

004 - Whoever Calls on the Name of the Lord Shall Be Saved  
GRBC 2011-12-25

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:21-32

Confession of Sin: from Numbers 14:18-21

The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression

But He by no means clears the guilty

Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy

Then the Lord said, "I have pardoned, but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord!"

Sermon: Whoever Calls on the Name of the Lord Shall Be Saved Acts 2:8-21

Benediction: Joel 2:32a

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. Amen.

Acts 2:12-21 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 PROPHECY, 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 PROPHECY. (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.'

I. Why Did Some in the Crowd Say the Disciples Were Drunk, and What was Peter's Proof that They Weren't Drunk? (verses 13-15)

A. When the crowd heard the wonderful works of God, each man in his own language, they were amazed and perplexed, and asked each other, "Whatever could this mean?"

B. But some mocked, or jeered, accusing the disciples of being drunk

1. not that anyone thinks the ability to speak foreign language is granted by drunkenness

2. but that to the ignorant, those natives of Jerusalem who have never heard these languages spoken, this strange speech would sound something like the slurred speech of a drunk

a. a person who has had too much to drink will sometimes become very talkative

b. and his speech may be slurred, or downright unintelligible

3. this accusation would have come either from one of these most ignorant locals, or from some wicked Jewish leaders who tried to use the local people's ignorance against them

a. you recall they did something very similar when they accused Jesus of driving out demons by the power of Satan

C. Peter, in the power of the Holy Spirit, defended the disciples against this charge

1. He stood, raised his voice, and spoke forcefully and clearly to the crowd; these are not the actions of a drunk man, but of a sober one

2. He showed how silly a charge this was, since it was only 9:00 in the morning

a. not that it was entirely impossible for a person to be drunk so early

b. but because it was so rare or unlikely as to not be taken seriously unless proven definitively

3. He showed the biblical, scriptural explanation

APPLICATION:

-Since we see here that the enemies of the gospel will grab every occasion to accuse Christ's church of babbling, let us, when in the role of speakers, not do anything to give credit to such accusations

-by prideful over-use of religious jargon

-by use of illogical, shallow religious jingles or slogans

-by false speaking in tongues (They were perceived as babbling unintelligibly, but Peter defended them because they were actually speaking in foreign languages. How would Peter defend them if they were actually babbling?!? There would be no defense.)

-if you believe in the modern-day pentecostal, charismatic practice of speaking in tongues, and you refer to 1 Corinthians 14 for the biblical basis, please try this:

1. consider that this event was the origin of that practice

2. hear the explanation Luke gives, that speaking in tongues was speech in foreign languages for the purpose of proclaiming the wonderful works of God

3. read 1 Corinthians 14, assuming that Paul understood speaking in tongues that way

4. pray for wisdom

5. see if 1 Corinthians 14 makes much better sense in that light

-If we then are still accused of babbling, let us take heart that even Christ's apostles were so accused

-Let us, when listening, not be derisive or dismissive of speech we do not readily understand, since it may be the very word of God!

-there might be a speaker with a thick foreign accent or regional accent

-there might be a speaker who presents concepts we have not heard much before

## II. How Did Peter, Led by the Holy Spirit, Explain What Was Happening? (verses 16-18)

He said that the strange phenomenon they were seeing and hearing was something spoken of by the prophet Joel (verse 16)

- "this is that" is a very important idea

- Peter means that what was happening right then and there was the fulfillment of that prophecy

- there is a trend in Christianity today to see all the Old Testament prophecy as having its fulfillment in a restored nation of Israel in the future; but here the apostle tells us that this Old Testament prophecy had its fulfillment in this age, in the time of Christ's apostles

### A. The last days had come (verse 17a)

1. you have heard of Eschatology or eschatological

2. those terms come from this Greek word *eschatos*, which means "last" or "final"

3. often people talk about the "end times" or "end times prophesy," but interestingly that is not a biblical term; if you care to go looking, you won't find it; the term is "last days" or "last times"

4. in John, we hear Jesus Christ speaking of the "last day," as the day of final judgment

John 6:39-40 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. (40) And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

5. here in Acts 2, and in Hebrews 1:2, the whole period after Messiah has come is styled the "last days"

6. Peter writes about these being the "last times" 1 Peter 1:20

7. so we understand that there will be a "last day," but before that last day, there are the "last days" or "last times," which is the whole period from when Jesus Christ came the first time, to when He returns at the "last day"

