

# O Peter, Who Art Thou?

Last week we ended with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It certainly caused a stir:

**Acts 2:12-13 NKJV** So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" **(13)** Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

**(Acts 2:14 NKJV)** But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, **let this be known to you, and heed my words.**

Peter, who a short while ago, was cowering at the words of a maidservant and denying His LORD and Savior, now stands up, and speaks loudly and even states "listen to my words". He and the others standing with him cannot let the last comment go unchallenged!

**(Acts 2:15 NKJV)** For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day.

This is a strange retort: Of course they're not drunk. It's only 9 o'clock in the morning! How many have known someone who would begin much earlier than that?

But, remember, this is Israel and the Rabbi's taught that no one is to drink or eat before 10 AM. This is tied to the start of the daily sacrifices but I don't believe it is scriptural – but rather one of the "traditions of the fathers".

**(Acts 2:16 NKJV)** But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Peter corrects them and quotes from the Prophecy Joel.

Joel 2:28-32.

**(Acts 2:17 NKJV)** 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS. **(18)** AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY. **(19)** I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH: BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.**(20)** THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND AWESOME DAY OF THE LORD. **(21)** AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.'

But, there's a problem here. The prophecy concerns Israel as a nation. Across all strata of Jewish society, God is going to pour out his Spirit such that all Jewish people, not just the religion leaders, will prophesy. Peter says "in the last days". So, is Peter misapplying this prophecy to the events of the day? Many of the New Covenant times believed that Jesus' return was going to be very soon. Perhaps Peter did too. But that would have been in error since none of the physical manifestations he describes took place.

And this has caused issues for the past couple of centuries, especially with Replacement Theology, Covenant Theology and Preterism, all of which are heretical views that dismiss Israel from all blessings and importance because of their rejection of Messiah.

But there's a solution. It has to do with the how Jewish writers of the New Covenant Scriptures quote the Old Covenant Scriptures. In this case, Peter is quoting Joel and as with other NC Jewish writers, is giving a new application of the OCS without denying what the prophet Joel said happened or will happen in the future.

An example will be helpful (I hope). This comes from Arnold Fruchtenbaum, David L Cooper and Emil Schurer who all have written about the New Covenant Scriptures from a Jewish perspective.

Jewish writers would interpret the OCS in light of NCS fulfillment in one of 4 ways. I'm going to show 2 ways because it gets confusing really fast....

1. A OCS prophesy literally fulfilled in the NCS.
  - a. Isaiah 61:1-3 'the Spirit of the LORD is upon me...' was read by Jesus in the synagogue and He concluded "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". Luke 4:21.
2. A literal fulfillment in the NCS of an application from the OCS. In other words, the author or speaker is making a new application (new interpretation) of a OCS prophesy.
  - a. Matthew 2:17-18 which quotes Jeremiah 31:15
    - i. [Jeremiah 31:15](#) Thus says the LORD: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation *and* bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they *are* no more."
    - ii. [Matthew 2:17-18 NKJV](#) Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: (18) "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, LAMENTATION, WEEPING, AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN, REFUSING TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY ARE NO MORE."
    - iii. The first had was written to describe what happened as the sons of those in Ramah were carted off to Babylon; In the second, Matthew is noting how the killing of all male children under the age of 2 is similar and therefore a new application of the OCS verse.
    - iv. This is considered a valid application even though the prior event already occurred or was a fulfillment of an older prophesy.
    - v. The New Testament cannot change or reinterpret what this verse means in that context, nor does it try to do so. In this category, there is a New Testament event that has one point of similarity with the Old Testament event.
    - vi. Peter's only point is showing a similarity of what was prophesized for the End-Time Days and what occurred on this day.

[\(Acts 2:22 NKJV\)](#) "**Men of Israel, hear these words:** Jesus of Nazareth, **a Man attested by God** to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, **as you yourselves also know—(23)** Him, being **delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; **(24)** whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Several thoughts:

1. Peter states that all of the things that Jesus did, were known to all present since most have been staying in Jerusalem for this Feast day as well as the 3 prior ones.
2. While the crucifixion was “aided and abetted” by men, the plan was God’s will and certainly not an afterthought or a Plan B – waiting for men to act.
3. Those who “aided and abetted” in the crucifixion of Jesus were not excused from their sin committed by their own free will. Many have complained that Judas got a raw deal because he was doing what God had fore-ordained. NOT!!!! He was NOT compelled by God “determined purpose” but acted in accordance with his own free-will. This goes for the Jewish and Roman leadership, as well as the crowds who shouted “Crucify Him”!
4. Jesus is referred to as “A Man”. The God-Man is a mystery that will only be settled in heaven!

