

# **Eschatology - The Holy Spirit and the Signs of the End**

**by William H. Bell, Jr.**

A sign of the end which most recognize is the coming of the Holy Spirit. Joel prophesied the coming of the Spirit in the last days (Joel 2:28-30). His prophecy is mentioned several times in the New Covenant, most notably in Acts 2:16-20. In fact, each time the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the New Testament, the prophecy of Joel is in the background.

## **The Gift of Tongues and Christ's Return**

Citing Joel's prophecy Peter says, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" alluding to the exercise of the gift of tongue-speaking. He affirmed that the role of the eschatological Spirit continued until the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, (Acts 2:19, 20 equating this with Christ's second coming Compare Matthew 24:29, 34; 1 Corinthians 1:7, 8. What was key about tongue-speaking in the first century is that it confirmed imminent judgment upon the nation of Israel.

## **The Prophecy of Tongues and Judgment**

Isaiah's prophecy provides the context of judgment citing that men of other lips (of a foreign language, meaning the Assyrians, 8th century B.C.) would speak to the rebellious house of Israel. (Isaiah 28:11, 12)

Paul correcting the first century church of the misuse of tongue speaking cites this prophecy saying that tongue speaking was a sign, not to believers but to unbelieving Israel. In so doing, he alludes to the coming judgment upon the ancient nation in A.D. 70. (1 Corinthians 14:20, 21) Such confirms that the modern state of Israel has no place in prophecy and contrary to popular opinion, absolutely nothing to do with the end-time.