APPLICATION: this helps us understand what the New Testament authors meant when they predicted bad things during the "last days" or "last times" or "last hour"

-2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

-2 Peter 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

-1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

-Jude 1:17-18 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: (18) how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

-It is popular to quote these verses, observe that false teachers are all around us, and come to the conclusion that the end of the world is upon us

-Actually, the presence of false teachers, following their own lusts, is a phenomenon that characterizes the whole church age, the whole period of the "last days" or "last times" or "last hour"

### B. God was pouring out His Spirit (verse 17b)

1. on all flesh, meaning on all of His people, of all kinds

- a. both male and female
- b. both young and old
- c. even male and female servants
- 2. they would have prophetic dreams and visions
- 3. they would prophesy; that is, they would speak the word of the Lord, as given to them directly by the Holy Spirit

### III. What Does Joel's Prophecy Connect to this Outpouring of the Holy Spirit? (verses 19-20)

- A. Peter could have stopped there, at the end of Acts 2:18, in his quotation of Joel, because he had already recited the part about the Holy Spirit being poured out in the last days, so that God's people would prophesy
- B. But moved by the Spirit, he went on quoting from Joel's prophecy
- C. So, what does he mean by the language of Acts 2:19-20, in which he speaks of wonders in heaven and signs on earth---blood and fire and smoke, the sun turning to darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord
- D. There is an event being prophesied, that in Joel's time was centuries away, but in Peter's time was within one generation of being fulfilled
  - 1. it is the destruction of Jerusalem, coming suddenly within one generation
  - 2. the prophecy was that the pouring out of the Spirit and the destruction on the great and awesome Day of the Lord are connected; they come together
  - 3. see Luke 21:20-32
- E. That event itself is a type of an event that in Peter's time was centuries away, and in our time may still be centuries away, or may be just days or moments away
  - 1. it is the destruction of the world, coming suddenly at an undisclosed time
  - 2. see 2 Peter 3:7-12

### IV. How Does All of This Apply to the Sinner? (verse 21)

- A. to the Jew in Jerusalem at the time of Peter? Put yourself in the place of those hearing the message from Peter on that day
  - 1. you are here on pilgrimage for the feast of Pentecost
  - 2. you are living in Jerusalem, headquarters for God's people on earth
  - 3. you are worshiping in God's temple
  - 4. you are surrounded by the high, thick, strong walls of the city
  - 5. you are enjoying peace and prosperity; all seems well
  - 6. but you are guilty of sin against the holy, almighty God
  - 7. you crucified the Son of God when He came to you
  - 8. now God's wrath is coming upon you
  - 9. sometime within one generation, suddenly, without warning, God will cause this amazing city of Jerusalem, with its strong fortifications, its many people, and its temple worship, to become a place of blood, fire, and smoke; the institutions of Old Covenant Israel---the temple worship, the priesthood, the kingship, the tribal heritage, the capitol city of Jerusalem, will all be torn down, as if the very sun and moon were going out
  - 10. but in all this destruction by the wrath of God, anyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved
    - a. he and his family will be saved physically, being warned to flee to the mountains at the approach of the Roman army
    - b. his soul also will be saved from God's wrath
- B. to us today?
  - 1. you are here for worship on the Lord's Day
  - 2. you are in the midst of the visible church, God's people on earth

3. you are worshiping in the church, God's temple
4. you live on a planet that has been stable for so many thousands of years that it seems utterly indestructable
5. you are enjoying peace and prosperity, all seems well
6. but you are guilty of sin against the holy, almighty God
7. for your sins the Son of God was crucified when He came to earth
8. now God's wrath is coming upon you
9. sometime, we don't know when, suddenly, without warning, God will cause this whole world to become a place of blood, fire, and smoke; everything you have known will be consumed in the terrible heat; all the sinners of the world will stand before the Lord to be found guilty and thrown into the lake of fire for everlasting punishment
10. but in all this destruction by the wrath of God, anyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved; therefore, call out to the Lord Jesus Christ to save you today, and surely you will be saved

#### Verse 13

Poole:

inhabitants of Jewry and Jerusalem; who not understanding the languages of other nations, might think the apostles did but babble, and talk idly or rudely, when they spake with other tongues.

