

Was Joel 2 Fulfilled at Pentecost? (Acts 2:12-21)

Understanding OT passages quoted in the NT in their context.

Acts in Depth #4

The Issue in Acts 2:12-21:

¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" ¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day.

¹⁶ "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ²¹ And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'"

What is Peter saying? "Joel 2 is fulfilled," or something else?

We Must Look at the Old Testament Quote and Its Context (Joel 2)

1. Why examine the context of the OT quotation in Acts 2?

- Peter is not using the verse _____ of its context
- Peter is using it within or _____ its context

2. What specific verses are quoted? (Joel 2:28-32a)

²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

³² And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

3. What is an extended context of the passage quoted? (Joel 2)

- "The Day of the Lord"
- At the end of the Tribulation

4. What observations can be made of the immediate context of Joel 2?

1) It involves a specific _____

²⁸ "And it shall come to pass in the last days..."

2) It involves a specific _____ of time

²⁸ "in the last days afterward" | Following the military rescue & crop restoration (19-27)

^{31b} "Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD."

³² "And it shall come to pass..." | Following all previous...

3) It involves a specific, pervasive _____ out of the Spirit

"will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on [My] menservants and on [My] maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

4) It follows specific, atmospheric _____

³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood"

5) It involves a specific _____

³² "whoever calls on the name of the LORD"

6) It involves a specific _____

³² "For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem"

7) It involves a specific _____ rescue

³² "shall be saved"

³² "there shall be deliverance"

8) It involves a specific _____

³² "As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls."

Summary

None of the eight criteria above were met in Acts 2. What was Peter saying?

- Do not be _____ about what is happening today (languages).
- Joel's prophecy indicates what God _____ do in the last days.
- Joel's prophecy illustrates what God's power _____ do.
- Joel's prophecy exemplifies what God _____ do for today's special occasion.