

Acts 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Analysis

Joel's prophecy of the Spirit poured on 'servants' and 'handmaidens' demonstrates the New Covenant's radical egalitarianism - social status cannot limit the Spirit's distribution. The Greek 'doulois' (slaves) and 'doulais' (female slaves) shows that the lowest social classes receive the same Spirit as apostles and prophets. This contradicts worldly hierarchy, where power flows downward; in God's economy, the Spirit descends equally on all believers regardless of race, class, or gender.

Historical Context

In first-century Rome, slaves comprised up to 30% of the population, legally considered property without rights. Jewish society, while more humane, still maintained clear social stratification. That the Spirit would fall on slaves and female slaves shocked contemporary sensibilities, demonstrating the gospel's social revolutionary power.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Spirit's equal distribution challenge worldly systems of privilege and hierarchy?
2. In what ways might you be limiting the Spirit's work based on cultural expectations rather than biblical truth?

Interlinear Text

καὶ γε ἐπὶ τοὺς δούλους μου καὶ ἐπὶ τὰς δούλας
And G1065 on G3588 servants my And G2532 on G3588 handmaidens
G2532 G1909 G1401 G3450 G2532 G1909 G1399

μου ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις ἐκχεῶ ἀπὸ τοῦ
my in G3588 days those I will pour out of G3588
G3450 G1722 G2250 G1565 G1632 G575

πνεύματός μου καὶ προφητεύσουσιν
Spirit my And they shall prophesy
G4151 G3450 G2532 G4395

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Galatians 3:28 (Parallel theme): There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.