## Remnant Life Church March 17, 2024 I Will Pour Out My Spirit on All People Pt 2 Joel 2:28-32 Acts 2:14-21

- Last week, we asked a question: Because our Scripture reading in Joel was a word for the future, how did it play out over time?
  - To see the fulfillment, we turned to Acts 2
  - **READ** Acts 2:14-21
  - The words of Joel were fulfilled at the time of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus before He left the disciples to return to the Father, came to pass
- First, what are the 'last days' that we read in verse 17?
  - $\circ$  There are two meanings depending on where you are reading it in the Bible
    - In the OT, the time of Joel and the prophets, the last days were considered the time when God would act in a mighty way to judge evil and bring salvation to His people
      - We see this written in Isaiah, Hosea, Joel, and Amos
    - In the NT, the outset of the last days actually began with the first coming of Jesus and His earthly ministry
      - It continues with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in which we are still living today
      - And will end with the second coming of Jesus
      - Mark 1:15, Luke 4:18-21, and Hebrews 1:1-2
    - These last days involve the invasion of God's power through Jesus Christ into the realm of satan and sin
      - The battles are ongoing
      - But the victory was won when Jesus rose from the grave on the third day
      - Yet evil is still very present (Eph 6:10-18), and we see its evidence every day
      - Only the second coming of Jesus will end the evil of satan and his forces and complete the last days
    - Then Peter quotes the words of Joel
      - He first affirms that the pouring out of the Spirit was for all people
      - He then again, uses the words poured out
        - Poured or pouring out is used over 100 times in the Scriptures
        - I Sam 7:6 water is poured out by Samuel as an offering to God in preparation for a battle with the Philistines
        - Isaiah 42:24-25 God pours out His wrath and anger on the people for their obstinance and disobedience

- The pouring of oil was used by Moses to consecrate the Tabernacle in Lev 8:30 and then again by Samuel to anoint both Saul and David in I Sam 10:1 and 16:13
- The pouring of the blood of a sacrificial animal was done as atonement for sin in Ex 29 and Lev 4
- At the Last Supper, Jesus spoke of His own self-sacrifice
  - Luke 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you
- Peter goes on in his sermon at Pentecost in Acts 2:32-33 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.
- Finally, the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Rome
  - Rom 5:5-6 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
- The original Greek of the word 'pour' is the same as the word to gush out
  - And so, we can then visualize and embrace not a trickle of His mercy to us but a waterfall
- The act of pouring was significant in worship, anointing, and even God's judgment
- This is the act of God in giving us the power and presence of Himself through the Holy Spirit
- Then, like Joel, Peter tells us the signs or indicators of the Holy Spirit's presence
  - Prophesy, dreams, and visions
- <u>Prophesy</u> is the foretelling of an event or activity that has yet to happen
  - God reveals this information to the person supernaturally
    - How do you know if it was of God?
      - Very simply it comes true
      - A prophetic word that does not come to pass is not a word from God
      - God is NEVER wrong
      - The prophetic is seen throughout the Bible
    - Getting a prophetic word and being a prophet are not the same thing and the Bible also makes this distinction
- The second is <u>dreams</u>
  - Everyone has dreams

- Many times, these are random thoughts that get played out in your unconscious
  - $\circ$  Most of the time, they have no real meaning your brain is on vacation
  - $\circ$   $\;$  But there are times when it does have meaning and significance
- Again, the Bible is filled with dreams from the Old through the New Testament
  - Both Josephs of the old (Gen 34,40) and new (Matt 1:18-24) testaments, Jacob (Gen 28:12), Solomon (I Kng 3:5-15), and Daniel (Dan 7)
  - God even used dreams to accomplish His will through Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 4), The Magi (Matt 2) and Pilate's wife (Matt 27:19)
- How can you tell if it is something more?
  - First, it stays with you
    - If you can vividly recall the details even as the day goes on there may be something more to it
    - Ask God to reveal whether it is something of greater significance
    - Seek to have it interpreted
- The third is <u>visions</u>
  - Visions are similar to dreams
  - They are not happening in your reality
  - But the difference is you experience them while you are awake
  - Visions are actually referenced more often than dreams in the Bible
  - The first is a vision Abram had regarding the covenant God would make with him that would change his name to Abraham (Gen 15:1)
  - Of course, Peter had a vision regarding clean and unclean things when God was showing Him that no one should be excluded from the saving power of Jesus' sacrifice (Acts 11:4-9)
  - And John received his visions while on the island of Patmos that would be written out as the book of Revelation (Rev 1:1-2)
  - These, along with others, are the manifestations of the presence of the Holy Spirit
  - Paul writes regarding these "gifts" in I Cor 12
- The question is often asked if the gifts of the Spirit are relevant and active today
  - The answer to that is YES
  - The power of the Holy Spirit was poured out over all people and it has not been withdrawn
  - If we do not believe that these things are relevant for today we are missing the display of God's power at work through His people
  - $\circ$   $\;$  The issue is the faith of God's people today  $\;$ 
    - Do you believe in and expect His presence in your life?

- If you do, why would you then somehow restrict what He can do whether it is in the natural or the supernatural?
- The third chapter of Joel then concludes with the prophetic word that the nations will be judged by God
  - God's people will not only be preserved, but God will judge those who have come against them
  - This also foretells the final judgment when all people and all nations will stand before God to be judged
- When you try and discuss good and evil and their consequences with those who do not know Him, people only state that God is love so He would not allow bad things to happen
  - But He is also God of righteousness and justice
  - He put in place the consequences of obedience and disobedience
- Joel's message was one of warning and of hope
- Live every day of your life knowing that our lives are to be lived in obedience to God's word and allow that to be seen by others as you go about your day.