



#5 The First Christian Sermon – Part 1 Acts 2:14-21 (ESV)

PETER'S EXPLANATION OF PENTECOST

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

1. An Emphatic Denial 2:14-15

Common Cultural Narratives...

- Events of 2,000 years ago matter very little for our lives now.
- History is just moving along randomly; it is not “headed” anywhere in particular.
- If the Bible is true, then the God of Christianity must be a barbaric, racist, sexist misogynist.
- This idea Christians have that everyone will have to face a coming “judgment” by God is a laughable, archaic, outdated notion.
- “Salvation” – if such a thing even exists – should be understood in terms of individual achievement and self-actualization, not deliverance from divine judgment. That’s repugnant!

2. The Scriptural Explanation 2:16-21

WHAT PENTECOST MEANS

1. It Means That PROPHECY Has Been Fulfilled – 2:16-18

2. It Means That “THE LAST DAYS” Have Begun – 2:19-20

A. “The Last Days” is a span of time in God’s Grand Plan that was inaugurated generally with the first coming of Christ, and specifically when Christ sent His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

B. “The Last Days” Ends with a season of Supernatural Signs and Cosmic Wonders that signal to humanity that Christ is about to return and that “The Day of the Lord” judgment is drawing near.

... “Preterist” view

... “Futurist” view

... “Dual-Fulfillment” view

3. It Means That The Gospel Is Now Freely Offered, And The Risen And Ascended Jesus Will SAVE All Who Believe – 2:21

Acts 2:21 ‘And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.