(Acts 2:25 NKJV) For David says concerning Him: 'I FORESAW THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE MY FACE, FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, THAT I MAY NOT BE SHAKEN. (26) THEREFORE MY HEART REJOICED, AND MY TONGUE WAS GLAD; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL REST IN HOPE. (27) FOR YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN HADES, NOR WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION. (28) YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE.'

This passage comes from Psalm 16:8-11, long considered one of the Messianic Psalms. While verses 25 and 26 are written by David about his own experience, it has been also considered the thoughts and summary of words spoken of Messiah Jesus. Had He not had His Father face before Him at all times while living here? Didn't Jesus know that His flesh would rest in HOPE! Verses 27 and 28 are speaking of Messiah only! And so, Peter continues:

(Acts 2:29 NKJV) "Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (30) Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had **sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh**, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, (31) he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

If David was dead and buried, then truly, the verses he penned could not be about Himself!

(Acts 2:32 NKJV) This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

The “we here” are the apostles and others who stood with Peter.

(Acts 2:33 NKJV) Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

Jesus certainly kept His promise of the Holy Spirit’s coming to pour out His Spirit on the 120.

(Acts 2:34 NKJV) "For **David** did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, (35) TILL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL." '

David’s body is still in the grave, but Jesus’s body and soul and Spirit has ascended to heaven!

(Acts 2:36 NKJV) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made **this** Jesus, **whom you crucified**, both Lord and Christ."

Not "made" (as in 'created') but appointed or ordained to be a Man who was the LORD and CHRIST – and this was the plan from before the beginning that THIS JESUS was to be the Slain Lamb of God.  
(Revelation 13:8 NKJV)

(Acts 2:37 NKJV) Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

Those gathered there certainly understood what was said to them regarding their culpability in the Death of the Lord and Christ. And whatever they thought about these men before, they now addressed them as "Brothers".

And they were cut to the heart. They were convicted and possibly even felt hopeless! The Holy Spirit moved mightily in and thru Peter.

(Acts 2:38 NKJV) Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (40) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

Peter repeated what both John and Jesus said when they started their ministries:

STEP 1: **REPENT!**

STEP 2: be baptized in the Name of Jesus for the remission of sins, not of John's baptism of repentance

STEP 3: receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who is the Promise given to all who believe;

In verse 39 the phrase "and far off" is not physical distance but rather time. The promise is made for everyone, from this time forth.

(Acts 2:41 NKJV) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Some have tried to compare this with the 3000 that were killed after the Golden-Calf-debacle in Exodus 32. Those who were killed then were somehow "replaced" by those who were saved...maybe, just maybe metaphorically...

One other remark: Luke doesn't say '3000 people', but rather '3000 souls', which some believe refers to a deeper acceptance and repentance of these new believers.

I read some long discussions on whether these were the **only** people added to the Body that day and whether they were all at the same place. Some believe that the apostles were preaching all around Jerusalem and that many came to Messiah that day, but this is conjecture.

Also, some believe that it would have been impractical to try to Baptize 3000 people at once. But there were many "mikvah's" built around the Temple for just this purpose.

A 'Mikvah' is a pool or large cistern used for ritual cleansings, for example, for women for their

monthly cycle or after childbirth.

A Pentecost-like event has been repeated many times. Guzik tells of the 1990 Summer Harvest Crusade where thousands were baptized in the ocean by Greg, Chuck and other pastors. There's a video of the event on GodTube.

[\(Acts 2:42 NKJV\)](#) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

This verse had been used by many churches as a vision statement: the church commits to:

1. Study the apostle's doctrine which is the Doctrine of Christ
2. Fellowship with one another
3. Breaking of bread which refers to communion rather than just eating together
4. Prayer

[\(Acts 2:43 NKJV\)](#) Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

With the power that was poured into the apostles, they were able to demonstrate the truth of what they believed via many signs and wonders.

