

Acts 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

Analysis

Joel's 'wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath' encompass both cosmic upheaval and earthly testimony to God's judgment and salvation. The imagery of 'blood, fire, and vapor of smoke' evokes both Sinai's theophany and eschatological judgment. Peter applies this to the 'last days' inaugurated at Pentecost, suggesting the entire church age exists under these signs' shadow, awaiting final fulfillment at Christ's return.

Historical Context

Similar apocalyptic imagery appears in Exodus 19 (Sinai), Ezekiel 38-39 (Gog and Magog), and Revelation 6-8 (seal judgments). These cosmic disturbances signal transition between ages - from law to grace at Pentecost, from grace to glory at the Parousia. Ancient Near Eastern peoples understood celestial phenomena as divine communication.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How should awareness of living in the 'last days' affect your priorities and urgency in gospel ministry?
2. What does cosmic upheaval accompanying salvation history teach about God's lordship over all creation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ δώσω τέρατα ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἀνω καὶ σημεῖα
And I will shew wonders in heaven above And signs
G2532 G1325 G5059 G1722 G3588 G3772 G507 G2532 G4592

ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς κάτω αἷμα καὶ πῦρ καὶ ἀτμίδα
in the earth beneath blood And fire And vapour
G1909 G1093 G2736 G129 G2532 G4442 G2532 G822

καπνοῦ·

of smoke

G2586

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