

“The First Sermon in the Last Days”

Acts 2:14-21

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 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.’

1. Peter tells the crowd that we are in “the last days”. “The early church found itself living in a tension between realization and expectation—between “already” and “not yet.” Christ’s victory has already been won at the cross, but the full result of the that victory will be seen in the future. What does it mean for you to know that we are living in the last days right now? How does that affect your life and actions?
2. On these “last days” the God’s Spirit will be poured out on all people. The result of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit is transformed people. How have you been transformed since you have become a Christian and received the Holy Spirit into your life?

3. The “last days” began with the Christ's death and resurrection and will end with the “Day of the Lord” when Christ will return. The “Day of the Lord” refers to the time when God will intervene decisively for judgment or salvation by calling for an accounting by the nations as well as individuals. The “last days” is also a period of grace. It is opportunity for us to call on the Lord and be saved. What gives you confidence for when the Day of the Lord arrives?