[\(Acts 2:44 NKJV\)](#) Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, [\(45\)](#) and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. [\(46\)](#) So continuing daily with **one accord in the temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, [\(47\)](#) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

I remember hearing about how the believers embraced the ideas of communism or socialism because they shared all things in common. If this was a deliberate design for the new community of believers, it isn't supported by Scripture as a social strategy.

Some believe that this was, perhaps, a natural way of dealing with all the new believers who traveled from far-off and wanted to stay connected to their new fellow converts and the apostles. There was much to learn!

And with the prevailing anti-Jesus attitudes, it was even safer to stay together; and, most assuredly, the Jesus' commandments to love one another as He loved them was sufficient motivation share all that they had with each other.

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Acts Chapter 2 is filled with lessons for any church and for any believer. The problem I had was trying to put into words what happened that day 2000+ years ago. I started outlining what I read, describing the events and words spoken. It felt academic and perhaps even cold. I was trying to tell you why you should seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit; why it would be to your advantage to do so: that is, having power to perform miracles, signs and wonders; power to be witnesses of Jesus.

Nancy and I had a discussion about His Baptism. After much was said, it became apparent that there isn't a clear-cut explanation. For example, we know someone who absolutely does NOT believe in the Baptism. He's a good teacher/preacher, he's extremely enthusiastic, he is an evangelist. Being a believer, the Holy Spirit already resided in his heart. But, without judging his heart, there's something missing;

We talked about this more and the Holy Spirit revealed to Nancy, then me, that I was coming at this from the wrong direction. Like the Law and the Flood, I was thinking about how the Holy Spirit would benefit us; I was going to try to convince you to seek the Baptism if you have not done so. It was the difference between knowing **about** Jesus verses knowing Jesus.

So, once again, it's an inside-out experience.

We have talked at length about intimacy with Jesus, seeking His heart rather than seeking Him for what He can do for us. We talked about how praying is an act of intimacy where we draw close to Him with words of praise, worship and supplication. So too we should seek the Holy Spirit, not just for His Baptism but more so for Himself. And in our seeking, we realize (by revelation) that the more we submit to Him, the more we trust Him and we will turn over every dark corner of our heart, the more we submit our great understanding and intelligence, the more we submit our lives to Him, the more He trusts us with His power, His gifts and His fruit which will grow. The more we allow His living water to flow into our lives, the more we will be able to have those living waters flow out of our lives into the lives of others.

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."  
(John 4:10, 14)

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:37-38)

NOTHING that happened that day in Jerusalem was done by the apostles alone. It was the HOLY SPIRIT's doing. He fell upon a group of 120 people who were prepared by Promises made and Prayers offered up and therefore was received by them. The Holy Spirit didn't force Himself on any of them. They were not out of control; they were not drunk; they were filled and could not contain Him so they spoke out declaring the "wonderful works of God".

Peter's first sermon wasn't all that great. He defended their behavior of speaking in languages that they didn't know; He used Scripture to support his defense; He witnessed to Jesus's miracles, signs and wonders and especially His death at their hands and His resurrection at the hand of God! He supported that with Scripture as well.

But somehow, 3000 of them responded to this message. Why? The HOLY SPIRIT took the words of Peter, took the words of the Scriptures he quoted and empowered them to not just enter the minds of those listening, but to enter their hearts as well. Conviction and Truth fell upon them that day when they cried out "**Men and brethren, what shall we do?**" And the Holy Spirit responded to them with the very first words of Jesus and John the Baptizer: REPENT!

Beloved of God, the Holy Spirit is seeking you to have a relationship with Him. By God's grace you have the means of responding to Him. Run to Him as you ran to Jesus, as you ran to the Father when He wanted you to come to His Son. Pray; and Pray some more; Invite Him in and then submit to Him; All of you have been in very difficult places where either we trusted someone fully and they hurt us deeply; or worse, we were forced to submit to the abuse they poured on us like a tidal wave. Our GOD is NOT like us! The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit love us in ways we rarely understand or accept! But God carves a path from our brain to our heart and then waits for you so say "Come, Spirit of Christ and have Your Way with me...".