

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God in the Old Testament Part Three

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Today we look at the Holy Spirit in the OT from David to the Exile. Samuel, as we mentioned last week, was a transitional figure moving Israel from the time of the Judges to the time of the Kings.

Samuel anointed David to be king (1 Samuel 16:13). The same Spirit that came upon David and guided him also abandoned Saul.

We know from 2 Samuel 23:2 that the Spirit of the Lord spoke by David, and God's word was in his tongue. David received divine communication as a prophet (Mark 12:36; Acts 2:30) as to the birth and sufferings, the death, the resurrection, and glory of the Christ.

Let's read some references to the Holy Spirit in the Psalms: Psalm 139:7-- **Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ESV**

Psalm 51:11-- **Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ESV**

Psalm 143:10-- **Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! ESV**

We see Jesus in the Psalms and we see the power and presence of the Holy Spirit inspiring them for all time. The same Spirit of God can be found both in the OT and the NT, e.g., 2 Corinthians 4:13, 14: **Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ESV**

Solomon expressly references the Holy Spirit: Proverbs 1:23.

If you turn at My reproof, behold, I will pour out My Spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. ESV

The prophets received by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as we have shown. Hosea 9:7 tells us that Hosea was **"the man of the Spirit."** So were all the prophets of the one true God.

Joel predicts the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit reserved for the last days in Joel 2:28. **"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." ESV**

Notice that the Spirit is **"My Spirit"** referring to the Lord, from whom the Holy Spirit proceeds and by whom He is sent. This prophecy was fulfilled in Acts 2. Joel divides the gifts of the Holy Spirit into three categories: prophecy, dreams, and visions. The

allusion is to different forms of revelation. The Holy Spirit provided converting and sanctifying gifts like faith, hope, love, effectual calling; and ministerial gifts to awaken and edify others. We see this picked up in Acts 2:38, which refers to the sanctifying gifts of the Holy Spirit and to His dwelling in believers. With this outpouring we have bursting forth of the river of the water of life (Ezekiel 47:1), which I call the springing forth of the waters of En Gedi spiritually, not a man-made well.

Acts 2:38—And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ESV

Ezekiel 47:1, 9, 12-- Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar...And wherever the river goes,^d every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes...And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.” ESV Cf. Revelation 2:7, Revelation 22: 1, 2ff.

Micah squared off against false prophets. Let’s read Micah 2:6-8.

Micah 2:6-8—⁶“Do not preach”—thus they preach—“one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us.” ⁷Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly? ESV

With power and without fear Micah declared to the nation its sin. The prophet was also full of judgment by the Spirit. The book of Micah deals with social justice.

Isaiah will speak of the Spirit of burning and the Spirit of judgment.

Isaiah 4:4--When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. KJV

Isaiah 63:7-14—⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name. ESV (Suggestion: Read all of Isaiah 63 and think of Revelation as you do.)

Isaiah 34:16—Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them. ESV

Isaiah 30:1-- “Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin. ESV

“Woe to the rebellious children (comp. **Isaiah** 1:23; **Isaiah** 65:2). The word translated “rebellious” is used in Deuteronomy 21:18, 20 of the persistently disobedient son, who was to be brought before the elders and stoned to death. That take counsel; rather, that form plans, such as the plan now formed to call in the aid of Egypt.” www.biblehub.com commentary

Isaiah alludes to the Holy Spirit’s work relative to the Messiah as the Servant of the Lord.

Isaiah 48:16-- Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there.” And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit. ESV (I suggest reading the whole chapter on your own.)

The Holy Spirit is sent with the Son and conjoined with the Son from incarnation. Of the Messiah, Isaiah will say:

Isaiah 11:1-3—There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And 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 the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. ESV

Isaiah 42:1—¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ESV (a “Servant Song)

Isaiah 61:1-3 -- ¹The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ESV

The Spirit Himself was to rest upon Christ, the Messiah. The Messiah is foretold to be equipped for all His offices, gifted, and anointed. The Spirit rests upon Him, is put upon Him, and is upon Him as the anointing oil. Thus the human nature of Christ was anointed with the full supply of the Holy Spirit for discharging all His duties as the

Servant of the Lord, as Messiah, and as Mediator of the New Covenant. Likewise, the Spirit was to be plenteously supplied to the called-out ones in Messianic days. Isaiah 44:3-- **³For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. ESV**

The Holy Spirit resists the enemy and likewise abides in the redeemed, as, for example, Isaiah 59: 19-21.

