

## “In The Last Days”

In Acts chapter 2 something occurred which helps us to better understand the approaching events of the End Time, when we understand the principle found in Isaiah 28:9-10, *‘Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.’*

God has designed His word so that those who *seriously* examine it and become familiar with its contents, will be able to put together the scattered pieces of information it contains, to build the complete picture of how those most difficult years will occur.

Only by combining Acts 2 with Joel 2, Matthew 24, Revelation 6 and Revelation 14, can we build the chronology of the last 7 years, as we have explained in several articles, but some have questioned whether we are correct in stating that the *first sign* of the beginning of the 7 years of Tribulation will be the dreams and visions mentioned by the Apostle Peter in Acts 2:17, *‘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.’*

Peter said, *“But this is that which was spoke of by the prophet Joel.”* It was only a *partial* fulfilment which occurred at that Pentecost, because, though many spoke with foreign tongues on that day of Pentecost, as they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and others heard them speak in their own language, there is no mention then of Joel’s following heavenly signs, which he said will occur before the ‘Great and Awesome Day of the Lord comes’, Joel 2: 30-31, *‘I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. “The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.’* ie. the Great Tribulation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal.

Evidently though, Peter felt it *was* an illustration of that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, and repeats that a similar spiritual phenomena will be given by God to ‘All flesh’ *before* the ‘Great and notable day of the Lord come,’ Acts 2:17-20, *‘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: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.’*

The significant point though, is that whereas Joel starts his prophecy by saying, *‘And it shall come to pass afterwards’*, Peter begins his repetition with *‘And it shall come to pass in the last days...’* Joel’s word ‘afterward’, the Hebrew ‘archarekhen’, indicates the time when the promised blessing is to be bestowed upon humanity. Peter’s provision of the explanatory phrase ‘In the last days’ (verse 17) refers to the last days of the old dispensation when God begins to intervene in the affairs of men, as the 7 years of the Tribulation begin, giving them a last chance to repent.

Thus, Peter’s more specific timing of the dreams and visions is to occur before the End Time heavenly signs, (verse 19) and *these* are followed by the first resurrection, cf. Matthew 24:29 and 31, *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ....verse 31, ‘And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.’*

He then indicates that the promise made by Joel 2:32 (*‘And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls’*) and repeated in Acts

2:21, (*And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.*) indicates that sincere repentance will protect the faithful believer during the ‘tribulation of those days’, until the resurrection, which are the first five seals of Revelation 6.

This, of course, places the miracle of the dreams and visions which we read of in Revelation 14:6-7, at the *very start* of the 7 years of Tribulation, so that they may be protected during those first five Seals *‘Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-**-to every nation, tribe, language and people**’. And he said with a loud voice, **“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”***

It is also the signal to God’s people to prepare to carry out God’s instructions for their End Time witness from Jerusalem.

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