



The Spirit in the Old Testament | Lesson 2

The Old Testament talks about the Holy Spirit, but not with as much detail as we have as modern believers. Yet as we study the Old Testament teaching on the Spirit, we see the building blocks of what will later become the New Testament teaching on the Spirit. Specifically, we see the Spirit create, empower, reveal, and we see clues of what His ministry will be in the New Testament.

The Spirit's Work of Creation

God's initial work of creation begins in verse 1, where the heavens and earth are created. But that initial work of creation would require further refining over the following six days as light, dry ground, plants, and animals would be added. In Genesis 1:2 we read that Spirit is "hovering" over the waters after God initially created the universe while the world is dark, formless, covered in water, and empty. Here we see God speak creation into existence, but it is the Spirit that is actively energizing and maintaining that creation from the very start.

The Spirit's Work of Empowerment

One of the main functions of the Spirit in the Old Testament was the work of empowering specific people for specific tasks.

Empowerment for _____

The Spirit empowered those who built the tabernacle. The first person of whom it was said that he was filled with the Spirit was Bezaleel the son of Uri who did the work of a craftsman on the tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-3). Building the tabernacle was a critical step in God reaching out to dwell with man, and so its construction mattered.



The Spirit in the Old Testament | Lesson 2

The Old Testament talks about the Holy Spirit, but not with as much detail as we have as modern believers. Yet as we study the Old Testament teaching on the Spirit, we see the building blocks of what will later become the New Testament teaching on the Spirit. Specifically, we see the Spirit create, empower, reveal, and we see clues of what His ministry will be in the New Testament.

The Spirit's Work of Creation

God's initial work of creation begins in verse 1, where the heavens and earth are created. But that initial work of creation would require further refining over the following six days as light, dry ground, plants, and animals would be added. In Genesis 1:2 we read that Spirit is "hovering" over the waters after God initially created the universe while the world is dark, formless, covered in water, and empty. Here we see God speak creation into existence, but it is the Spirit that is actively energizing and maintaining that creation from the very start.

The Spirit's Work of Empowerment

One of the main functions of the Spirit in the Old Testament was the work of empowering specific people for specific tasks.

Empowerment for _____

The Spirit empowered those who built the tabernacle. The first person of whom it was said that he was filled with the Spirit was Bezaleel the son of Uri who did the work of a craftsman on the tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-3). Building the tabernacle was a critical step in God reaching out to dwell with man, and so its construction mattered.

Empowerment for _____

We also read of how the Spirit empowered some with superhuman feats, most notably Samson. We read of Samson destroying a lion with his bare hands (Judges 14:6), taking out thirty men at once (Judges 14:19), and breaking the ropes he was tied up with (Judges 15:14).

Empowerment for _____

One of the main tasks which the Spirit empowered individuals for was exercising leadership. This is true for Joseph (Genesis 41:38), Moses and the 70 elders (Numbers 11:17), Joshua (Numbers 27:18), kings such as Saul (1 Samuel 10:6, 10; 11:6) and David (1 Samuel 16:3), and later Daniel who functioned as a royal advisor (Daniel 5:11, 14).

The Spirit's Work of Revelation

One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is the bringing of God's truth. This is one of the most common functions of the Spirit in the Old Testament. David is one of the clearest examples of this when he states, "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, And his word was in my tongue." (2 Samuel 23:2) Other passages make it clear that the Spirit is the one who empowers prophesying (Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Chronicles 18:23; 24:30; Zechariah 7:12).

The Spirit's Coming Work

The Spirit's Coming Work of _____

Joel 2:28-29 includes the promises that in the end times, God's Spirit will be poured out on all people. Peter ties this to Pentecost and the supernatural gift of tongues as evidence that the Spirit is being poured out. This does not mean everything Joel prophesied had come to pass, but that through Jesus some of those prophecies are beginning to come true, and when He returns they all will.

The Spirit's Coming Work of _____

Ezekiel prophesies a time when the Spirit will come and will transform the hearts of the covenant people (Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27). When God makes a new covenant with Israel, this will result in Him putting His Spirit in them so that they obey His laws.

Empowerment for _____

We also read of how the Spirit empowered some with superhuman feats, most notably Samson. We read of Samson destroying a lion with his bare hands (Judges 14:6), taking out thirty men at once (Judges 14:19), and breaking the ropes he was tied up with (Judges 15:14).

Empowerment for _____

One of the main tasks which the Spirit empowered individuals for was exercising leadership. This is true for Joseph (Genesis 41:38), Moses and the 70 elders (Numbers 11:17), Joshua (Numbers 27:18), kings such as Saul (1 Samuel 10:6, 10; 11:6) and David (1 Samuel 16:3), and later Daniel who functioned as a royal advisor (Daniel 5:11, 14).

The Spirit's Work of Revelation

One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is the bringing of God's truth. This is one of the most common functions of the Spirit in the Old Testament. David is one of the clearest examples of this when he states, "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, And his word was in my tongue." (2 Samuel 23:2) Other passages make it clear that the Spirit is the one who empowers prophesying (Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Chronicles 18:23; 24:30; Zechariah 7:12).

The Spirit's Coming Work

The Spirit's Coming Work of _____

Joel 2:28-29 includes the promises that in the end times, God's Spirit will be poured out on all people. Peter ties this to Pentecost and the supernatural gift of tongues as evidence that the Spirit is being poured out. This does not mean everything Joel prophesied had come to pass, but that through Jesus some of those prophecies are beginning to come true, and when He returns they all will.

The Spirit's Coming Work of _____

Ezekiel prophesies a time when the Spirit will come and will transform the hearts of the covenant people (Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27). When God makes a new covenant with Israel, this will result in Him putting His Spirit in them so that they obey His laws.