

PNEUMATOLOGY

The Study (Doctrine) of the Holy Spirit Study Outline – Lesson 4

The Holy Spirit In The Old Testament

Introduction

Sometimes confusion and thought that the Holy Spirit was not active in the Old Testament - **John 7:39b - For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

The age or **2 Corinthians 3:8** – “**ministry of the Spirit**” was not completely introduced; the outpouring of the Spirit, the gifts of the Holy, the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit, that had not come yet. However, it is clear the Holy Spirit was present and active in the Old Testament.

The Holy Spirit In the Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-2 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.

The work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament somewhat different from His work in the New Testament.

- The Holy Spirit today plays a key role in the application of salvation to each person who comes to faith.
- It is the Spirit who brings conviction to the unbeliever and causes him/her to see the truth of the gospel in a clear light.
- The Holy Spirit unites the believer with Christ and places him in the body of Christ, the church.
- The Holy Spirit indwells the believer permanently.

The Spirit's empowerment in the Old Testament

- Judges
- Prophets
- Craftsmen
- Individuals

Characteristics of the Holy Spirits Empowerment in the Old Testament

There are three characteristics of the Spirit's empowerment in the Old Testament.

SELECTIVE

Numbers 11:17 - And I will come down, and I will speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit which is on you and will put it on them, and they will bear the burden of the people with you, and you will not bear it by yourself.

Compared to the New Testament

Acts 2:38 - And I will come down, and I will speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit which is on you and will put it on them, and they will bear the burden of the people with you, and you will not bear it by yourself.

Galatians 4:6 - And because you are sons, God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of His Son, crying, "Abba, Father!"

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

CAME UPON (DIDN'T INDWELL)

Ezekiel 36:25-27 - Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean. From all your filthiness and from all your idols, I will cleanse you. Also, I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Examples

Saul - 1 Samuel 10:6 - And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them. And you will be turned into another man.

Elisha - 2 Kings 2:9 - And as they were crossing, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask for something, and I will do it for you before I am taken away from you." And Elisha said, "Let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

Samson - Judges 14:6 - Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and though unarmed, he tore the lion in two as one might tear a young goat in two. However, he did not tell his father and his mother what he had done.

Simeon (presentation of Christ in the Temple) - Luke 2:25 - Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Compared to the New Testament

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? You were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Interestingly there is a coming upon in the NT – **Acts 1:8 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

TASK ORIENTED

The Holy Spirit “Selects” and “Comes Upon” to enable something to be done.

Temple - Exodus 35:30-35 - Moses said to the children of Israel: See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of craftsmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood in order to make every manner of artistic work. He also has put in his heart to teach, both he and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan. He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work as craftsmen; as designers; as embroiderers in blue, in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen; and as weavers: as craftsmen of every work and artistic designers.

Gideon - Judges 6:34 - The Spirit of the Lord enveloped Gideon. He blew a ram's horn trumpet, and the Abiezrites assembled behind him

Specific Workings of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

THE SPIRIT PARTICIPATED IN CREATION

Genesis 1:2 - The earth was formless and void, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.

Job 33:4 - The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.

Psalms 104:30 - When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the surface of the ground.

THE SPIRIT STRIVES WITH MAN

Genesis 6:3 - The Lord said, “My Spirit will not always strive with man, for he is flesh; yet his days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

Strive – govern, judge, contend with, plead the cause, abide

Related to drawing people to Christ - **John 6:44 - No one can come to Me unless the Father who has sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.**

Related to His work in convicting people of sin - **John 16:8-11 - When He comes, He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I am going to My Father, and you will see Me no more; and of judgment, because the ruler of this world stands condemned.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS

Othniel - **Judges 3:10** - **The Spirit of the Lord came on him, and he judged Israel. He went out to battle, and the Lord gave Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, into his hands, so that Othniel overpowered Cushan-Rishathaim.**

Samson - **Judges 15:4** - **Samson went and caught three hundred foxes. He took torches and turned the foxes tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails.**

David - **1 Samuel 16:12-13** - **So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy with beautiful eyes and a good appearance. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord came on David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.**

Deborah - **Judges 4:4-6** - **Now Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophetess. She judged Israel at that time. She would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim. The children of Israel would go up to her for her to render judgment. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The Lord God of Israel commands you, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor, and take ten thousand men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun with you.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

The Spirit played a prominent role in the long span of Old Testament prophecy. David declared that - **The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue. - 2 Samuel 23:2.** Likewise, Ezekiel reported that - **When He spoke to me, the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet. Then I heard Him speaking to me. - Ezekiel 2:2**

Old Testament Prophets – 65 Old Testament Prophets

Other Works

Healing - **2 Kings 5:10-14** - **10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be returned and cleansed."... 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh returned like the flesh of a little boy, and he was clean.**

Rain - **1 Samuel 12:18** - **So Samuel called to the Lord. And the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.**

Sun/Moon Stood Still - **Joshua 10:12-14** - **On the day the Lord gave over the Amorites to the children of Israel, Joshua spoke to the Lord and said in full view of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."**

So the sun stood still, and the moon stood in place until the people brought vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the book of Jashar? The sun stood still in the middle of the sky and did not set for about a full day. There has not been a day like this either before or after it, when the Lord obeyed a man, for the Lord waged war for Israel.

Shunammite Son Raised - **2 Kings 4:32-35** - **When Elisha came into the house, he saw that the boy was dead, lying on his bed. So he went in, and shut the door on the two of them, and prayed to the Lord. He went up and lay on the child, put his face on his face, and his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. Then he bent over the child, and the child's flesh warmed. Then he got down, walked once back and forth in the house, and went up, and bent over him; the boy sneezed seven times, and the boy opened his eyes.**

THE SPIRIT INSPIRED HOLINESS IN OLD TESTAMENT BELIEVERS

Psalm 143:10 - Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good spirit lead me onto level ground.

And Scripture promised that someday God would put His Spirit in His people in a way that would cause them to live according to His statutes - **Ezekiel 36:27 - I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.**

THE SPIRIT WAS CRUCIAL IN HELPING GOD'S PEOPLE ANTICIPATE THE MINISTRY OF THE MESSIAH.

For example, **Isaiah 11:1-5 - And there shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. He shall delight in the fear of the Lord, and he shall not judge by what his eyes see, nor reprove by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and reprove with fairness for the meek of the earth. He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his loins, and faithfulness the belt about his waist.**

Looking forward to the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit inspired Isaiah to prophesy: **"The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him" - Isaiah 11:2.**

Examples

Genesis 12:3 - I will bless them who bless you and curse him who curses you, and in you all families of the earth will be blessed."

Acts 3:25-26 - You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you from your iniquities."

Hosea 11:1 - When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

Matthew 2:14-15 - When he rose, he took the young Child and His mother by night, and departed into Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called My Son."

Isaiah 44:3 - For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;

John 16:7 - Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.