

Acts 2:17 - It shall be in the last days [the Millennium], 'God says, 'that I will pour forth of My Spirit [imputation of the filling of the Holy Spirit] upon all flesh [every person that remains on earth following the baptism of fire for Jews and Gentiles] and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

v. 18 - even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy.'

15. The source of these prophecies, visions, and dreams
God the Father:

Numbers 12:6 - He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream.

16. In the Church Age, those with the gift of prophecy must receive their information from God. It is to be communicated under the power of the Holy Spirit.
17. Prophecy in the dispensation of the Church revealed coming judgment on sin, the will of God on present events, and revealed future events.
18. There was no completed canon of Scripture during the early years of the Church, therefore the gift of prophecy and its assets of dreams and visions were necessary to communicate doctrine on various subjects.
19. It is obvious that the combination of prophecy, dreams, and visions deal with the subject of eschatology.
20. Also, due to the baptisms of fire, the earth is evacuated by an enormous number of unbelievers that are transferred to the Torments compartment of Hades.
21. A brief summary of these opening verses of the passage is given by J. Dwight Pentecost from his book, *Thy Kingdom Come*:

When Joel's prophecy is examined we find that it centers around a fact. The fact was that God promised, "I will pour out My Spirit on all people." Moreover, there would be certain results of the fulfillment of that promise: "Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

According to the context of Joel's prophecy, these results would be enjoyed when David's Son takes David's scepter and sits on David's throne and institutes the coveted kingdom blessings. That day would be "the great and glorious Day of the Lord" (Acts 2:20). Before the Day of the Lord would come, said God, "I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood" (Acts 2:19–20). These are signs that would be fulfilled in that period that our Lord refers to as the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21), a period of divine discipline on a disobedient nation to bring them to repentance and to faith in Jesus Christ so that they can receive the blessings of the covenant. Joel's prophecy, then, gave the *promise* [Acts 2:17a I will pour forth my Spirit on all mankind.], showed the *results* [Acts 2:17b-18 re: prophecy, visions, and dreams] flowing from the fulfillment of that promise, and depicted the *signs* [Acts 2:19–21 re: Tribulation, Second Advent, and baptisms of fire] that will prepare a remnant to receive the benefits of the coming of the promised Spirit [Millennium].¹

22. Thus, verses 17–18 in Acts 2 (which quote verses 28–29 in Joel) refer to the Millennium, which offers the promise first.
23. Joel then takes his readers back to the Tribulation in an effort to warn them of the coming judgment of nations.
24. Jews in particular, from Joel's standpoint, plus Gentiles will be challenged to determine if they would be destroyed or that "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be delivered."
25. The structure of the five-verse passage, as Dr. Pentecost summarizes, first offers the promise: the filling of the Holy Spirit, followed by examples of the results of the filling, and then gives the signs of Tribulational events that will prepare a remnant.

¹ J. Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1995), 271.