

Episode #433 Second Coming of the Holy Spirit 1 – Pentecost Versus All Flesh

- I. The second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to this earth to be personally present for a thousand years is an extremely important event in God's future, prophetic calendar.
 - A. Acts 1:10-11 makes this fact most clear.
 - B. In light of this clear statement, all who claim to be Biblical should believe in the reality of the someday return of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - C. Yet many make the second coming of Jesus Christ to be the central, if not the only, significant event in God's future program. They believe that this is the event to usher in the Kingdom of God, and bring all God's plans to fruition.
 - D. I firmly believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ, and will not back down to anyone who claims to believe it more than I do. But I do not believe that it is the event that begins all God's glorious plans for the future, for this does not fit Scripture.
- II. What does start God's future program is the second coming of the Holy Spirit.
 - A. There is nothing special about the phrase. It is merely used as a descriptive term, just like the "second coming of Jesus Christ." Neither is found in the Bible. We could also call this the second advent of the Holy Spirit, the second sending of the Holy Spirit, the second giving of the Holy Spirit, or the second descent of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. This is the truth that is important: someday the Holy Spirit will again begin to act powerfully on the earth, even as He did in the Acts period.
 - C. This is set forth in two significant passages: Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:16-20. God pours out His Spirit upon all flesh.
 - D. This is a promise of God. If this promise is not trustworthy, then is any other promise trustworthy? Can we believe John 3:16, or any other promise, if this promise will not be fulfilled? Yet many are loath to believe that this will ever take place!
 - E. Some suggest that this prophecy was fulfilled in Acts 2.
 1. Nothing that Joel predicted came to pass that day. If this is how Scripture is to be interpreted, I might as well give up on understanding it altogether!
 2. 120 believers (Acts 1:15) are not the same thing as all flesh. Genesis 6:12 tells us what "all flesh" means.
 3. This does not mean just Israel or the men of Judea, because they were the ones being spoken to. If I tell you "I don't like my neighbors," that doesn't mean I don't like you just because I am talking to you.
 4. What did Peter mean? Many in the crowd that day were from other nations who had come to Jerusalem to worship. They did not even know Aramaic, the native language of that land. Yet now they all heard God's words in their own, native tongue! They wondered what it meant (verse 12).
 5. Some suggest its meaning is they are drunk! But Peter reveals "this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel." It was what Joel spoke of that caused them to act this way. What did he speak of? The Spirit being poured out. Peter meant this was the same Spirit Joel spoke of. But he could not have meant that this was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Nothing was fulfilled!
- III. Some might argue that the phrase "second coming of the Holy Spirit" does not occur in Scripture.
 - A. Neither does the phrase "second coming of Jesus Christ." But when we read verses like Acts 1:11, we can safely say that Jesus Christ will come a second time.

- B. When we consider that the Holy Spirit was sent at Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4, and will be sent again upon all flesh, as Joel 2:28 predicts, then we can say that there will be a second coming of the Holy Spirit.

IV. God has sent His Spirit more than once. So how can a future event be the “second coming of the Holy Spirit?”

- A. Jesus Christ appeared on earth many times before He ever became a baby in Bethlehem.

1. Consider the evidence regarding the Savior. Titus 1:3 says God is our Savior. Titus 1:4 says the Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior. Isaiah 43:11 says Jehovah is our Savior and there is no other Savior. This shows us that the LORD Jehovah of the Old Testament IS the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament!
2. Jehovah, the Lord Jesus, walked with Adam in the Garden, Genesis 3:8.
3. Jehovah (the Lord Jesus) appeared to Abraham in the plains of Mamre with two of His angels, had a meal with him, and told him of Isaac’s birth and the destruction of Sodom in Genesis 18:1-33.
4. Jehovah (the Lord Jesus) met Moses on the way to Egypt because his son had not been circumcised in Exodus 4:24-26.
5. Jehovah (the Lord Jesus) spoke with Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend in Exodus 33:11.
6. Jehovah (the Lord Jesus) came and stood and called Samuel at night when he was a boy in I Samuel 3:4, 6, 8, 10.
7. Jesus Christ appeared on earth many times before He ever became a baby in Bethlehem. But we do not call these His first coming. The great event we refer to by that name is when He became flesh and dwelt among us.
8. Then, after His resurrection, He ascended to His Father and returned. See John 20:17, 19, and compare this to Matthew 28:9. This was not His second coming. That refers to a specific event in the future.
9. So even though we believe the truth of the “second coming” of Jesus Christ, that does not mean that that will be only the second time He ever stood on earth.

- B. In the same way, when we speak of the “second coming of the Holy Spirit,” that does not mean to imply that the Spirit has only ever come twice. Yet when we read of Him being poured out at Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4, and then read again of His future pouring out on all flesh, we can say that these are two great “comings” of the Holy Spirit.

- C. The Spirit has been active on earth since the very beginning. We will examine what His activities have been in future programs.

V. Conclusion: Though Christ’s second coming is a hugely significant event in God’s future program, that does not mean that it is the only important event, or what starts God’s great kingdom plan for the earth. Instead, the Bible speaks of a pouring out of the Spirit on all flesh, which we have called “the second coming of the Holy Spirit.”