

Title: I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT

Text: Acts 2:14-21

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. [15] These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! [16] No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

From this point on Peter quotes from (Joel 2:28-31)

The prophecy has two parts vs 17 and 18 are the first part

Verses 19-21 are the second part

This morning I want us to go through these verses and look at their meaning

God wants us to be prepared in these last days

Therefore he sent forth His Spirit

[17] " 'In the last days,

LET'S STOP HERE

SOME WONDER ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?

Hebrews 1:1-2

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, [2] but **in these last days** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

1 Peter 1:20

He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed **in these last times** for your sake.

In all these texts the "**last days**" or the **last times** began when Jesus came.

In other words The coming of the Messiah, **WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END -- THE BEGINNING OF THE "LAST DAYS."**

VERSE 17 –In the last days - God says,
 I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
 Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
 your young men will see visions,
 your old men will dream dreams.

Many times people will point to this passage because they want to make some reference TO or validation FOR DREAMS AND VISIONS

They say, I had this dream the other day...do you think it was from the Lord

DREAMS AND VISIONS are two very similar spiritual events

Both of them are identified in the OT as prophetic

A good biblical example of vision is

Acts 22:17-18

"When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance [18] and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

the difference between a vision and a dream is that one happens when your sleeping

Dreams are often outlets for what we have been pouring into our lives

Garbage in – Garbage out.....

Focusing upon the Lord – Spiritual dreams

The rule for dreams and visions is that they should never have greater direction in you life then the Bible

The occurrence of dreams and visions in this passage distracts some from the main purpose of the passage.

LET'S CONTINUE

Verse 18

[18] Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

The day of Pentecost was an important day

God's Spirit was poured out

REVIVAL IS IN THE LAND

And not just upon prophets, priests, and kings but all people

Old
Young
Men
Women
Slaves
Free

everyone

When Peter stood up among the brothers that day The world was on the threshold of a Spiritual awakening as never before seen

But long desired
The promise of the Spirits outpouring has it's origin in

Numbers 11:29 (Num: 11:16-)

But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? **I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!**"

Moses had selected **70... elders and** gathered **them** about the tabernacle

Then the LORD appeared in the cloud... took of the Spirit that was on Moses, and placed that Spirit on the 70.

As a result they began to prophesy, **but** only this one time

The reason this happened was to publicly authenticate them before the whole community

God wanted the community to see that they possessed the same spiritual qualifications and authority as Moses himself.

Prophesying here does not refer to prediction or even to proclamation but to giving (in song or speech) praise and similar expressions

without prior training

And is exactly what was prophesied by JOEL **PROPHECY**

Which is exactly what happened in ACTS 2

They all began to speak in tongues that they had not learned or been trained to speak

And this is exactly what happens when a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit today...

They prophesy in expressions that were not previously learned

Of course the difference between the 70 elders and us is that for them it was only for a season,

But for believers this baptism in the Holy Spirit **is for us** for everyday of these Last Days

Our ability to function in prophetic language once baptized becomes for us a prayer language, and a praise song unto God

And sometimes God will pour a gift of tongues into the believer to edify the Body...consequently the Spirit Baptized believer gives forth a prophetic utterance that is then interpreted..

I have often wondered why God chose to pour out His Spirit on the earth and I sometimes wonder if it was not as a response to Moses wish

Numbers 11:29

I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"

NOW WE COME TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE PROPHECY...

This part describes what the last days will be like

Acts 2:19-21

- [19] I will show wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
[20] The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
[21] And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

When the Day of Pentecost came God poured out His Spirit
And the Last days began

But Where was the sun turned to darkness
and the moon turned to blood
where were the blood, fire and billows of smoke
where were the wonders and signs

some people believe that verses 19-21 are yet to be fulfilled
that the prophet Joel viewing the future from his prophetic perspective
saw the future, but not when the events would take place

I contend that Verse 19 -21 were fulfilled on the day of PENTECOST

But not completely

I believe they were fulfilled locally

At that time

And they will be fulfilled completely or globally soon

My reasoning for this belief comes from the Bible which tells us what the Last Days will be Like

I want to look at three passages of scripture

2 Peter 3:3

First of all, you must understand that **IN THE LAST DAYS SCOFFERS** will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

Scoffers are those who deny the reality of the Last Days

They believe that life will go on forever

They believe that the universe is eternal

The scoffers in Jesus day were known as philosophers

Epicureans

Stoics

Like Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates

Who are the Scoffers today

Humanists

Environmentalists – if they did not believe it would go on forever and ever they would not try to keep it as clean as possible

Evolutionists – better and better until star trek

And there are religious scoffers also

In Jesus day there were Sadducees The Sadducees were sad you See because they did not believe in the resurrection

They were more like a political party

How many of you know that people sometimes look at church as merely a political game

My son listens...he came to us the other day and told us we needed to pray for his PE teacher at school because his PE teacher went to church but does not believe in God

Today there are religious people and secular people alike who say...

