

Acts 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Analysis

Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved—Peter concludes Joel's prophecy with the gospel promise. The Greek 'epikalēsetai' (call upon) implies more than verbal invocation—it denotes dependence, trust, and covenant relationship. **The name of the Lord** in Joel's context meant Yahweh; Peter applies it to Jesus (see v.36), equating Christ with Israel's covenant God. This inclusive 'whosoever' (πᾶς ὅς ἄν) removes ethnic barriers—salvation is now offered to all who respond in faith. Paul later quotes this verse (Romans 10:13) as his gospel summary.

Historical Context

This proclamation came in Peter's first Christian sermon, hours after Pentecost's phenomena. The crowd included Jews and proselytes from throughout the Mediterranean world. Peter was redefining 'calling on the name' to mean invoking Jesus as Lord—a radical claim that would lead to accusations of blasphemy.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does 'calling on the name of the Lord' involve beyond verbal prayer?
2. How does applying Joel's 'LORD' (Yahweh) to Jesus establish Christ's divinity?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔσται	πᾶς	ὅς	ἄν	ἐπικαλέσηται	τὸ
And	it shall come to pass	G3956	that whosoever	G302	shall call on	G3588
G2532	G2071		G3739		G1941	
ὄνομα	κυρίου	σωθήσεται				
the name	of the Lord	shall be saved				
G3686	G2962	G4982				

Additional Cross-References

Joel 2:32 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Psalms 86:5 (References Lord): For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Acts 22:16 (References Lord): And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Hebrews 4:16 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (References Lord): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 9:15 (References Lord): But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

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