual about to happen.
- **Signs** (*semeia*): events and happenings on earth given by God to warn that the end is at hand.
- **Blood and fire and vapor of smoke**: terrible bloodshed and explosive fire that **causes**:
 - *Mushrooming* vapors of smoke.
 - *The sun to be turned into darkness* and blotted out.
 - *The moon to be turned into a blood red.*

It is thought-provoking when we consider how closely the language resembles atomic, and nuclear warfare.

Throughout Scripture, four events are discussed as happening in the Day of the Lord:

- a.) *the return of Christ,*
- b.) *terrible tribulation,*
- c.) *judgment,*
- d.) *and the remaking of earth.*

Throughout the last days, during the whole period, **man can be saved by doing two simple things**:

- 1.) He has to **call**: to sense the **need** to be saved.
- 2.) He has to call upon **“the name of the Lord”**: to know and believe that Jesus is the Lord and to be ready to submit to His Lordship, to serve Him as Lord.
(Romans 10:9-10, 13).

What Peter was saying is that this salvation is available to anyone.

God's special relationship with Israel will continue, but it has been broadened to include everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. God's plans for Israel had their climax in Christ. Access to God — for all people — now comes through Jesus Christ. With these words Peter witnessed to the crowd, as Jesus had predicted.

It would be a while before these new believers understood that the **“anyone”** included Gentiles. God had to work in a special way to make Peter understand that the message was meant for the whole world, not just the Jews.

Acts 2:22 –

“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus of Nazareth by doing wonderful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know.”

There is proof of this, the proof of His miracles and wonders and signs.

1. They were the works of God, the kind of works that only God could do. God Himself was working through Jesus of Nazareth.
2. The works were done (through Christ) **“in the midst of you,”** in the very presence of people. They were not done in secret. God attested and demonstrated to the world that He was working through Christ. The miracles, wonders, and signs were done both for the sake of the world and before the world.
3. **“You yourselves also know”** this. Man knows, for God has clearly shown that Jesus is approved by Him. The evidence abounds in the lives of those who have truly followed Christ down through the centuries, in the presence of the living Lord who has dwelt within their very being.