

120 Believers have just been born again by the Holy Spirit; they are speaking in other tongues while some, who are hearing, have accused them of being drunk; Peter continues:

**Acts 2:16** *'But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; <sup>17</sup> 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: <sup>18</sup> And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: <sup>19</sup> And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*

Peter is quoting from the Old Testament Prophet, Joel; when he says, 'This is that,' he doesn't mean, 'This is all of that,' but, rather, 'This is *the beginning of that.*' He's saying that what they're seeing is the beginning of the fulfillment of that prophecy; 'In the Last Days, I will pour out of My Spirit!' What just happened? *'...suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.'* 'I will pour out **of** My Spirit!' God didn't say, 'I will pour out My Spirit,' as if now, finally, His Spirit was coming into the World where He'd not been... He said, 'I will pour out **OF** my Spirit;' God's Holy Spirit has always been everywhere... He is God! His Holy Spirit has always been in all places for all time, out to the farthest reaches of God's Universe and then, even far, far beyond.

Instead, what happened on this Day of Pentecost is that He came in a personal way to fill every member of the new Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has always been in the World, holding back evil and will continue to do so until the moment His restraining work is removed when the True Church is taken up in the Rapture. He restrains evil through the True Church; Jesus said that we are the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth; through us, He holds back the darkness and rot of the kingdom of darkness. This is one more reason why He, and we, are so hated by the World.

However, this Prophecy from Joel has a wider but more specific application for the Jews and Gentiles who will come to faith during the Tribulation years; Joel's prophecy reflects the things they'll see happening during the Tribulation: *'And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'* These things didn't happen on that Day of Pentecost or yet. These are some of the things which Jesus told His disciples would occur during the Tribulation, before His final coming to Earth, at Armageddon, *'the great and notable day of the Lord.'* Joel 2:19

If we were to have watched Hollywood's movies from the recent past, we'd've seen that so many of them contain references to 'Armageddon, the End of Days, End of the World, Earth as a vast wasteland...' The millions who do watch these movies and television, who read the novels, they're being prepared, desensitized so as to believe that the Truth of what is really coming becomes, to them, merely the fictions of Hollywood. This has been purposely done so as to render our warnings, and witnessing, meaningless and unfruitful.

But the Truth remains: when life in the World is more like hell on Earth: *'... it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'* This is why we must continue in our efforts to preach the Gospel; God's greatest harvest of souls will be during that terrible 7 years of the Tribulation, after we're gone. Our command is to *'occupy till He comes, always watching for His appearing in the clouds;'*

*'But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.'* 2Tim 4:5 Paul wrote that to Timothy, the young pastor of the Church at Ephesus; he may have still been there when John received *The Revelation* 30 years later, in c AD 92-3; 'tradition' says that Timothy died in AD 97. At

that late date, the Ephesus Church was still doing pretty well, the best of all the 7 churches, except Philadelphia, but what Jesus told John to write to the Church at Ephesus does show us that it, too, was beginning to slip: *'Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works...'* Rev 2:4 'I Am to be your first love.'

**Verse 22:** *'Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:'*

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ was delivered up for crucifixion according to God's will and plan but that excuses no one. Peter is saying, 'You all knew; you all participated; none of you is innocent, your hearts and hands are instruments of wickedness!'

**Verse 24:** *'Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.'*

He alone is Righteous and Holy; God raised Him from death because it was impossible for death to hold Him. When Adam sinned, all Creation came under God's curse; everything dies, but even in their fallen, cursed state, all living things retain their God-given processes of reproduction. Lions beget lions, humans beget humans, butterflies beget butterflies, artichokes beget artichokes; all things die, but all living things continue through reproduction. Every human, in their sinful state, is bound to die the death of eternal destruction in the Lake of Fire; but, all those whom God did choose for Himself, to beget to Himself, through His Holy Spirit from before the foundation of the World, will live forever in pure love, joy and peace. Our physical bodies will die if the Rapture is delayed but only our physical bodies are subject to death and decay; our souls and spirits will never die because we have been redeemed and born again by the Holy Spirit, through the Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, on the Cross, and we've been remade as New Creations; we are the Righteousness of God in Him: *'For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.'* 2 Cor 5:21

Our Blessed Hope is that His coming for us is very soon, that we will escape the pains of physical death and, instead, be given eternal, glorified bodies like Jesus Christ's own Body but even if we do die, physically, we will all receive glorified, eternal bodies, at the Rapture: bodies in which we will live with Him forever.

*'Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.'* 1 John 3:2

**Verse 25:** *'For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:'*

Peter is quoting from Psalm 16:8-11; this is one of David's Messianic prophecies; The Messiah is prophetically writing through David. This, and others, are the source of confidence which Jesus had leading to, and while enduring, His crucifixion. He knew that God's Word was sure and true; He would rise again on the third day.

*'I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. <sup>10</sup> For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. <sup>11</sup> Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.'* Psalm 16:8

The Lord Jesus Christ knew all of God's Word; He is the Word of God; He spoke all things into existence. He knew what was coming at the end of His short, Earthly life; He knew, from Daniel 9 that He would be killed for the sins of others, even though He had never sinned but here is something He may not have clearly understood in His 'humanness,' but it began to 'dawn' on Him as He prayed in the Garden, sweating great drops of His Precious Blood: He had said, 'All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,' and, I know My sheep and My sheep hear My Voice; I lay down My life for the sheep.' (Not for the goats, by the way...) All of us, His sheep... all of our sin was going to be piled upon Him; in fact, His Body of Flesh was to be inundated with our

sin, so causing the Father to actually turn away from Him, His Heavenly Father with Whom He had always lived in perfect fellowship and harmony. Physical pain was one thing, something He was willing to endure for us but to actually become sin in our place... that, to Him, I believe, was the true horror of what He was willing to do for us!! His Father made Him to be sin! That is something that is truly beyond my ability to understand: He was, at that moment... sin! and God, the Father, cannot even look on sin and evil:

*'Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:'* Hab 1:13

*'For he hath **made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.'* 2Cor 5:21

... and that we would, by God's marvelous Grace and Mercy, be remade, at the instant of our Salvation, into the absolute Righteousness of God!! That, too, is far beyond my understanding.