The call goes out in Isaiah 55 to come to the waters, to living waters; God is expanding the covenant with David to include others, even the sure mercies of David. About this I have written: [The Sure Mercies of David](#) and [For This Cause](#).

From Exile to OT End

Jeremiah was sanctified from the womb and received definite revelation, particularly of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31). In Daniel's life we clearly see the Holy Spirit's agency in the interpretation of dreams, in Daniel's visions, and in all of the allusions to the anointing of the Christ, the Most Holy (Daniel 9:24).

For Ezekiel it is different. Ezekiel 2:2 -- **² And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ESV**

Ezekiel 8:3, Ezekiel 11:24—for example.

The promises announced by Ezekiel speak of the grace of the Holy Spirit in connection with the restoration of Israel to divine favor, as in Ezekiel 36:25-27.

Inward renewal is ascribed to the irresistible grace of the Spirit of God. It is the Holy Spirit who takes away the insensibility of the stony heart and makes the tender heart of flesh. First the heart is regenerated; then, the call is effectual as the person responds to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in faith and repentance unto life.

Two other places that speak of this inward renewal are when Ezekiel was commanded to prophesy by the Spirit relative to the dry bones (Ezek. 37:1) and when he spoke of the waters swelling into a river from under the threshold of the house of God (47:1ff). In Revelation 22:1 we see this called the river of the water of life.

Haggai 2:5 speaks of the comfort of knowing that the Spirit would remain among the people of God. The Holy Spirit is a help in their infirmities as well as the source of grace, of light, of comfort, and of holiness.

The prophet Zechariah was commissioned to show that the maintenance of the elect was dependent on God's Spirit (Zech. 4:6), not on the resources of worldly kingdoms. To fortify this assurance, God supplies the vision of the lampstand and of the two olive trees in Zechariah chapter four. Zechariah 12:10 tells us of the Spirit of grace and supplication, one of the names of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will supply the house of David in the latter days and effect conversions amid deep sorrow and mourning.

Wrapping up the OT history, we find that the children of Israel vexed the Holy Spirit during their day of merciful visitation. (Nehemiah 9:30) The Holy Spirit moved the prophets and spoke by them as vehicles to reveal His mind and will.

Chronicles records two historical occasions when the Holy Spirit came on the prophets, namely Jahaziel and Zechariah, to declare the mind of God. (2 Chron. 20:14; 2 Chron. 24:20).

So we see that the Holy Spirit imparted the gift of prophecy to a few and comfort to many. This One who spoke by holy men from the beginning was consistently recognized as a divine Person.

In the OT the Holy Spirit is revealed as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Father, Breath of the Almighty, Free [most benevolent] Spirit, God, Creator, Good Spirit, Holy Spirit, Power of the Highest, Spirit of burning, Spirit of Judgment, Spirit of counsel, knowledge, might, understanding, and wisdom, Spirit of grace and supplications, Spirit of the Fear of the Lord, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of the Lord God, and the Spirit.

But God was not finished revealing Himself. In the NT we will find out more about the One whose name is the Holy Spirit, the Promised One. He is the Gift we cherish as He reveals to us Jesus Christ and eternal life in Him. Jesus Christ is the Child of the Holy Ghost (Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18, 20), God the Son, Son of God.

The Holy Spirit applies what Jesus Christ accomplished in the Atonement: freeing the true believer from guilt and liability, effecting reconciliation with the Father, effecting the satisfaction of divine justice and propitiation of the wrath of God, and effecting the defeat of all darkness. The Holy Spirit is the Life-Maker, the One who renews, sanctifies, and so much more. He glorifies Jesus as He works out our redemption and "makes it so." Amen.

Pray:

1. To stop trying to take God's place as Sovereign and hear the cry of God's heart for your good and for His glory;
2. To stop resisting, rejecting, spurning, mocking, and rebelling against Him;
3. For the grace to repent and believe Him; to trust in the Lord with all your heart; and
4. For the Lord to empower you to yield to Him with a heart to obey Him, His Word, and let Him love you.

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