



◆ Wednesday March 10, 2010 ◆

*FUTURE CLASS DATES: MARCH 24  
APRIL 14, 28  
MAY 12*

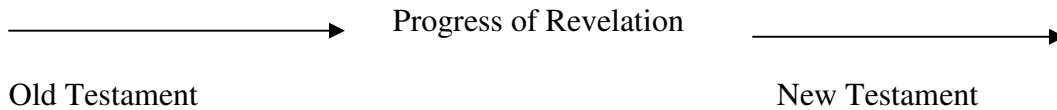
**Brief Review of our Last Class (February 24, 2010)**

- A. There is an element of mystery and elusiveness to the study of the Holy Spirit due to a lack of concrete imagery and the fact that He is not given much individual attention (more often referred to in relation to something else).
- B. There is controversy and a reluctance to discuss the Holy Spirit due to an “overcorrection” to the excesses of the recent Pentecostal movement.
- C. There has not been much theological attention paid to the Holy Spirit alone throughout church history except for the last 110 years.
- D. The Holy Spirit does not command much attention to himself in Scripture since His primary role is to point us to the person and finished work of Jesus Christ (John 16:14).
- E. The Bible designates the Spirit as a “Person” and not an “It” (Third Person of the Trinity) and therefore ascribes personal attributes (mind, intelligence, emotions, and will) and actions to Him.
- F. He is ascribed deity, and possesses attributes and actions that are true of God alone.

Lesson 2

# THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Some make the mistake of thinking that the presence of the Holy Spirit is only a New Testament phenomenon. Though most of the Holy Spirit’s work is displayed in the NT, the foundation for His work is already laid and is established in the OT.



\* More is revealed about God throughout Scripture as history moves forward.

## 1. Statistics

**100** X = the number of times the Spirit is referred to in the OT (only 60 times is it a reference to a work He was doing **at that time.**)

**271** X = the number of times the Spirit is referred to in the NT

“The NT is ¼ length of the OT and the HS is referred to as being active 4X as much.”

- Bruce Ware

### Misc Stats (cont.)

1. Only 3X is the Spirit in the Old Testament referred to as the “Holy Spirit.”
2. He is referred to as the “Holy Spirit” in the NT 91X

What does this tell us about His role in the NT?

### **Lack of the Holy Spirit at work in OT is seen by: (Grudem)**

- 1) little power over the dominion of Satan
- 2) very little effective evangelism of the nations around Israel
- 3) no examples of ability to cast out demons
- 4) miraculous healing uncommon (exceptions were Elijah and Elisha)
- 5) prophecy was restricted to a few or small band of prophets
- 6) ongoing power over sin is rarely experienced**
- 7) HS working is almost completely confined to the nation of Israel (as opposed to church in the NT made of Jews and Gentiles)

### **Fuller sense of power by the HS in the NT is seen by:**

- 1) more effectiveness in their witness and ministry
- 2) more effectiveness to live Christian life
- 3) more effectiveness in victory over sin in the life of believers**
- 4) more power for victory over Satan and demonic forces that would attack believers
- 5) wide distribution of gifts for ministry to all believers
- 6) gifts given not just for individual use but primarily for the church
- 7) the Gospel message now widened to include all men (races and nations)

*\* So clearly there is an increased emphasis on and activity of the Holy Spirit from the time of Christ's ministry onward as it is characteristic of the New Covenant age and life after Pentecost.*

## **2. The Spirit of God at Work in Creation**

**GE 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.**

*“The Holy Spirit's role is to complete and sustain what God the Father has planned and what God the Son has begun.” - Wayne Grudem, 635*

A. He **gives** physical life.

**PS 104:30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.**

**(see also Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35, Rom. 8:11)**

B. He **sustains** physical life.

**JOB 34:14 If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath,<sup>15</sup> all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust. (see also Gen. 6:3)**

### 3. The Spirit of God's Empowerment in the OT

*“The work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament is characterized by the empowerment of selective individuals for a temporary period of time, for the purpose accomplishing a specific task.” - Bruce Ware*

- A. It is selective
- B. It appears to be temporary (with some exceptions)
- C. It is task-oriented

We **do not see** a more “corporate” filling or blessing of the Holy Spirit’s presence **on all OT believers**, but rather He is seen sparingly in the lives of a select few, and especially the following.

1. **Judges** – Spirit empowers them to deliver Israel from enemies (Othniel - Judg. 3:10; Gideon - 6:34; Jephthah – 11:29; Samson – 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14)

**Task** = to do a supernatural work whereby they are required to be mighty and courageous in delivering Israel from her enemies.

2. **Prophets** – the Spirit of God spoke the Word of God through the Prophets of the OT (2 Chron. 15:1; 2 Kings 9:36; Jer. 1:9; Ezekiel 2:2; Deut 18:18-20; Hebrews 1:1) as well as performed miracles (Exodus 14:26; 2 Kings 6:6)

<sup>2 Pet. 1:21</sup> **For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

**Task** = to speak the words of God and to perform miraculous deeds at critical junctures in Israel’s history.

3. **Rulers, Kings** – the Spirit of God often filled or rested upon civil leaders who were equipped for leadership with skills and wisdom to govern the people or lead them into battle (Moses – Numbers 11; Joshua – Numbers 27:18; Deut 34:9; Saul - 1 Samuel 11:6; David – 1 Samuel 16:13).

#### **Moses and Numbers 11 (An “OT Pentecost”)**

Note: Moses looked forward to the day when all would prophesy. (v.29-30)

#### **Saul and 1 Samuel 11, 13, 15-16**

Note: It is this equipping for kingship which is what Saul lost (1 Sam. 16:14) when the Holy Spirit departed him at the same time it came upon David (v.13 – permanently?). David prays for the special empowerment he has been given to govern as king not to depart from him after his sin with Bathsheba (Ps. 51:11).

Saul was rebuked and rejected by God for sacrificing as a priest without Samuel present (1 Sam 13) and for refusing to destroy all the Amalekites in keeping with God’s command (1 Sam. 15:18-26).

4. **Craftsmen** – the Spirit of God equipped men with artistic skills in order to build the Sacred Tabernacle (Exod. 31:3; 35:31)

EX 31:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- <sup>4</sup> to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, <sup>5</sup> to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.

*"In the OT we see a selective enablement through the Holy Spirit – "The Spirit 'came upon' individuals to empower them to prophesy, to do mighty deeds, to perform skillful works, or to rule over God's covenant people. But the OT does not speak of the Holy Spirit baptizing and indwelling all who believe."*  
- Allan Ross

Therefore, we see a more individual, selective involvement of the Holy Spirit for these tasks, but this does not mean that the Holy Spirit was totally absent from the rest of God's people.

ISA 63:10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

ISA 63:11 Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people-- where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them...

**Surely, there was a work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of some of the believing Israelites, enabling them to believe in the God of the OT, but there is no indication among them that there was an ongoing and permanent indwelling and fuller sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost.**

**Therefore it was a work of lesser power which helps us understand the transition that took place at Pentecost with respect to the activity and presence of the Spirit as prophesied below:**

#### **4. The Spirit of God is predicted as doing a Future Fuller Work in the New Testament**

The Spirit of God is prophesied by the prophets of the OT to be radically poured out in a new way during and after the ministry of Jesus Christ in keeping with the coming of the New Covenant experience of God's people. (Ezekiel 36:26-27, 37:14; Joel 2:28-29; Isaiah 44:3, Jeremiah 31:31-34)

EZEK 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

**Consider then the radical saying of Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. How would this be different than the experience of the OT Israelite?**