

The Last Days According to Joel

By T.W. Tramm

2,800 YEARS AGO, Joel spoke a prophecy about the last days:

“[In the last days, God says:] ‘I will pour out my Spirit on all people. 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. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the LORD’” (Joel 2:28-31).

The last days, also known as the Church Age, began on Pentecost circa 33AD when God’s Spirit began to be poured out on all flesh (Acts 2:1-21).

Today, the manifestation of Joel’s signs—read as volcanic activity and biblically significant solar and lunar eclipses—suggests that the Church Age is drawing to a close and the day of the Lord is upon us.¹

It’s remarkable that, at a time when so many prophetic timelines are converging, “billows of smoke” are prominent in the headlines. Experts are concerned that Hawaii’s Kilauea is set for a once-in-a-century eruption that may turn 12-ton boulders into ballistic projectiles.

The surge in activity at Kilauea is just one example. The last couple of years have seen a flood of anomalous seismic activity: Unusually spectacular volcanic eruptions; earthquakes in unexpected places; fissures, cracks, and giant sinkholes opening up seemingly everywhere. Just last week, scientists were baffled when the world’s largest geyser, the “Steamboat” in Yellowstone, erupted for an unprecedented fifth time this year. Also, strange and unexplained booming or grinding sounds continue to be heard around the globe.

It’s as if the planet is groaning in pain, like a woman about to give birth.

Interestingly, Scripture compares the resurrection of the dead at the Rapture to a birth: *“Your dead will live, LORD; their bodies will rise ... the earth will give birth to her dead”* (Isa. 26:19)

As of this month it has been 70 years, the span of a generation, since the Nation of Israel was reborn. Referring to this sign and others, Jesus says, “When you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened” (Matt. 24:32-34).

Time is short. The trumpet blast announcing the end of the age could sound at any moment, commencing the most terrible time in human history. The good news, as stated in the last line of Joel's prophecy, is that God promises to rescue every person who calls on His name:

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (v. 32).

NOTES:

1. God's plan to redeem humanity is to be carried out in six (thousand-year) days, or 6,000 years. The seventh and final thousand-year day is known as the Millennium, or Day of the Lord:

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (2 Pet. 3:8).

"After two [thousand-year] days he will revive us; on the third [thousand-year] day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence" (Hos. 6:2).

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days [Church Age] he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things..." (Heb. 1:1, 2)