

Blood, Fire & Smoke?

by Wayne Goff

"I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD" ~ Acts 2:19-20.

Acts 2 & Pentecost

The miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles was the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy found in Joel 2:28-32. The outpouring upon **"all flesh"** (Jews & Gentiles) whereupon inspired prophecies, visions and dreams took place ushered in the Gospel Age. But what is meant by *"I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord"*? I believe that these are all **symbols** of judgment and either refers to (1) the judgment enacted upon the world by the preaching of the Gospel; or (2) the final judgment at the end of the world against the wicked and rebellious. Either way, keep in mind that the next verse says: **"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."** That's important! It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (**Hebrews 10:31**). So avoid that judgment that God has promised by obeying the Gospel!

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Joel's prophecy can be deciphered as follows. **"Blood"** refers to bloodshed. **"Fire"** suggests the burning of ruined cities. **"Pillars of smoke"** are reminiscent of the aftermath of destroyed cities. These symbols would be familiar to the Jewish people to whom Joel wrote. As one nation overtook another, they conquered city after city, and when you saw the burning and smoke on the horizon, you felt a dread and fear of being overtaken next. Naturally, many men, women and children had their blood shed in these battles.

Joel uses these **symbols** to warn of God's Judgment against the sinful world that **began** to be fulfilled on Pentecost at the preaching of Jesus Christ and His Gospel. *"He that believes and is baptized shall be saved..."* (**Mk. 16:16a**). *"...He that does not believe shall be condemned"* (**Mk. 16:16b**), and will suffer the promised doom of judgment signified by Joel's prophetic picture.

John 3:17-19

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." This sad truth has been preached all over the world for 2,000 years. Many refuse to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and as a result will lose their souls eternally. Jesus explained the reason for this — **"men loved darkness rather than light."** Dear reader, if you love the darkness of sin, foolishness, and rebellion more than the light of truth, love and obedience, then there is nothing that God can do to change you. Stop and ask yourself this question: "Is my sinful lifestyle worth it in the end?" If not, then please reconsider your choices now.

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