

NOTES & COMMENTARY - THE BOOK OF ACTS:
October 14, 2012

CHAPTER 2 CONCLUSION:

THE VISITATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE UPPER ROOM!

Peter's Sermon - - Do not compare this with any sermon that we are familiar with.

R1: Joel 2-9 **For the day of the LORD is coming**, For it is at hand: **2** A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. **3** A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; **The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness;** Surely nothing shall escape them. **4** Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run. **5** With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array. **6** Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color. **[a]** **7** They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks. **8** They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. **[b]** Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down. **[c]** **9** They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, **They enter at the windows like a thief.**

R2- Joel: 2:10-11 The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. **11** The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong *is the One* who executes His word. For the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; Who can endure it?

The Day of the LORD – WHAT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD? Most people associate the day of the Lord with a period of time, a special future prophetic day that will occur when God's will and purpose for His world and for mankind will be fulfilled. Some scholars believe that the day of the Lord will be a longer period of time than a single day; as described in Revelation with the final trumpet and bowl judgments - other scholars believe the day of the Lord will be an instantaneous event. There are nineteen references to "The Day of the Lord" and perhaps 3 times that number called, "The Day" or "That Day." You may want to look at Daniel 9:24-27, the prophecy of the 70 Weeks which looks to the very end of the age. It provides a chronology and a checklist of events to complete the 'age.' We should be aware of this prophecy in particular - - especially those with an historic and mathematical bent.

R3 JOEL 2:28-32 **28** "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. **29** Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. **30** I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. **31** The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and *dreadful day of the LORD. (TERRIBLE, NOTABLE, AWESOME, & OTHER RENDERINGS.) **32** And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY: All prophecy is enigmatic and hard to fathom. (Why?) Prophecy is rarely in a linear-sequential form but rather made up of 'snap shots' a montage of events. Prophecy is comprised of a near (today and near term) and future fulfillment as in day of the Lord.)

A. The prophet Joel likewise, includes many passages that are not easy to grasp. The chronology is jumbled and not sequential. **Some passages address** Israel and Zion (Jerusalem) calling for fasting, and repentance, and seeking the Lord; **other passages address** the "*Day of the Lord*" that prophetic time of the Lord's return; **Another portion describes a great army; read JOEL 2:2-9** ****like Locusts** that render the land desolate in its advancing; this Locust army appears impervious to defenders. Then after supernatural signs in the heavens, we see the Lord of host martialling His army against them.

B. **WHEN THE SPIRIT IS POURED OUT** -- Upon all flesh (humanity). Men and women, bond and free, young and old. God is not one who shows favoritism. **** Revelation Ch.9. 5th Trumpet. The Locust army from the pit**

C. **9 SPIRITUAL GIFTS:** There are three knowledge gifts; Word of Wisdom; Word of Knowledge; Discerning Spirits; Three utterance gifts; Gift of Prophecy; Gift of Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues; Three power gifts; Working Miracles; Gift of Faith; Healing Gifts

D. Joel speaks of Spiritual Gifts in a broad sense: Dreams, Visions Word of Knowledge, Interpretation of tongues; Word of Wisdom. DREAMS. Not mere dreams but prophetic dreams and I believe there are other supernatural ministrations performed during sleep.

A Vital Church Grows

R 4- Acts 2:40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from **this perverse generation.**"

A. With the Spirit of truth having come, all of the disciples sense clearly that they are now unlike the world and the world system. (Just as Jesus said, you are not of the world even as I am not of the world.) This sense of being a person out of place or without a home prevails as to feeling alienated and sojourners in this world.

R 5-41 Then those who **gladly received his word were ***baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

A. Although the particulars of the baptism ceremony is not real clear. They have been told that part of this commission was to baptize all into Father, Son and Spirit. The mic-vah baths were a part of the existing temple facilities. Believers are baptized for the remission (removal of sin). Later Paul clarifies that it is a picture of being baptized in Christ's own crucifixion and death. (Romans 6:3)

B. Three thousand die in judgment at the first pentecost. 3 Thousand are born again at the birth of the age of Grace, the Church Age.

C. **(Galatians 3:27)** For as many of you as were *****baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

D. ***** Baptized "for the remission of sins"** Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 2:38... Matt 28:19 Father, Son, Spirit

R 6-42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

A. Day after day the disciples continue in a spirit of unity. Each disciple is charged with zeal and knows individually that he or she is part of something new. They are walking in the reality of being a true son or daughter of God. A new creation. Great grace (spiritual enablement) was upon them

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

A. Why should fear come upon the disciples experiencing the wonders of God?

44 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.

A. QUESTION: What might influence the new Christian community to form a communal system?

CHAPTER 3: Growing experience of God's power; working miracles, signs and wonders.

A Lame Man is Healed

R 7- Chapter 3: 1-10 **v1** Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. **2** And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; **3** who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. **4** And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." **5** So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. **6** Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." **7** And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. **8** So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. **9** And all the people saw him walking and praising God. **10** Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

R 8: A: READ AGAIN, THE Great commision from Mark 16:15 – 18 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18** they[**b**] will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

A: Now we see in these verses that they are beginning to do the things that the Lord had commanded in the great commission.

B: Note that this healing prayer is not directed to God but spoken to the sick man as a "command."

C: Peter and John are clearly full of **faith in Christ's ability** to heal. "In Jesus' name" is the way healing was directed.

R 9: Peter preaches again; in Solomon's Portico Chapter 3:11-16

Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. **12** So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? **13** The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *Him* go. **14** But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. **16** And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

A. Paul takes this and every opportunity to teach and explain how the Works of the Messiah Jesus are continuing now through his believers. Now he has a chance to preach the pentecost message again, to a wider audience.

B. Every demonstration of the power of God draws more interest and 2000 more are called to become disciples.

C. The Pharisees and Jews soon have great concern over any continued interest in Jesus the crucified messiah and will move quickly to try to quench this movement.

R 10: 17-26 “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. **18** But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. **19** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, **20** and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, **[a]** **21** whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. **22** For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. **23** And it shall be *that* every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ **[b]** **24** Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold **[c]** these days. **25** You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ **[d]** **26** To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities.”

Chapter 4:
TROUBLE IN JERUSALEM
The Religious Authorities Strike Back

(Peter and John are arrested)

R 11 CHAPTER 4

Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, **2** being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **3** And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. **4** However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

Peter Addresses the Sanhedrin

R 12 5-12 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, **6** as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. **7** And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” - - **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: **9** If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, **10** let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. **11** This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ **[a]** **12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”