

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Text: Joel 2:28-32

INTRO: We usually think of the H.S. as strictly a N.T. subject, but of course, upon deeper reflection, we know better.

In reality, as God progressively unfolded the knowledge about Himself & His will to mankind, we find the H.S. referred to no less than 88 times in the O.T.--mentioned in over ½ of the books of the O.T., & referred to by 18 slightly different designations.

I. THE MEANING OF THE WORD "SPIRIT."

In both the Heb of the O.T. & the Gr. of the N.T., the word for spirit is the same as the word for "wind." Those who have studied word useages & their origin suggest that this word came to be associated with God's Spirit & man's spirit from the fact that the wind was (1) powerful and (2) invisible.

II. THE O.T. RECOGNIZES BOTH THE PERSON-HOOD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, & HIS DISTINCTNESS FROM THE FATHER

A. His person-hood.

But they rebelled & grieved His Holy Spirit, so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, & He fought against them. (Isa 63:10).

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? (Psalm 139:7).

B. The H.S. distinct from the Father.

You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them & did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, & gave them water for their thirst. (Neh. 9:20).

Do not cast me away from Your presence; & do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. (Psalm 51:11).

Come near to Me, hear this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there: & now the Lord God, & His Spirit have sent Me. (Isa 48:16).

III. THE O.T. INFORMS US THAT THE H.S. WAS ACTIVE IN THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE. Gen. 1:1-2

By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. (Job 26:13).

NOTE: The fleeing serpent is believed to have reference to a constellation otherwise known as the dragon.

You sent forth Your Spirit, they [different forms of animal life] are created & You renew the face of the earth. (Psa 104:30).

Elihu: The Spirit of God has made me, & the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4).

IV. DURING O.T. TIMES, THE H.S. WAS ACTIVE IN QUALIFYING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS FOR CERTAIN WORKS.

A. Especially prophets for prophesying--revealing the will of God. 2 Peter 1:21.

Then the Lord came down in the cloud & spoke to him, & took of the Spirit that was on him, & placed the same upon the 70 elders: & it happened that when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again. (Num 11:25).

READ NUMBERS 24:2-5

Now these are the last words of David... "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, & His word was on my tongue" (2 Sam 23:1-2).

B. Workmen were qualified by the H.S. for building:

1. The tabernacle & its furniture, EX 35:30-35
2. The temple, Zech 4:6.

C. Certain rulers were qualified to rule.

1. Joseph, Gen 41:38
2. Othniel, Judg 3:10

NOTE: Not all rulers were so endowed, but many definitely were.

V. THE O.T. REVEALED THAT THE CHOICEST BLESSINGS OF THE H.S. WERE TO BE GIVEN IN A LATER AGE.

A. The H.S. in the personal ministry of the Messiah.
READ ISAIAH 11:1-4

READ LUKE 4:16-21

B. The H.S. in the establishment of the N.T. kingdom of God, the giving of its law, etc.

And I will pour on the house of David & on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace & of supplications: & they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, & shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. (Zech. 12:10).

Joel 2:28-32 READ ACTS 2:16-21, 36-41.

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