

The Risen, Exalted Christ, Pours out the Holy Spirit

Text: Acts 2:14-36

Introduction:

A miraculous phenomenon has occurred. The people are confused and amazed by what they are seeing and hearing. The sound of a roaring wind has just overwhelmed the natural sounds of nature and daily life. Tongues of fire have rested upon a group of Christ's followers, and now they are all speaking the wonderful works of God, in languages with which they are not naturally familiar. In verse 12, we are told that this large group of Jews, from all over the world, "were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" And then in verse 13, we are further told, "Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

What is going on here? What is the purpose in all of this? Are these men merely drunk? An explanation is needed; a subtitle is warranted to explain the unnatural phenomenon that is taking place.

I. The Risen, Exalted Christ, Pours out the Holy Spirit

And so, Peter, standing up with the other Apostles, raises his voice, drawing all attention now to himself, as he is ordained to be the narrator of these supernatural events. "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and hear my words"...("Let me provide you with the Biblical explanation for all of this")! "First, no one here is drunk...you well know that it is too early in the day for anyone to get drunk." "Rather, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel." "Prophecy is being fulfilled here in your very presence. Indeed, the prophet Joel spoke beforehand of the supernatural signs that are being wrought in your presence..."

"And here is the specific prophecy being fulfilled here, by God":

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh"

[Note: When are the last days? ---> The church age!]

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

And on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.
I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.
The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.
And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved."

And so, before Peter adds additional commentary, further explaining Joel's prophecy...indeed, connecting it to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we recognize the significance of his use of the OT Scriptures here. Peter is identifying the present events, and the phenomenons that are taking place, with Joel's prophecy. What is going on here? God is beginning to fulfill the promise of pouring out His Spirit on all flesh. And this is evidenced by various signs that have begun to take place. Here, the rushing wind and the fire, and the phenomenon of prophesying in different languages is evidencing the fact that the Spirit is now being poured out on all of God's people. Again, the foundation of the church is being laid, and the Spirit is taking up residence in the people of God. All of this has begun to happen right here and now, and the church will continue to be built until the "great and awesome Day of the Lord," when Christ returns, and Judgment Day, is ushered in.

And what is the significant reason for all of this? What is the major transitional element found here, which necessitates such glorious signs and wonders, as a means of distinguishing and setting apart this time period from all others? Verse 21 tells us, "And it shall come to pass [and now is] that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved!" God is reaching out to the whole world, beginning in Jerusalem, and into all of Judea, and into Samaria, and into the remotest parts of the earth! The New Covenant has emerged, and the whole world is invited to return to God; to repent and seek reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ! God is building His church, and all nations are welcomed to join, freely...simply by believing and calling on the name of the Lord. All are welcomed to be saved! Joel spoke of

this great day beforehand, when all would be welcomed into the presence of God, initiated by the signs and wonders evident at Pentecost; all being gifted by the Spirit who has been poured out!

And so, having brought his audience to the Old Testament Scriptures, which speak beforehand of this present miraculous event, Peter then adds the necessary commentary, showing that the crucified and risen Christ is the only way unto this salvation. For, it is His Spirit, which is poured out on all flesh! He has been given all authority; He has merited the fullness of the Spirit, to be poured out on His church, and these, who are presently filled with the Spirit, are witnesses to Him and His resurrection!

[Read verses 22-24]

Even as God is attesting to the present ministry of the Apostles, He likewise attested to the ministry and authority of Jesus of Nazareth, by miracles, signs and wonders, wrought by God through Jesus Christ in their presence. But they rejected the testimony of God, and crucified Him. However, even their wicked act of crucifying Christ, was determined beforehand by God, who would bring about eternal salvation by the death and resurrection of Christ, to be offered to all who repent and believe. For God, indeed, raised this Jesus of Nazareth from the dead!

And then, Peter further supports the resurrection of Jesus Christ, by revealing its OT, prophetic prediction, given in Psalm 16. [Read verses 25-28]

Peter shows that what David was saying in Psalm 16, could not have applied to David, whose body did indeed suffer corruption. In fact, his tomb was there up to the present day. [Read verse 29; Jonah ex.]

Therefore, David had to be speaking about someone else! Indeed, he was speaking prophetically of the resurrection of Christ! And Peter, along with the eleven, who were standing by his side, have witnessed the fulfillment of this prophecy, in Christ, the fruit of David's body, who would be raised unto His eternal throne forever! [Read verses 30-32]

And then Peter brings it home, full circle, by showing how Christ's resurrection has led to the very phenomenons, which are being witnessed on this very occasion. [Read verse 33]. Having conquered death, and having been exalted to the right hand of God [having ascended to heaven in the very presence of the disciples of the Lord], *He* received the promise of the Holy Spirit, and He, being alive, well and reigning, poured out that which He has received, before your very eyes. Indeed, what

you see, is a testimony of the risen and reigning Christ, who is doing what you presently witness!

And then Peter, turns their attention once more to the OT Scriptures; another prophecy, proclaimed by David, speaking of the ascended and reigning glory of Christ! [Read verses 34-35]

Who is David speaking about? David never ascended into heaven to reign alongside of God until his enemies were made his footstool. This speaks of David's God [YHWH] speaking to David's *Lord [Adonai]*. This speaks of the resurrected Christ, who, having ascended to the right hand of the Father, reigns until the Day of Judgment. This speaks of the risen and ascended Jesus, who was both David's Son and Lord.

And then, finally, Peter, sums up the matter, by calling for an active response to what is taking place. He has linked the events of Pentecost to the OT Scriptures; He has proven the dawning of a New Covenant age in Christ, where all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved [in accordance with Joel's prophecy]; he has confirmed the relevance of all of these things, to the Gospel of the risen, ascended and reigning Christ, and now he calls for the proper response. He brings the relevance of these things right to their own hearts and consciences. [Read verse 36]. You have committed a heinous crime in crucifying the Messiah, but God has used your wicked actions to bring about the very exaltation and enthronement of this Jesus! "What then do we do, Peter! We are undone! We have committed a gross and atrocious wrong!" [Read verses 37-39].

"Repent now, and be baptized in the name of this Jesus for the remission of all of your sins; and you will receive this blessed gift of the Holy Spirit; He will likewise be poured out on you. And this gracious promise is not only for you, but for your children as well, and for as many who are far off; indeed for all who believe, from all nations...as many as the Lord, our God will effectually call." [Again, see Joel's prophecy, verse 21]

II. Conclusive Thoughts

1: The blessed privilege of having the Holy Spirit poured out on us! We are all gifted. Are we using our gifts? Romans 12:1-8 [Active response to so wonderful a salvation!]

2: Are we witnesses unto Christ and His resurrection? Amen!!!