

## GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



### 16. Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (2)

#### An Introduction

There are over 750 references to the Holy Spirit in the Bible and so it is important we come to know him. In our previous study we began to look at those references in the Old Testament, seeing his activity in creation, and in man. We will continue this now.

#### HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

##### 4. Limitations of the Spirit

In the Old Testament period the giving of the Spirit wasn't:-

###### (a) Universal

- Just as Jesus was not present in the same way prior to the incarnation, only appearing at times, nor had the Holy Spirit come in his fullness.

###### (b) Permanent

- The Old Testament saints knew the Holy Spirit as a privilege, who could be withdrawn, even as he was given. 1 Samuel 16:14, Psalm 51:11

###### (c) Dependant on qualification of receiver

- Sometimes the Holy Spirit was given to a person who seemed unworthy! This is because the person was an agent used by God for his purposes among his covenant people.
- Examples of this are Balaam, Samson and Saul.

##### 5. Future Promise of the Spirit

All the acts of God point towards the new covenant and the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit. We see this in Galatians 3:14. Two outpourings are promised.

###### (a) Upon God's Servant

- The Spirit would give gifts of wisdom and power to enable him to inaugurate the Kingdom of God. Isaiah 11:2-5, 42:1, 61:1
- Jesus quoted these promises in Luke 4:18

###### (b) Upon God's people

Giving of the Spirit would be:-

- Universal. Joel 2:28-29, Jeremiah 31:34
- Permanent. Isaiah 59:21, Jeremiah 31:33
- Holiness – Spirit would be known as Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:11, Isaiah 63:10, 11), and by indwelling a person would enable them to live a holy life and to keep the law. Jeremiah 31:33-34, Ezekiel 36:26-27
- Evidenced by miraculous signs. Joel 2:28-29
- Accompanied by salvation. Acts 2:17-21

There is a twofold fulfilment of this prophecy:-

- Day of Pentecost - beginning of later days that Joel speaks of.
- End of later days – the days we are living in.

## **HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

We have seen that the first outpouring of the Spirit was to be upon the One called the Servant of the Lord. As we know, this was the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's see how this was true in his life.

### **1. Birth of Christ**

- He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:35
- Prophecies were given at the time of his birth that were under the inspiration of the Spirit. Luke 1:41, 67, 2:25-27

### **2. Baptism and Temptation**

- At his birth he was conceived by the Spirit, and at his baptism he was anointed for ministry.
- The Holy Spirit gave him power, which was necessary for him to fulfil his mission. Acts 10:38
- The Holy Spirit remained on him, so he could be the giver of the Spirit for all time. John 1:32-33
- Just as Jesus set an example by being baptised in water, we also need the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- As soon as Jesus was filled with the Spirit, he was led into the wilderness to be tempted. Matthew 4:1, Mark 1:12-14
- Notice the order in Luke 4:1, 14: 'full', 'led', 'power of the Spirit'. This should be our experience too. Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:25, Acts 1:8

### **3. Ministry**

- Jesus lived his life under the limitations we have, and so he depended upon the Holy Spirit for everything.
- He was anointed by the Holy Spirit so he could preach the good news and heal the sick. Luke 4:18-19
- He was anointed to cast out demons. Matthew 12:28
- He was anointed to do good. Acts 10:38

### **4. Death, resurrection & present ministry**

- Acts 1:2, Romans 1:4, 8:11, 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 9:14

### **5. Giver of the Holy Spirit**

- Promise of the Holy Spirit would be given to those who ask. Luke 11:13
- Promise that he would baptise us in Holy Spirit to empower us to be his witnesses. Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8



*When Jesus was baptised in water he set an example for us to follow. Do you think we also need to follow his example and be baptised in the Holy Spirit? Why?*



**The same Holy Spirit who lived in Jesus, lives in us! What a tremendous thought. Are we living a life filled, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit? We can!**