

36. A better reading is, “This is the same kind of thing that.” Thus, the passage in Joel, which is very familiar to all those assembled, is going to serve as an example of what just occurred in the streets of Jerusalem.
37. Why is Joel’s prophecy the same kind of thing, but not the fulfillment of it? Because if you know what time it is, then Joel’s prophecy could not possibly fulfill any event that takes place in the Church Age.
38. Joel’s prophecy is fulfilled at the Second Advent and in the Millennium. The events in Jerusalem are precipitated by the indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit followed by the expression of one of the spiritual gifts imputed by the Holy Spirit, namely, the gift of languages.
39. The Greek word for “languages” is the noun **γλώσσα** (*glōssa*) which is defined several ways in Scripture:

I. An organ of the body (Luke 16:24); of speech (Luke 1:64).
 II. Metaphorically, speech or language (1 John 3:18). (B) Of a particular language or dialect as spoken by a particular people (Acts 2:11). (p. 1100)

(1) One was the promised gift of languages (*glōssai*) other than one’s own native tongue. This gift was for those who were going to be baptized in the Holy Spirit into the body of Jesus Christ and which gift they were to use to affirm the gospel as happened in the historical context of Jerusalem at Pentecost (Acts 2:3, 4 [*diálektos*, Acts 2:6, 8], 11) and involving Jewish believers.

It is then to be observed that whenever the word *glōssa* is used in the plural (*glōssai*) with the singular pronoun or subject, it refers to dialects (Acts 2:3f, 8, 11) which were not learned by the individual concerned. Such an individual was enabled instantly and temporarily by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language other than his native tongue.¹ (p. 1101)

PRINCIPLES:

1. Peter’s quote of Joel 2:28–32 is not its fulfillment, but rather an illustration used to disprove the accusation of drunkenness.

¹ Ibid., ‘γλώσσα,’ 1100, 1101

2. The accused believers are utilizing the gift of tongues, or languages including dialects, under the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. By application, the targeted believers cannot properly be charged with drunkenness any more than those believers in Joel's prophecy.
4. Joel's prophecy must be interpreted in the context of the time to which it refers which is the Millennium beginning with events that take place at the Second Advent.
5. The phenomenon observed by the Jewish visitors from fifteen multilingual nations occurs during the opening hours of the Church Age – c. late May of A.D. 33.
6. The spiritual gift of languages was retired on August 10, 70 with the destruction of the temple and the resultant Diaspora of the Jewish people throughout the known world.
7. Consequently, Peter does not imply that Joel's prophecy is being fulfilled; only that it establishes a parallel between what will occur at the Second Advent and what just occurred in Jerusalem.
8. Jews were rightfully confused because they did not know anything about the Church Age. As a result, they did not know what time it was.
9. The Tanakh reveals nothing about this mystery dispensation which runs from Pentecost in A.D. 33 until the Rapture of the Church at a date yet future.
10. Joel reveals events experienced by Spirit-filled believers in the Millennium. Therefore, Joel 2:28–32 is simply being used by Peter to illustrate a similar event that will occur later, but presently it only used to illustrate what just happened.
11. Peter therefore calls attention to incidences they all may recall from the Book of Joel so they may realize what they have witnessed is not unusual at all but a spiritual phenomenon about which they are quite familiar.

Acts 2:17 - '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;

40. It is important to define "the last days." Context assists in determining the time period indicated by the passage.
41. The word "days" is plural and therefore speaks of more than one dispensation and the events that are specific to each one.
42. "Last days" refer to the Church Age which will be terminated by the Rapture and the Tribulation which will be terminated by the Second Advent. There is even a third "Last days" at the end of the Millennium terminated by the Gog and Magog Revolution followed by the destruction of the universe.
43. In verse 17, "it shall come to pass" refers to the end of the Tribulation at the Second Advent and the beginning of the millennial kingdom.
44. The events associated with the Second Advent include the baptisms of fire for both Jews and Gentiles among whom are those that expressed faith in Christ during the tribulational period.
45. Baptism of fire for the Jews occurs at the Second Advent. The Lord teaches this by analogy in:

Matthew 24:40 - "There will be two men in the field; one will be taken [an unbeliever cast into Torments], and one will be left [a believer retained to enter into the millennial kingdom].

v. 41 - "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken [unbeliever], and one will be left [believer].
46. Following these things the Lord says, "I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind (Acts 2:17b)."