“You doom sayers are nothing but a pack of old fashioned thinkers”

People have been saying the Christ is returning some day for 2000 years

BAHH HumBug

The word of the Lord for these people who further the Spirit of antichrist in our day

Is

Acts 2:21

And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

THEN THERE IS

Luke 21:9-11

When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

[10] Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. [11] There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

The imagery of Joel - blood, fire and billows of smoke are all typical images found in the OT that make direct reference to war

In the last days

THERE WILL BE WAR

There was war in Jesus day

And there is war today

HE ALSO SAYS THERE WILL BE

Great earthquakes

Famines

Pestilence

Fearful events

Great signs in the heaven

We know that there have been

earth quakes,

famines,

fearful events

and pestilence

What are those signs in the heavens

Some have given testimony of pictures in the clouds and lights in the sky in our day

Just as there was a star by which the wise men followed in Jesus day

You know what- Some of the most amazing signs in the heavens that genuinely declare the Glory of God

Are recent discoveries by science

- The universe had a beginning
- The universe is young
- It had a specific beginning
- It had an intelligent design

And the more and more they measure and the more and more they study they realize how rare we really are

There is an idea out there that life must exist on other planets because the universe is so big

Did you know that in spite of movies like *CONTACT* written by secular humanist Carl Sagen

And in spite of star wars and star trek ideals

Scientists are confirming that There is little chance that life exists anywhere else in the universe

what scientists have discovered is that

In order for life to exist in a planet

1. it would have to be on a middle aged sun
2. it would have to be in a spiral galaxy and only 5% are
3. It has to be on the arm of the left side of the Galaxy
4. That planet has to be the exact same distance as our planet is from the sun
5. If it did not have a satellite the exact same size as our moon around it the tidal forces would completely obliterate the planet
6. the satellite moon has to be the exact distance form the planet as ours or the water would stagnate....

It is amazing what the heavens are declaring to us in these last days

They are declaring God...

Finally

2 Tim. 3:1 SAYS,

But mark this: **THERE WILL BE TERRIBLE TIMES IN THE LAST DAYS.**

THEN Paul Gives a list describing those terrible times

People will be:

- (1) **lovers of themselves** (phi l aut oi , “self-centered, narcissistic”);
- (2) **lovers of money** (phi l ar gyr oi ; cf. 1 Tim. 6:9-10);

(3) **boastful**—the outward manifestation of the fact that inwardly they are

(4) **proud** (“arrogant”);

(5) **abusive** toward others, which translates *blaspheōi* (“blasphemers”). Several of the words which follow begin in the Greek with the prefix *a-*, meaning “without” (as in moral-amoral, theist-atheist), signifying **absence of the designated virtue**. Thus people will be

(6) **disobedient** (*apei t he i s*) **to their parents**;

(7) **ungrateful** (*achari st oi*);

(8) **unholy** (*anos i oi*);

(9) **without love** (*ast or goi*, trans. “heartless” in Rom. 1:31, the only other place it is used in the NT);

(10) **unforgiving** (*aspondoi*). *Diaboloi*, a word usually translated “devil” (cf. 1 Tim. 3:6-7; 2 Tim. 2:26), is used here with the root meaning

(11) **slandorous**;

(12) **without self-control** (*akr at e i s*);

(13) **brutal** (*aneōter oi*, lit., “untamed,” **the opposite of civilized**);

(14) **not lovers of the good** (*aphi l agat hoi*; cf. Titus 1:8; Pss. 15:4; 19:8). The next two characteristics begin in the Greek with the prefix *pro-*, **indicating an aggressive inclination toward vice**:

(15) **treacherous** (*pr odot ai*, “disposed toward betrayal”);

(16) **rash** (*pr opet e i s*, “disposed toward recklessness”).

The final three characteristics are

(17) **conceited** (lit., “puffed up”; cf. 1 Tim. 3:6; 6:4);

(18) **lovers of pleasure** (*phi l eđonoi*) **rather than lovers of God** (*phi l ot heoi*; the Gr. prefix *phil-* here and in characteristics 1, 2, and 14 above signifies “lovers of...”);

(19) **having a form** (*mōr phōi n*, “outward shape,” **of godliness but denying its power** (cf. Titus 1:16).

All of these are Characteristic of people living in the Last Days

I believe Joels Prophecy was fulfilled because the Bible's description and Joels description of the Last days look pretty much like yesterday

In other words

- ❖ Sin
- ❖ People who mock us as doom sayers
- ❖ Wars
- ❖ Earthquakes
- ❖ Famine
- ❖ And even signs

Are all part of the LAST DAYS that we live in

Turn to

Matthew 24:4-8

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. [5] For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. [6] You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. **Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.** [7] Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. [8] All these are the beginning of birth pains.

All the rotten stuff we see around us today are called BIRTH PANGS

The Prophets predicted these messianic birth pangs

Isaiah 13:8

Terror will seize them,
 pain and anguish will grip them;
 they will writhe like a woman in labor.
 They will look aghast at each other,
 their faces aflame.

These BIRTH PANGS were very real at the very moment that God poured out His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

They suffered through

Roman Oppression

Wars

Pharisees and Philosophers

Natural Disasters

Death

And for the Christians there would soon be

persecution

loss of property
 Loss of freedom
 Torture
 And more Death in the Arenas

We have had to face

9/11
 suddam Hussein
 Hurricanes
 Volcanoes
 Adolph Hitler
 The Communists
 Charles Manson
 Ussaham Ben Laden
 And the list could go on and on

These are all part of the Last Days...

These are all Birth Pangs

The Fact is It is going to get a whole lot worse here on earth than what we are experiencing now

But I don't plan to be here when that bad stuff happens

1 Thes. 4:15-18

According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage each other with these words.

But while I am here I want to walk in obedience and I