5 Views Paper

Joel 2:28-32

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Was the day of Pentecost the first time we were introduced to the dwelling of the Holy Spirit? When Peter said in Acts 2:17-21, “ And it shall be in the last days,' god says, 'that i will pour forth of my spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of my spirit and they shall prophesy. 'and i will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. 'the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the lord shall come. 'and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the lord will be saved.'” This wasn’t the first time that the people of Israel were told about this Israel was actually told about this ~530 years before. In Joel 2:28:32 we read, “It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. “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. “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the Lord has said, Even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.” With this prophecy by Joel being so impactful I would like to present you with some views as to what myself and other scholar’s view as the intent and meaning of this prophecy.

“Your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” This verse is widely accepted as being a foretelling of the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon all believers. This passage shows Israel that God cares for all of His creation and not just concerning the people of Israel. Of course, the Israelites didn’t take it that way. Matthew Henry in his commentary stated that many Israelite’s including Peter (prior to his vision that brought him to Cornelius) viewed this as meaning it would only affect the Jewish community and not the gentile nation. As we all know this isn’t true. This event is also foretelling of the beginning of the New Testement church and the baptism into Jesus Christ. (Dehoff) Dehoff brings up Matthew 24:29, “Immediately after the distress of those days ‘The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’” This is the time when God will show the Jews and Gentiles alike that they have entered into a new age no longer bound by the Jewish law keeping,but are now under the new covenant established by Jesus.

Finally, we come to vs. 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, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.” Dehoff states that this is signalling the Christian disipensation(arrangement of rules or laws) and the beginning of the time to start preaching the Gospel(Dehoff). This is also establishing with mankind that all who call the Lord Lord will be saved. God’s grace/forgiveness is no longer just reserved for the Israelites. This promise doesn’t just stop at those times. Matthew Henry in his commentary makes sure to emphasize the fact that this promise is to those in end times as well. All who call out to the Lord will receive His salvation.

I did find some interesting breakdown of this passage in the Wesleyan Bible Commentary. In this commentary it breaks the passages up into 2 distinct phases. The first phase being the blessing phase. This phase includes verses 28 and 29. This is then followed by the second phase the cataclysmic phase. The cataclysmic phase includes verses 30 and 31. With comparing the different commentaries I found it interesting that this was the only commentary I found that broke up these verses that way and I feel it actually helps understand them much better.

Works Cited

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