Peter continues quoting Psalm 16:

**Verse 26:** *'Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.'*

Hell is not the best translation here; Luke used the Greek word, ades/haw'dace but David used the Hebrew word: sheol/sheh-ole'. David did not go to hell; he went to sheol, the place of the dead, to Paradise, the good and pleasant side. That is where Jesus went and from there He took the righteous dead from Adam's time until His Resurrection, back with Him, to Heaven.

Remember, until His Resurrection, there was no Church; no one was born again, no one went directly to Heaven; they went to Paradise, the good and pleasant side of sheol, the place of the dead. Peter continues:

**Verse 29:** *'Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.'* David's physical body is still dead and in the grave.

Peter's point is that 'David did not rise from the dead... Jesus did and we all are eye witnesses!'

**Verse 30:** *'Therefore being a prophet, (David) and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; <sup>31</sup> He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell/sheol, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.'*

'God did raise Jesus from the dead; we all saw Him, we walked with Him, talked with Him and we ate with Him for more than 40 days! You'd be a fool to think that we've all conspired, together, to lie to you and the World!' ... and the same has been true for nearly 2000 years of all who refuse to believe compelling eye-witness testimony from so many people who have died rather than deny the Truth. They are willingly blind and intellectually dishonest. Any honest person wanting to know real Truth, can clearly see how the Bible is filled with fulfilled prophecy which fully proves that prophecy yet to be fulfilled will be so, also, to the letter but, sadly, all they see and hear of God's Word is, to them, foolishness and noise. The reality is that those whom God did not choose and elect for Himself, before the foundation of the World, are kept in bondage to sin and fear of death; they are spiritually dead and incapable of seeing Light or hearing Truth. The only hope for any person is that God Himself will open their eyes and ears to His Light and Truth.

**Verse 33:** *'Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, <sup>35</sup> Until I make thy foes thy footstool.'*

The Holy Spirit is inspiring Peter to illustrate the vast difference between the high exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ and even King David, the highest historical saint these, his Jewish audience can imagine; Jesus has ascended to the highest heights; He has been exalted to the throne at the Right Hand of God, the Father.

Jesus is now sitting at the Right Hand of the Father, always interceding for us. Soon, He will leave His Throne, come down as far as the clouds and call us up to Himself in the Rapture. Seven years later, He will return to

Earth; we will accompany Him and then, at Armageddon, all His enemies will be made His footstool as He destroys them all; He will rule and reign for 1000 years as the King of kings and Lord of lords as we, His Body and Bride, rule and reign with Him, first for that 1000 years and then forever in His new Heaven and Earth.

Peter is saying that David's body, his physical body, remains in the grave; Jesus Christ's physical Body was in the grave only until the third day when He was miraculously raised up again to life eternal, never to die again.

**Verse 36:** *'Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.'*

'Just 50 days ago, you all crucified Him; know assuredly: God does not forget and He does not forgive except for those who come to Him in repentance and faith in this same Jesus whom you murdered!

**Verse 37:** *'Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?'*

Yes... I'll bet they were pricked in their hearts... 'what shall we do?' Fortunately for you... God is the God of Love, Grace, Mercy and Forgiveness poured out on all who come in repentance through faith in His Son...

**Verse 38:** *'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.'*

Just that simple and easy: faith and repentance, Grace and Forgiveness and yet, then, as today, the very simplicity and ease is what so many trip and fall over; they resist and rebel; 'It's too easy... there must be more... it must take some effort on my part... there must be something I can do in order to deserve forgiveness; there must be some required good work to make me good enough... I won't accept what I haven't worked for and earned by my own doing. I know! I'll teach that you must be baptized to be saved!!!'

Hell will fill with those who cry out: *'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?'* didn't I get baptized in thy name? 'I don't need faith! I have so many good works!' Just look and You'll see... You've made a serious mistake... I don't deserve to be down here!'

We know, from all Paul's writing, that our Salvation, our election, our faith, our repentance, our security in Him... every aspect of our Salvation is all God's Work from before its beginning throughout all Eternity; God, and God alone, deserves all the thanks, glory and praise with none to ourselves.

*'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.'* Eph 2:8

Some groups take this verse, Acts 2:28, to prove that baptism is a necessary work for Salvation. If that were true, then some work on my part will have been a necessary work toward my Salvation. Either our Salvation is by God's Grace through our faith which is, itself, the gift of God, or our Salvation is by our works; it can't be both for if any work must be added to Grace then it is no Grace at all; that is the difference between the true Gospel of God's Grace and the false gospels of the many and various cults.

This is an example of Scripture that is clear being necessary to help with the understanding of a verse which is less clear. Since the verses of Salvation by Grace alone are very clear then the meaning of this verse must, rather, mean: *'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ (because of) the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* You'll notice, Peter says, 'for the remission of sins,' not, 'for the remission of your sins' but, rather, because of the remission of all sins which happened once for all, on the Cross.

Our sins were either forgiven at the Cross or we carry them until baptism but If we supposedly carry them until baptism, then we carry them to the grave and on till the Lake of Fire. Either Jesus did all the work for us or none of His work was for us.