The Book of Acts

Acts 2:14-41

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost
Unveiling the New Covenant Era

Last Days

- The prophecy of *Joel 2:28-32* as referring to the New Covenant era which begins at Pentecost and ends at the 2nd Coming.
- The last days refers to that period of time between Pentecost and the 2nd Coming. *Hebrews 1:2, 2 Timothy 3:1, 1 Peter 1:20*

Context of Joel 2:28-32

- The context of *Joel 2:28-32* is speaking about what will happen to Israel after the Lord judges them. Peter's message speaks of Joel's prophecy as being fulfilled in the New Covenant era.
- The specific context is about the prophet Joel prophesying about a coming plague of locusts on the southern nation of Judah.
- The plague of locusts was God's judgment on Judah.
- After God judges Judah he says that he will restore them. It is this restoration that Peter refers to in his sermon at Pentecost.
- Once again we see that in the New Testament when a passage from the Old referring to the regathering of Israel back in the land after they are judged by the Lord is quoted in the new as being fulfilled, it is fulfilled not literally but spiritually in the church. *Jeremiah 31:23-40*

Teaching of Joel 2:28-32

- In the New Covenant era the gift of prophesy will be more widespread than it was in the Old Covenant era and this is an indication that the time of the Spirit or the time of belief has come. *Ephesians 2:20, John 1:17, Galatians 3:23-25*
- A time of the judgment of God is called the day of the Lord. *Joel 1:15*
- A recurring sign of the judgment of God are wonders in the sky above. These wonders do not seem to be literally fulfilled for they are repeated during times of God's judgment. *Joel 2:10, Joel 2:31, Joel 3:15*
- In Peter's sermon he speaks of God's blessing and his judgment. Both of these are experienced during the age of fulfillment. *1 Corinthians 10:11*
- The time of salvation begins at the beginning of this era while the time of judgment occurs at the end of this era. This whole era is described as the last days.
- Whether or not these wonders in the sky are literally fulfilled is something that we have to wait and see, but it should be noted that the cosmic disturbances that are described in the book of Revelation are the product of visions and therefore not literal.
- In the context of *Joel 2:28-32* God promises to save everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. This salvation would be a physical salvation.
- In the context of *Acts 2:21* this same promise is described as a spiritual salvation that is now available to all. *Acts 2:37-39*

Concluding Thoughts

- This is now the time for believing and this is the time of the working of the Spirit to bring into being a real people of God.
- Look for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ for you can be sure that during this era the Spirit is bringing to faith a great multitude of folks. *Revelation 5:9-10*