

Episode #437 Second Coming of the Holy Spirit 5 – The Spirit Poured Out in the Prophets and Paul

I. While 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, yet the Bible also sets forth the great truth of the second coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:17, when God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. We are considering this sending of the Spirit.

II. The prophets, and especially the prophet Isaiah, tell us much of this glorious, future event.

A. Isaiah 32:13-18. The Spirit is poured on Israel from on high.

1. Verse 13. This speaks of the land of Israel being desolate, as it is today.
2. Verse 14. This lasts forever...until! How can something that is "forever" end? This shows what I often say, that "forever," Hebrew *olam*, actually means "for the flow." As long as our evil age flows on, Israel remains a wilderness.
3. Verse 15. This comes to an end, not when Christ returns, but when the Spirit is poured out from on high.
4. Verse 16. The Spirit not only fixes the natural environment, but also sends out justice, righteousness, peace, quietness, and assurance, so that Israel dwells safely and securely.
5. Verse 17. "Peace" is a true union, and in that day there will be true union with God! Quietness and assurance is quite the opposite of our dangerous and fearful age. Noise and trouble are everywhere. This will not always be true.
6. Verse 18. All will be secure and quiet. What a great change! And it all comes about because the Spirit is poured out from on high.

B. Isaiah 40:5. All flesh sees the glory of Jehovah.

1. A person's glory is the good things others think about him. For example, if I think you are honest, that is the glory I hold you in.
2. The glory of God is in the face of Jesus Christ, according to II Corinthians 4:6. We can try to give Jesus Christ glory, but when God says what He thinks of Him, that is the glory of the LORD.
3. This glory is going to be revealed, and all flesh will see it together. This cannot be limited. Everyone is going to see the light at the same time!
4. How do they see it? Not by Jesus Christ returning, but by the mouth of the LORD speaking it. This is through the Holy Spirit.

C. Isaiah 59:19. All shall fear Jehovah.

1. Everyone fears and respects the LORD from east to west. This is clearly not true today, and will not be true until God's kingdom comes at last.
2. The enemy coming in like a flood sounds a lot like today!
3. How does God end this flood? By lifting up a standard against them.
 - a. In warfare of the time, a general would draw a boundary with his troops and then set up a standard on the field. This was a challenge to anyone who wanted to oppose him to go past this banner.
 - b. The Spirit of the LORD is going to set up a banner for God's enemies, telling them that there is a line they cannot cross or they will be at war with God. This standard is not set up at Christ's second coming, for it is too late not to oppose Him then. This is done by the Holy Spirit!

III. Now I believe we have developed a good picture of this great event, the pouring out of the Spirit, as it is set forth in the Old Testament. We have learned that God will raise the Israelites from the dead, bring them back to their own land, restore the land to a glorious condition, and write His law in their hearts so they will all obey it. We have learned that He will convict the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment. He will imprint something on the minds of all people, even in the most remote places, that will cause them to turn towards Him. He will speak from heaven and the earth will melt before Him. His word will come into the world like an arrow, suddenly wounding the wicked and making them turn their own tongues on themselves. He will lift up a standard against the wicked that they dare not cross. He will cause the world to learn what true judgment really is. He will cause His people to dwell in safety and quietness. What a glorious day that will be!

IV. Paul too speaks of this glorious, future event.

A. II Timothy 3:1-9. The outcome of the last days of man's wicked self-rule.

1. Verses 1-8. A description of the wickedness of men in the last days. This is the syndrome of the last days, and lists twenty-one symptoms that point to our day as the last days of God's long dealing with men in grace.
2. Yet what is the outcome of this? In verse 9, we read that they are brought to a sudden stop. Their insanity is manifest to all.
3. In our day, the foolishness of wicked men is hidden from many by the lies and deceitfulness of our world. The only way the true madness of these wicked men will ever be revealed is if God steps in. And this is what this passage suggests. Someday, God will make the folly of wickedness plain!

B. II Timothy 4:1. This reveals the event Paul was looking forward to that would make obvious to all the insanity of wickedness.

1. God and the Lord Jesus Christ will set the living and the dead in order at His appearing, even His government.
2. How does the kingdom or government of God begin? It begins with the second coming of the Holy Spirit!

V. Conclusion: The prophet revealed a time when the Spirit would be poured on God's people Israel from on high, and this would make all the difference for the world. Yet not just Israel will be blessed by this, for all flesh shall see the glory of the LORD at that time. All men everywhere shall come to fear, respect, reverence, and be in awe of the LORD. Paul tells us that this happens suddenly as the wickedness of wicked men comes to a climax, even as it seems to be doing in our day. He tells us this will be at the blazing forth of Jesus Christ, even His kingdom. We look forward to this great, future event. And it all starts with the second coming of the Holy Spirit!