

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

THE ENDTIME PROPHECY

37

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on how the outpouring of God's Spirit is a direct fulfillment of prophecy.

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And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28-29).

The Old Testament prophecy of the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon this earth was foretold to Joel more than 800 years before the fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost.

God revealed this truth to the Prophet Joel while Israel was in a great need for a spiritual revival. Israel needed a new covenant that would internalize the Law within their hearts through the Spirit of God living within them. This occurrence would be a sign that there was a transition to not only a new covenant, but that this would catapult the world into a new era of revelation. The sign of the outpouring of his Spirit would show the world that they were entering the beginning of the End Times.

OUTPOURING OF HIS SPIRIT

On the birthday of the Church in the book of Acts, 120 disciples were all filled with the Spirit of God. It was a new phenomenon that had not occurred up to this point. In the Old Testament, the Spirit only descended upon people for a specific task and for a temporary event. Prior to Pentecost, no one was filled with his Spirit—becoming the temple of the living God. Everyone recognized that this was a new day for the people of God. The prophets and sometimes kings experienced the anointing of the Spirit in the past, but even they did not receive the Spirit of God as a permanent indwelling. This was a dawn of a new day for the Church.

Acts 2:1-4

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The Pentecostal experience that occurred on that day was the beginning of such a wonderful experience that had every connection with end time prophecy.

The Apostle Peter spoke to the crowd that assembled at the Pentecostal outpouring in Jerusalem. He immediately connected the outpouring of the Spirit with the words of the Prophet Joel.

Acts 2:16-18

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of 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: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

Notice that he quotes the verse and adds the words, “in the last days.” Peter connected the outpouring with this common Hebrew phrase to show that this was a sign for end times. While this was a new, historic event for the people of God, this scripture was well known to be referring to end time events. The following verse in Joel shows how it was connected to the Day of the Lord at the end of the Tribulation time.

Acts 2:18-20

*“And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable **day of the Lord come.**”*

This is a direct quote of the passage found in Joel 2:30-31. No wonder Peter connected this experience with the “last days.” The scripture is filled with end time language, “wonders in heaven above,” “signs in the earth beneath,” “blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke,” “sun shall be turned into darkness,” and “moon into blood.” And to top it off he ends with connecting this Pentecostal experience with the “Day of the Lord” which is the same event as Armageddon.

We know that since the day of Pentecost 2000 years have passed on. Does this mean that Peter was wrong in connecting it to the end times? Absolutely not! He was spot on. The outpouring of the Spirit ushered in the era of the Last Days. It’s the last days, because God is dealing with mankind in a way that has never happened up until that time. The baptism of the Spirit began with the Jews on the Day of Pentecost. But the passage in Joel said that it would not be only limited to the people of Israel, but that it would happen “upon all flesh.” This is repeated in the book of Acts.

Acts 1:8

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The outpouring started in Jerusalem and spread to all of Judea. It later extended to Samaria in Acts chapter 8. In Acts chapter 10, it began to extend to “the uttermost parts of the earth” when it reached the house of the gentile family of Cornelius in Caesarea.

So we are in currently in the phase of “the uttermost parts of the earth.” This is the part of the prophecy that has been happening ever since. God is pouring out his Spirit on “all flesh” which means upon the whole world. The book of Acts records the beginning of this phase and ends with the outpouring being spread to Asia and finally to Spain.

Since then, we have seen the outpouring happen in Europe, North, Central, and South America, Africa, Asia, and many other areas. In our last century, we have seen such an increase of the outpouring of the Spirit, that it really shows how close we are to the soon coming of the Lord and the wrath of God at the Day of the Lord prophesied in the book of Joel.

PRESENT DAY OUTPOURING

In the early 1900s, the world saw a great outpouring of the Spirit in Europe, North, Central and South America. One place in particular where the outpouring was greatest was in the city of Azusa in California where it began in 1906. Thousands of people from all over the world flocked to this city to receive the Baptism of the Spirit and take this experience back with them to their countries. It crossed cultural and ethnic barriers and went to many places where it quickly spread like a uncontained fire. Robert Liardon said, “Azusa Street was the watershed moment that led to a tidal wave of revival fervor spreading from Los Angeles to every part of the world.”

This event in Azusa spread the fire to further fulfill the scriptures of the outpouring of the Spirit occurring “upon all flesh.” Since then, the baptism of the Spirit experience has spread like wildfire. Today, there

are more than 755 million people that claim to speak in other tongues. Obviously, we are living in the Last of the Last Days before the Coming of the Lord.

THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES

The Apostle Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost directly connected the outpouring of the Spirit with the end times. Every time someone receives the Spirit of God, it should be a reminder that we are living in the Last of the Last Days. Not only did Peter speak about the Apostle Paul connects spread of the Holy Ghost outpouring to the Gentiles with the End Times.

The Apostle Paul writes about how the Gentiles have come into the church. In the studies of End Times, the Bible indicates that the Jewish people are temporarily blind when it comes to recognition of Jesus as their Messiah. However, after the rapture during the Great Tribulation, they will recognize Jesus as the Messiah that they missed earlier. Paul says that they are blind "in part" and gives the indication when they will no longer be blind.

Romans 11:25

*"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until **the fullness of the Gentiles** has come in."*

He says that their blindness will continue "until the fulness of the Gentiles come in." What is the "fulness of the Gentiles"?

We already established that the Apostle Peter connected the first Christians receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost with the End Times. There is a direct relationship with each new believer entering the church through Spirit baptism. After the day of Pentecost, this outpouring swept through all of Judea, Samaria, and continued to reach for the Gentiles. The Apostle Paul says that the Jews will no longer be

blind after that the rapture takes place and he explains that this will happen when the “fulness of the Gentiles come in.” If you can picture this as a glass cup. Each individual gentile that enters the church through the baptism of the Spirit is represented by a drop that goes into the cup. The more gentiles that enter the church, the more that the cup is filled. When glass becomes completely full, the church will be raptured out of here.

The Glass is Almost Full

The Scriptures do not tell us how full the glass is as of right now. We can only assume that it is very close to being full by all of the other prophecies that have already been fulfilled. The greatest prophecy that helps us understand where we are in this timeline to the end is the prophecy of the Gospel being spread to all of the world.



Matthew 24:14

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Notice that it uses the words “as a witness.” Remember that Scripture in the book of Acts that says, the Holy Ghost will make them witnesses unto Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. The outpouring of the Spirit made them witnesses, and this is part of the Gospel.

We are seeing the glass cup being filled quickly which indicates that the Church age is coming to a close. We are very close to the time of the rapture.

Are you ready for the rapture? Have you received the Gift of the Holy Spirit?

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