

## JOEL AND THE WRONG INTERPRETATION

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Joel 2 28-29 reads

It shall be that afterwards I will pour out on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Also upon your manservants and maidservants in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

Elim and other Pentecostal and charismatic meetings believe and assert that this prophecy refers to them and justifies their doctrines including their speaking in tongues, prophesying and women taking audible part in meetings and worship.

What they fail to realise is that this prophecy was addressed exclusively to Jews and that the outpouring of blessing was to be on ALL flesh not just Pentecostals and charismatics some of whom claim that only they have the full gospel and therefore are superior. However there are some who believe that all flesh refers to more than just the Jews.

The prophet is solely concerned with the southern kingdom of Judah. Nowhere is this more clear than in chapter two of Joel's prophecy

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion that is to say Jerusalem (verse 1)

The Lord is with His army (verse 11) Chapter 1 verse 6 talks of a nation that has invaded the land of His people

The Lord will have pity on His people, the Jews (verse 18) and calls them to repentance (verse 13).

The Lord will restore His people to prosperity (2. 23ff) and after this God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh and that means all Jews (verse 28). The great outpouring of the Spirit, to which Joel refers, is upon the nation of Israel (Ezekiel 39.29). God's people remain the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2. 8)

Wonders will be shown in the heavens (verse 30) including the moon being turned to blood, Verse 10 talks of the earth shaking and even the heavens trembling and the sun and stars becoming dark. Surely this refers to the last days, often called the day of the Lord, as indicated in Revelation in 6.12. Revelation 19 tells us of the Lord going forth to war with His army and Revelation chapter 20 verse 2 talks of Satan being bound for a millennium and speaks of the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth in Jerusalem among His people. All this ties up with Joel chapter 2. Consider also Jude 14 and 15.

As Satan will be bound for a thousand years there will be a millennium of peace. Isaiah 11.6ff also refers to the peace in the animal kingdom

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatlings together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed together; their young ones shall lie down together and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

There has never been a time like this but there will be in the millennium.

It is frequently claimed that the apostle Peter said that the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2.16 ff.) but the accompanying details which Peter quote were not, of course, fulfilled at Pentecost. The last days were not at Pentecost, The sun and moon were not

darkened nor the moon turned to blood or the wonders in the heavens of blood, fire and vapours of smoke. The things would happen before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

Christendom is full of people who wrongly interpret parts of the Bible. They may be sincere but are sometimes sincerely wrong. It may not be our place to correct them but simply to explain what is evidenced as the true interpretation.

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