

The Holy Spirit & The Last Days

2Ti 3:1 NIV But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

God will pour out His Spirit on all people

Acts 2:15-21 NIV (15) These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! (16) **No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:** (17) "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my ***Spirit*** on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. (18) Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my ***Spirit*** in those days, and they will prophesy. (19) I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. (20) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. (21) And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

- **"This"** (what you are seeing) was spoken by Joel...THIS is the fulfillment of THAT
- In **The Last Days** (began on the day of Pentecost)
- I will pour out **MY** Spirit (this is not some strange phenomenon)
- On **all** people (not just kings, priests and prophets like in the Old Testament)
- Sons & Daughters, young men, old men, servants, men and women (**all people**)
- They will prophecy, visions, dreams (there is an effect when the Spirit is poured out)
- Blood - fire - billows of smoke (symbols of God's presence)
- Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved (the **Salvation** of souls)

This was a priority of Jesus - "WAIT until you are clothed with power"

Luke 24:46-49 ESV and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, (47) and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (48) You are witnesses of these things. (49) And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city **until you are clothed with power from on high.**"

Jesus was anointed of the Holy Spirit

Acts 10:38 **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power**, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Luk 4:18 "The ***Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*** He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free

Paul fully preached the gospel

Rom 15:18-19 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done-- 19 by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

To the early Christians there was no mission apart from the power of the of the Holy Spirit...To relegate this to the first century cuts off the very power we need for His work.

There will be a great ingathering / harvest of souls (latter rain)

Part of the Prophecy of Joel speaks of Early and Latter Rain

Joel 2:23-32 ESV "Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, **the early and the latter rain**, as before. (24) "**The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.** (28) "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. (29) Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Early and Latter Rain

- In late October, the early rain comes. It is necessary to germinate the seeds and give the young seedlings their first spurt of growth. The rainy season follows, a time of relatively steady, but not heavy rains.
- Finally, in late March or April, the latter rain comes. It was much heavier than the early rain, and compared to the rainy season, it was a veritable deluge. The crops grew by leaps and bounds during this time, and the harvest immediately followed.

James reminds us of Joel's prophecy & patience re: the coming of the LORD

Jas 5:7-8 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, **until he receive the early and latter rain.** 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

- I think the Early and Latter rain refers to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Early Rain on Pentecost, Latter Rain before the second coming of Christ)...and points to a great harvest at the end of the age.

The preaching of the gospel to all nations is a precursor to the end

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The LORD is longsuffering concerning His return - not willing that any should perish

2Pe 3:3-4 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The purpose of early and latter rain = harvest

Deu 11:14 he will give the rain for your land in its season, **the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.**

Are We Thirsty?

John 7:37-39 NIV On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "**Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.** (38) Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (39) **By this he meant the Spirit**, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Holy Spirit is like the rain

Job 29:23 And they waited for ***me as for the rain;*** And they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.

Ask for rain in the day of latter rain

Zech 10:1 **Ask** ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field

- Don't be afraid to ask
- Elisha asked for a double portion of the spirit that was upon Elijah
- Are you thirsty for more of Him

There will be a glorious church

Haggai 2:2-9 KJV Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, (3) Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? (4) Yet now **be strong**, O Zerubbabel, saith the

LORD; and **be strong**, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and **be strong**, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, **and work**: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: (5) According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my ***Spirit*** remaineth among you: fear ye not. (6) For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; (7) And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and **I will fill this house with glory**, saith the LORD of hosts. (8) The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. (9) **The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former**, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

The mountain of the house of the LORD will be established

Isaiah 2:2-3 ESV It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, (3) and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

There will be a resurrection at the 2nd coming of Christ

Romans 8:11 ESV If the ***Spirit*** of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his ***Spirit*** who dwells in you.

Job 19:25-27 KJV For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: (26) And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: (27) Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

There will be a falling away

1 Timothy 4:1 NIV **The *Spirit* clearly says** that in later times some will ***abandon*** the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

STRONG's - "Abandon" - to remove, that is, (actively) instigate to revolt; usually (reflexively) to desist, desert

The Holy Spirit has put out the word as a warning and a guidance to us

1. He has clearly spoken
2. He has given us the timing - ***in the latter times***
3. He says what some will do - ***some will abandon the faith***
4. He gives the cause - ***follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons***

There will be a falling away before the second coming of Christ

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 KJV (1) Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. (3) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a *falling away* first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

STRONG's - "Falling Away" - defection from truth

A warning to us in the latter days - that we don't fall

- 1 Corinthians 10:11-12 NIV (11) These things [vs 6 setting their hearts on evil things] happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. (12) So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

How do I respond?

A dramatic scene is unfolding at the end of the age.

1) The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit - many relegate this to first century

- Do you recognize your need for the Holy Spirit's anointing?

2) The harvest at the end of the age - many can't wait to be raptured out rather than taking as many with us as we can

- What do you thirst for? Ask for rain in the day of latter rain

3) The Glorious Church - there is an anti-church sentiment growing in these days

- Love the church

4) Never lose hope of the resurrection- no matter how the last days play out

5) Many shall depart from the faith - many don't even believe it is possible

- Be a man or woman of the Word of God