Henry:

Not that they were so absurd as to think that wine in the head would enable men to speak languages which they never learned; but these, being native Jews, knew not, as the others did, that what was spoken was really the languages of other nations, and therefore took it to be gibberish and nonsense, such as drunkards, those fools in Israel, sometimes talk

#### Verse 16

This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel

#### Verse 17

And it shall come to pass in the last days

-this is literal, and the same in all translations

-in Joel "afterward," the same in all translations

Verse 18

I will pour out my Spirit in those days

Verse 19

I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke

Gill (as Clarke, JFB, Barnes):

the horrible burning and destruction in the city of Jerusalem A.D. 70

Barnes:

scenes of this kind occurred before the destruction of Jerusalem, and there is a striking resemblance between the description in Joel and that by which our Saviour foretells the destruction of Jerusalem.

Poole:

These wonders were such as did precede the destruction of Jerusalem, or shall forerun the destruction of the whole world.

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood

JRY: what other scriptures, especially from Luke, shed light here?

Luke 21:22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Luk 21:25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

Luk 21:26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Revelation 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Poole:

the sun signifies those that are in the highest power; the moon, those that are next to them in place and dignity.

Henry:

The sun became black as sackcloth of hair, either naturally, by a total eclipse, or politically, by the fall of the chief rulers and governors of the land. (3.) The moon should become as blood; the inferior officers, or their military men, should be all wallowing in their own blood

Robertson:

Peter's interpretation of Joel should make us cautious about too literal an exegesis of these grand symbols.

before the great and awesome day of the Lord

Gill:

when he shall come in power and great glory, as he did in a few years after this, to take vengeance on the Jews, and destroy their nation, city, and temple; in which there was a display of his greatness, and power, and which was awful and "terrible" to them, as in Joel it is called;

Henry:

That one great thing which they should prophesy of should be the judgment that was coming upon the Jewish nation, for this was the chief thing that Christ himself had foretold (Mt. 24) at his entrance into Jerusalem (Luk\_19:41); and when he was going to die (Luk\_23:29); and these judgments were to be brought upon them to punish for their contempt of the gospel, and their opposition to it, though it came to them thus proved. Those that would not submit to the power of God's grace, in this wonderful effusion of his Spirit, should fall and lie under the pourings out of the vials of his wrath. Those shall break that will not bend. First, The destruction of Jerusalem, which was about forty years after Christ's death, is here called that great and notable day of the Lord, because it put a final period to the Mosaic economy; the Levitical priesthood and the ceremonial law were thereby for ever abolished and done away. The desolation itself was such as was never brought upon any place or nation, either before or since. It was the day of the Lord, for it was the day of his vengeance upon that people for crucifying Christ, and persecuting his ministers; it was the year of recompences for that controversy; yea, and for all the blood of the saints and martyrs, from the blood of righteous Abel, Mat\_23:35. It was a little day of judgment; it was a notable day: in Joel it is called a terrible day, for so it was to men on earth; but here epiphane (after the Septuagint), a glorious, illustrious day, for so it was to Christ in heaven; it was the epiphany, his appearing, so he himself spoke of it, Mat\_24:30. The destruction of the Jews was the deliverance of the Christians, who were hated and persecuted by them; and therefore that day was often spoken of by the prophets of that time, for the encouragement of suffering Christians, that the Lord was at hand, the coming of the Lord drew nigh, the Judge stood before the door, Jam\_5:8, Jam\_5:9.

Barnes:

This will apply to any day in which God signally manifests himself, but particularly to a day when he shall come forth to punish people, as at the destruction of Jerusalem, or at the day of judgment.

JRY: We find great help here in how to interpret the Bible

How the apostles interpreted the Old Testament prophets

How to understand such phrases as "every nation under heaven"

JRY: We must understand such phrases from their biblical usage, rather than from just whatever first or naturally comes to our minds.

The relationship between the Holy Spirit and the scriptures

Henry: even filled with the Holy Spirit as he was, Peter's sermon was largely quotation of the scriptures

JRY:

The destruction of Jerusalem was a miniature of the destruction of the world at the final judgment.

- C. They were amazed
- D. They were perplexed
- E. Some mocked

V. What Peter's Explanation Was

- A. These are not drunk
- B. This is the fulfillment of prophecy
  - 1. God is pouring out His Spirit not only on prophets, artisans, judges, warriors, or kings, but on all of His people
    - a. sons and daughters
    - b. young men and old men
    - c. menservants and maidservants