

Lesson 2

HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



When you think of the Holy Spirit, what story in the Bible comes to your mind?

Perhaps for some of us it is the story in Acts 2 about the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came on the early disciples. Or it may be the time when Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan and the Spirit came on him like a dove. However the Holy Spirit is not only mentioned in the New Testament, but also in the Old Testament. In fact there are 378 references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and 385 in the New.

The Holy Spirit has been present from the beginning as He is God, but he was not fully revealed in the Old Testament. This only happened after Jesus had returned to Heaven. Let's see what we can learn about him from the Old Testament.

1. HOLY SPIRIT IN CREATION

Look up these verses and see what the Holy Spirit is doing.

Genesis 1:2 _____

Psalm 104:30 _____

Job 33:4 _____

We know that it was God who created the world and gave life to all living creatures, but we can see that the person of the God-head who put God's plan into action was the Holy Spirit.

2. HOLY SPIRIT ON MEN

During the Old Testament times God made a covenant with the people of Israel and called them his people. There were times when the Holy Spirit moved on them to fulfil God's purposes.

(a.) To enable them to do mighty works

What did the Holy Spirit enable these men to do?

Samson – Judges 14:6 _____

Saul – 1 Samuel 11:6-7 _____

(b.) To enable them to do skilful work

God wanted the Tabernacle to be built in a special way, so he gave some men gifts to enable them to do the work for his glory.

When Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God what could he do? Exodus 35:30-33 _____

(c.) To enable men to lead

Who were the men the Holy Spirit came upon to lead God's people into battle in these verses?

Judges 3:10 _____ Judges 6:34 _____ Judges 11:29 _____

Why did God put his Spirit on the 70 elders? Numbers 11:16-17 _____

What happened to the elders when the Spirit came? Numbers 11:25 _____

(d.) To enable men to prophesy

The most common way the Holy Spirit moved on people during Old Testament times was through prophecy. This is when God speaks through someone to reveal his mind to men and women. In 2 Samuel 23:2 David said, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue."

How did God speak to these men?

Isaiah 1:1 _____ Ezekiel 1:1 _____ Daniel 7:1 _____

Jeremiah 1:2, 2:1, 7:1 _____

Discuss *Do you think the Holy Spirit can do similar things today?*

Although we see the Holy Spirit was always present and came upon men for special purposes, he had not yet come to live with God's people. This would only be possible after Jesus' death and resurrection.

3. HOLY SPIRIT PROMISED

God was preparing his people for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Why did God redeem us? Galatians 3:14a _____

What is this blessing? Galatians 3:14b _____

Two outpourings of the Holy Spirit were promised in the Old Testament.

Who was the Spirit going to come on in Isaiah 11:1-2? _____

Who is it speaking about in Isaiah 61:1? _____

Who does God promise to send the Spirit to in these verses?

Joel 2:28-29 _____ Isaiah 59:21 _____

What does the Bible say the Holy Spirit would do when he came? Ezekiel 36:26-27 _____

What supernatural things will accompany the coming of the Holy Spirit? Joel 2:28-29 _____

Conclusion

First of all this promise was fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. When he was baptised in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit came upon him and remained with him throughout his life on earth. The second part of the promise was fulfilled just 10 days after Jesus had ascended back into Heaven – the Holy Spirit was poured out on those who believed.