

**Acts 2:14-21**  
**"The moon turned to blood?"**

"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. <sup>15</sup> For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; <sup>16</sup> but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "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 PROPHECY,  
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE  
VISIONS,  
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM  
DREAMS;<sup>18</sup> EVEN ON MY  
BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,  
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH  
OF MY SPIRIT

And they shall prophesy.<sup>19</sup> AND I WILL GRANT  
WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE  
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,  
BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

<sup>20</sup> 'THE SUN WILL BE  
TURNED INTO DARKNESS  
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,  
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY  
OF THE LORD SHALL COME.<sup>21</sup> AND IT  
SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS  
ON THE NAME OF THE LORD  
WILL BE SAVED.'"

**The fearsome wind and tongue-speaking incident we discussed last week drew a crowd.**

**At a happening, folks want to know "What's happening?"**



With the other Apostles, Peter stood up to explain.

The unique football star Rob Gronkowski reminds me of the great Bronko Nagurski. Nagurski played football for the University of Minnesota 1927-1929. Nagurski played pro ball mostly for the Chicago Bears. In those days, teams couldn't afford huge squads. Guys played both offense and defense. After retiring from football, Nagurski earned fame as a pro wrestler. He became legendary for his strength and his antics.

According to one story, Nagurski and his buddy were rough-housing on the second floor of their college fraternity house. He fell out the window. Students hurried to the scene. An officer came and asked Nagurski what was going on.

**"I don't know,"** Nagurski replied,  
**"I just got here myself."**

**For their Pentecost celebration, Jewish people from all over the world went to Jerusalem.**

Peter and the Apostles were in Jerusalem, too.

**In fact, a group of Jesus' disciples, 120 strong, was praying and waiting in an upper room when the Holy Spirit came upon them.**

The disciples told God's wonders in their Aramaic language with a Galilean (northern) accent, but Jews from Rome heard the disciples in Latin.

Jewish worshipers from the Island of Crete heard them in the Cretan language, Egyptians in Coptic; each heard in his/her native language.

**Imagine the curiosity stirred by anything like that in a city at 9 AM. (the third hour of the day equals our 9 A.M).**

**If a violent wind preceded the incident, folks would be in the street wondering.**

**Peter explained: Our people aren't drunk (as Nagurski could have been and Super Bowl winners have demonstrated on occasion).**

**Peter told the crowd that an old prophecy was being fulfilled right in front of their eyes.**

**The Apostle quoted Israel's prophet Joel, who predicted 800 years before:**



**"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 PROPHECY,  
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."**

**If we haven't seen them in the flesh, most of us have seen pictures of abused children.**

A pretty girl in my school during grades 7 & 8 wore a coat and bandana fall, winter, and spring.

**I can't recall conversations with her outside of class; I knew little of her home life.**

**In our work, Norma and I both dealt with families where abuse took place.**

I've since wondered whether my classmate's long coat and bandana hid bruises.

**Child abuse is sad and tragic.  
Scripture abuse is immeasurably catastrophic.**

**Today's verses have been battered and misused.**

**When he quoted Joel, to what did Peter refer?**

First, Peter told the crowd some good news.

Second, he told them some bad news.

Third, he told those folks some good news that reverses that bad news.

### **1. First, the Good News tells of God's Holy Spirit.**

The Bible's opening lines state:

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth . . . the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters,"  
(Genesis 1:1, 2 NIV).



**In the Old Testament, we read of God's Spirit coming on certain individuals.**

The Lord chose certain folks to perform specific tasks.<sup>1</sup>

God's Spirit came on people like Moses, Joshua, the judges, kings, and prophets.

**Isaiah predicted that the Messiah would fully possess God's Spirit.<sup>2</sup>**

At the same, Isaiah clearly said that God's Messiah would suffer as a servant.

**Not many wanted to accept that truth.**

**Most look on serving as demeaning.**

Folks like strong leaders; they prefer the image of a super-hero, a conquering, mighty Messiah.

**By Jesus' time, the greatest emphases in Israel were on Law and political independence and they expected a powerful leader to achieve that.**

Priests, scribes, and rabbis controlled religion and they did their best to keep the Roman rulers happy.

