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PETER'S EXPLANATION OF THE PHENOMENON CALLED PENTECOST

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS
NUMBER 7
ACTS 2:14-21

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ACTS 2:14-21 "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. 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: 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 that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." In this message let us try to discover the explanation of this rather difficult Scripture. Great crowds gathered in Jerusalem because they heard a gigantic noise, like a great explosion. Then they heard the Gospel spoken in many languages. Not understanding all this, they accused the disciples of being drunk. Peter stood up to refute the drunkenness charge. Evidently, Simon Peter had a tremendous voice, and there was such a throng present he had to shout to be heard. This is the meaning of "lifted up his voice". He said, "Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell (temporarily) at Jerusalem". The throng was there for the Passover. These visiting Jews are pilgrims, far from home, and they no longer spoke their native language. Peter said, "Be this known unto you". A better translation is "Now get this straight". How could a humble fisherman speak like this and get their attention? Two reasons:

1. He had the gift of apostleship.
2. Jesus had taught him many things about doctrine.

Simon Peter was straight on this subject of speaking in tongues. Anyone who is mixed up with the tongues passages and is involved in this movement today is blasphemous and contrary to the Word of God.

ACTS 2:15 "For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day." Peter says the 120 are not drunken, as ye suppose (yours is a snap judgment). His explanation is two-fold.

1. His first reason is based on common sense.
2. His second reason is based on Bible doctrine.

Let us remember that common sense and doctrine are never opposed to each other. Common sense and the Bible never conflict. Peter is going to quote from Joel 2:28-32. But in one quick sentence he gives a common sense explanation. Peter says that the 120 are not drunk for it is only nine o'clock in the morning and people, even if they were in the habit of getting drunk, wouldn't be drunk at nine in the morning. In the whole Roman world, if people got drunk, they got drunk at night. That was their time to get drunk. (Note--No one but some stupid American would get drunk at nine in the morning. This is my note--it is not in the Scripture.)

Simon Peter says, "This is that". He doesn't mean that what is happening at Pentecost is a fulfillment of this Joel passage. He is simply saying that this happening at Pentecost is similar to that which Joel prophesied. The Joel passage will not be fulfilled until Christ's second coming. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues came at Pentecost, and these two events are entirely distinct and separate. The Scripture actually says, "This illustrates that". This is the Church Age, that is the Age of Christ at the beginning of the Millennium. This event here at Pentecost parallels that which will come in the Millennium.

Seven Points On How This Quotation Is Used

1. Simon Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32
2. The happenings of Pentecost did not fulfill Joel 2:28-32. Simon Peter used it as an illustration to refute their accusation that the 120 were drunk.
3. The 120 are actually using the gift of tongues in the power of the spirit and can no more be charged with drunkenness than those referred to in Joel 2.
4. The Joel 2 passage cannot be confused with what happened at Pentecost. This phenomenon, the gift of tongues, is for just the first few years of the Church Age--32 A.D. to 70 A.D.
5. Simon Peter does not say Pentecost fulfills the Joel 2 passage--it is just a parallel experience. One is like the other.
6. The Joel 2 passage could not be fulfilled at this time because of the Doctrine of "The Mystery". "The Mystery" is declared in Eph. 3:1-6, Col. 1:25-26, and Romans 16:25-26. The Doctrine of "The Mystery" simply says that beginning with Pentecost and ending with the end of the Church Age, the spread of the Gospel is to be taken from Jewish hands and placed in the hands of the Gentiles. None of these things were explained in the Old Testament, and Joel is in the Old Testament. Joel is not prophesying something that will happen in the Church Age, but something that will happen at the end of the Church Age and at the beginning of the Age of Christ.
7. The Joel passage refers to spirit filled believers of the Millennium only.

Simon Peter is simply saying this--the Joel passage illustrates but was not fulfilled at Pentecost. What you see here at Pentecost is not drunkenness, but it is a spiritual phenomenon. Remember this principle--every time an Old Testament passage is quoted in the New Testament it is not always an interpretation, but often an illustration. Here, it illustrates a parallel phenomenon.

