



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The First Sermon in the Capitol—Salvation offered to All

JUNE 19-21, 2013

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Acts 2:14-21

“But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: ‘Men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give heed to my words. 15) For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; 16) but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 17) “AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,” God says, “THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND OUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18) EVEN UPON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT and they shall prophesy. 19) AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE, AND SIGNS ON 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 GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 21) AND IT SHALL BE, THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.” (NASB)

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS:

- > SEPTEMBER 19: DELTAVILLE, VA THE LEGISLATIVE INVITATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT
- > NOVEMBER 4: CAPITOL SQUARE, RICHMOND, VA THE CAPITOL COOKOUT & PRAYER WALK

Most likely the Upper Room where they were probably staying was on the eastern side of the city, near the Temple. When the sound of a tornado from heaven suddenly descended on their house with a tongue of fire that separated and sat upon each of them, they must have rushed out into the courtyard below the Temple or maybe even went into the Temple Mount as they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The people would have already been gathering to the Temple for prayer and the morning sacrifice, but now the mighty roar of fierce wind must have brought the people running to see what was happening. When they arrived they were amazed by the 120 speaking in different specific dialects from all over the world, prophesying “*the wonderful works of God.*” Most of these devout Jews, residing in Jerusalem for the Feast of Firstfruits or Pentecost, sensed a divine providence in it all and asked literally, “*Who wished this to be?*” Peter will not allow the mocker’s words, “*They are full of new wine.*”

“FOR THOSE WHO GET DRUNK ARE DRUNK AT NIGHT.”
I THESSALONIANS 5:7B

“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THOSE WHO WERE FILLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT BEGAN TO BE CHRIST’S WITNESSES, AS HE HAD TOLD THEM THEY WOULD BE.”
JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

Why does Peter require that the crowd listen to him? What does the third hour of the day have to do with being drunk? Is their one phrase in the Scriptures that Peter quotes repeated twice? What is the climax and requirement of this passage?

I. PETER’S REFUTATION

ACTS 2:14-15

The Holy Spirit had already gathered a throng of several thousand with the sudden roar of wind interrupting the stillness of the morning in Jerusalem. Peter must have noticed the eager Jews from all over the world separating into groups which spoke the same dialect, listening to each of the 120 in the language in which they were born. He saw also the mockers who probably lived in Jerusalem

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3, 11:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 13900 NOBLEWOOD PLAZA

THURSDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY’S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

Virginia

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not recognizing any of the dialects, who began to scorn the work of the Holy Spirit. So Peter stood and must have addressed the international throng in the Greek language they all could understand and soon quoted from their Greek translation of the Bible. He “*raised his voice*” to be heard and doubly commanded their attention saying, “*Let this be known to you and give heed to my words.*” First Peter refuted the falsehoods of those jeering in Jerusalem with the words, “*For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day.*” The morning began at 7:00 AM and they counted each hour, so it was only 9:00 AM, too early for 120 to be drunk.

“THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WERE MANIFESTED AT PENTECOST NOT ONLY BY THE GIFT OF TONGUES, BUT QUITE AS TRULY BY THE SERMON OF PETER WHICH RESULTED IN THE CONVERSION OF THREE THOUSAND SOULS.” CHARLES ERDMAN

II. PETER’S PROCLAMATION ACTS 2:16-18

The memorizing, meditation upon, and prayer through passages Peter knew, dealing with the promised Holy Spirit, suddenly paid off as he composed his message on his feet from Scripture. Now he answers their question by reminding them that it was Joel who had prophesied these events (about eight hundred years previously), especially regarding the abundant gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter begins by immediately applying Joel 2:28-32. He informs them that God, through this text and others, has established that they are in “*THE LAST DAYS*,” giving them a sense of urgency. Then, God doubly emphasizes His infinite abundance in grace to “*POUR FORTH MY SPIRIT*” upon all, including every gender and age. Verse 18 begins with a word used to point to what is most important, “*EVEN UPON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT.*” Though God includes “*ALL*

MANKIND,” He is exclusive in that His Spirit is given only to those who willingly serve Him. The “*BONDSLAVE*” willingly gave all authority for the rest of his life to his master or lord. A primary result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon His own is that they will want to tell others of the work of God within them and “*the wonderful works of God*” in every area of their life. Peter is reminding them that they are now witnesses of this very prophesying coming to pass before their eyes!

“NOT ONLY WAS PETER FULL OF THE WORD, BUT HE WAS FULL OF THE SPIRIT. THE VERY SCRIPTURE THAT PETER QUOTED IS A DESCRIPTION OF HIS STATE.”
KENT HUGHES

III. THE SPIRIT’S SALVATION ACTS 2:19-21

Peter goes on to quote of cosmic wonders in the sky and earth, relating them to the current events of the passion of Christ, His bloody death upon the cross for our sin, the darkness of the sun at mid-day, the earthquake, His resurrection and ascension into heaven, and now the fire upon them through the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. But most importantly, the means by which the Holy Spirit would be given to each individual, “*AND IT SHALL BE, THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.*” This is the greatest promise of salvation in Christ! (Romans 10:9-13)

“THIS UNIVERSALISM IS ABOUT TO BE MODELED IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BREADTH OF PETER’S LISTENING AUDIENCE, AND IN THEIR ASTONISHING NUMERICAL RESPONSE TO THE APOSTLE’S SUBSEQUENT APPEAL (38-41). BEHIND IT OF COURSE LIES THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE TERMS OF JESUS’ COMMISSION, . . . AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (1:8).” BRUCE MILNE

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you filled with the deceit that openly or internally mocks Jesus Christ and His Word?
- 2) Have you ever trusted this great promise and personally called on the name of the Lord to be saved?
- 3) Do you show that you are filled with the Spirit and God’s Word by sharing the truth of the Gospel with others?