They weighted God's laws with rules they made mostly for their advantage and stateliness.

**With their robes and titles that presumably gave them dignity, they became an elite class.**

**Have you read Matthew 23, which tells how Jesus excoriated this privileged, priestly class?**

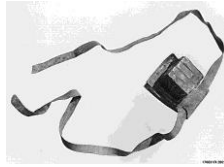
"Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 'The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

"Everything they do is done for people to see:

<sup>1</sup> E.g. Numbers 11:17-25; Judges 3:10; 6:34; 1 Samuel 10:6; Ezekiel 3:12; Daniel 4:8

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 11:2; 42:1-9; 61:1-11

They make their phylacteries<sup>3</sup> wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called "Rabbi" by others. But you are not to be called "Rabbi," for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth "father," for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called "teacher," for you have one "teacher," the Messiah.



The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."<sup>4</sup>

The priests, Pharisees, and Scribes were puffed up with windy pretense, but not with God's Spirit.

**Pentecost blew gas filled elites out of the sky.**

**The first Good news:**

God's Spirit became available to all ages, to men and women, to all classes of people; even slaves.

**Education, family status, race, class, language, etc. mean nothing to God's Spirit.**

<sup>3</sup> Phylacteries are leather boxes containing scripture passages; usually tied to a band and worn on the head and left arm. The bigger the box, the greater the presumed holiness.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 23:1-12 NIV Would Jesus now also include the titles *reverend* & *pastor*?

**What does it mean that all of these people prophesied?**

**Last week we saw that on Pentecost, the people on whom the Spirit came declared God's mighty deeds.**

**True prophecy honors and praises God.**

When I was young, I prophesied some. In 1946, my sister Carol and her husband announced that she was pregnant. I told my family that Carol would give birth on January 10. My niece C.J was born on 1-10-1947. Within a couple of years, my sister Marge was married, but it wasn't until 1951 that she became pregnant. Again I told my family that Marge would give birth 1-10-1952. My niece Karrin was born exactly that date.

In the late 1960s, while we worked with the church in Hollywood, a young couple announced that they would be having their second child. It came to me while I was sitting on the platform waiting to preach that their baby would be born on a certain date and I announced it when I stood up to preach. Within a few weeks I predicted that the baby would not only be born that day, but that it would be in the morning. A few weeks later, a sweet little girl was born exactly the time and date I predicted.



The Sunday after the baby's arrival, a godly executive was scheduled to read Scripture at the worship service, and sat on the platform with me. As if extraordinary things were taking place through my *prophecy*, he commented to the congregation regarding my earlier prediction:

"You heard it right here folks from this very pulpit."<sup>5</sup>

**That's when I knew that my gift hadn't come from God's Holy Spirit.**

**What led me to that conclusion?** Because people weren't praising God; they were praising Bob.

**Second, the bad news: pretense, hypocrisy, greed, and power struggles will continue.**

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.

In the Old Testament, darkness and blood symbolize the turmoil and suffering self-seeking always brings. The Lord told Ezekiel the prophet to warn Pharaoh king of Egypt of his monster-like behavior: "I will drench the land with your flowing blood all the way to the mountains, and the ravines will be filled with your flesh. When I snuff you out, I will cover the

heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you; I will bring darkness over your land, declares the Sovereign LORD."<sup>6</sup>



From noon to three PM the day Jesus shed his blood on the cross, darkness covered the land.

**Darkness and blood dim and scar human history.**

**Darkness and blood hang over many U.S. cities.**

**They hang over Ukraine and Formosa.**

**Three, good news breaks through the gloom.**

God grants everyone access to His Spirit and life.

"AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

**It doesn't matter who we are, what we've done or said, or where we've been.**

If we confess our sin, accept Jesus' cleansing blood, and join him in baptism by dying to that old self, God pours His Spirit of life on us.

**That's wondrous love, isn't it? Praise God!**

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<sup>5</sup> See Deuteronomy 13:1-5

<sup>6</sup> See Ezekiel 32:1-8 NIV