ACTS 2:17 "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:" "It shall come to pass" refers to the Millennium when Christ will come again and rule for 1,000 years.

"I will pour out my Spirit" refers to the 2nd Advent of the Holy Spirit. Notice that the Holy Spirit is to be poured out on three groups--

1. Sons and daughters. In other words, sex is no distinction. No difference here between male and female. Please remember that this was quite a startling thing to say back in those days, for at that time women were considered quite inferior to men.
2. Both youth and age were included--so there was no age distinction.
3. Then there was no social distinction--both servants and free were included. These groups are said to do three things--prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams. Two of these are ecstasies.

VISIONS AND DREAMS

1. These two refer to ecstasies.
2. Spirituality in the Millennium will be characterized by ecstasies, but not the Church Age.
3. During the Church Age Christ is absent, and therefore ecstasies could be very dangerous to the believer. In 2 Cor. 6:11-12 and Romans 16:17-18 the Christians are warned to avoid the emotional, ecstatic crowd.

4. While Christ is absent from the earth, the believer is Christ's ambassador, and must produce the very character of Christ. This is only possible through the filling of the spirit. It is not to produce ecstasies. The fruit of the spirit in us is the character of Christ.
5. In the Millennium, the production of the character of Christ is not the issue, for Christ is present. So the ministry of the spirit in the Millennium is the appreciation of Christ, the Christ who is present. So in the Age of Christ, the filling of the spirit produces ecstasies.
6. Feeling, emotion, ecstasies is never the criterion for salvation or spirituality.

ACTS 2:18 "And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy." This is an explanation of what will happen immediately after Christ's second coming.

ACTS 2:19 "And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke." This verse explains what will happen just before the second coming of Christ.

ACTS 2:20 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come." This verse explains what will happen on the very day of Christ's second coming.

Look What Will Happen On The Day Of Christ's Second Coming

1. The day of Christ's second coming will be a day of darkness. No sun, no moon, no stars. Christ will be the light of the world.
2. The day of Christ's second coming will be characterized by supernatural darkness. Every eye shall see him. The only light in the universe will be Christ, and he will light the universe without sun, moon, or stars.
3. The darkness at the second coming will be similar to the darkness that surrounded Christ the last three hours of his crucifixion. The darkness that surrounded Christ while he was bearing our sins completely hid him from view.
1 PETER 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." No one saw him do it. At twelve noon, Calvary was covered with complete darkness. They heard him scream, but did not see him. It was a supernatural darkness, devoid of all light. Just as no one saw him as he was bearing the load of our sins, so every eye shall see him when he returns.
4. The darkness of the day of his second coming is designed to focus attention on Christ.
5. In addition to the focus of the attention of the world on Christ, the darkness is also designed to protect the Jews in Jerusalem by the King of the North.

DANIEL 11:44-45 "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

ZECHARIAH 12:2, 14:1-4 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem." "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city."

"Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." The Jews are in danger of being annihilated, but darkness delivers them. The darkness is to protect these Jews from Satanic wrath.

6. This darkness is described in these passages.

ISAIAH 13:9-10 "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine."

EZEKIEL 32:7-8 "And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord God."

JOEL 2:10-11, 3:15 "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" "The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining."

AMOS 5:18 "Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light."

ZECHARIAH 14:6 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark."

MATTHEW 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

LUKE 21:25-27 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

MARK 13:24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light."

REV. 6:12 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;"

Isn't it amazing how all these passages describe in detail this darkness that comes at the time of his second coming.

ACTS 2:21 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." This passage says deliverance will come. It is a logical future. It is logical that Christ wanted to save the whole world. Our sins were poured out upon him. He bore our sins and God the Father judged our sins.

Here we see unlimited atonement.

2 COR. 5:14, 15, and 19 "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

1 TIMOTHY 2:6, 4:10 "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."
"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

TITUS 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men"

2 PETER 2:1 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

HEBREWS 2:9 "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

1 JOHN 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." This verse simply means this--in the point of time when you call on Christ, and remember calling is a non-meritorious experience, you are delivered from sin. All you can do is to exhibit a positive volition and Christ does all the rest.