

Acts 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

In the last days (ἐν ταῖς ἐσχάταις ἡμέραις)—Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32, interpreting Pentecost as inaugurating the eschatological age. The 'last days' span from Christ's first coming to his return, an extended epoch of Spirit outpouring. **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh** signals democratization of the Spirit's presence—no longer limited to prophets, priests, and kings, but available to all believers regardless of age, gender, or status. **Your sons and daughters shall prophesy** fulfills Numbers 11:29's longing that 'all the LORD's people were prophets.' The Spirit's distribution enables corporate priesthood and universal witness.

Historical Context

Joel prophesied during a locust plague in Judah (9th century BC), promising restoration and ultimate blessing. Peter applies this to the church age, indicating Old Testament prophecies of the 'Day of the Lord' have near and far fulfillments. The Joel passage originally addressed Israel; Peter expands its application universally.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does living in the 'last days' affect your urgency about spiritual priorities?
2. What does universal Spirit-availability mean for church structure and all-believer ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔσται ἐν ταῖς ἐσχάταις ἡμέραις λέγει ὁ
And it shall come to pass in the last days saith
G2532 G2071 G1722 G3588 G2078 G2250 G3004 G3588

θεός ἐκχεῶ ἀπὸ τοῦ πνεύματός μου ἐπὶ πᾶσαν
God I will pour out of Spirit my upon all
G2316 G1632 G575 G3588 G4151 G3450 G1909 G3956

σάρκα καὶ προφητεύσουσιν οἱ υἱοὶ ὑμῶν καὶ αἱ
flesh And shall prophesy sons your And
G4561 G2532 G4395 G3588 G5207 G5216 G2532 G3588

θυγατέρες ὑμῶν καὶ οἱ νεανίσκοι ὑμῶν ὁράσεις
daughters your And young men your visions
G2364 G5216 G2532 G3588 G3495 G5216 G3706

ὄψονται καὶ οἱ πρεσβύτεροι ὑμῶν ἐνυπνία
shall see And old men your shall dream
G3700 G2532 G3588 G4245 G5216 G1798

ἐνυπνιασθήσονται·
dreams
G1797

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 44:3 (Spirit): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Acts 10:45 (Spirit): And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

John 7:39 (Spirit): (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Zechariah 12:10 (Spirit): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Ezekiel 11:19 (Spirit): And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Hebrews 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

1 Corinthians 12:28 (Prophecy): And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Luke 3:6 (References God): And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Isaiah 66:23 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Acts 21:9 (Prophecy): And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

