

Introduction



His Person



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His Indwelling



His Baptizing



His Sealing



His Filling



His Gifting



His Helping



# The Holy Spirit—Our Helper

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, May 29, 2011

## His Work in The Old Testament Era

*The same Holy Spirit at work in the Old Testament era is at work in us today; and that helps us appreciate the greatness of the One who is in us. But the differences between His work then and now shows us the greatness of our privilege in Christ.*

Some theologians have said that the New Testament era--that is the church era --is the era of the Holy Spirit. But this should never cause us to think that the Holy Spirit was not also very much at work in the Old Testament era. His work during the Old Testament era can be divided up under three basic headings:

### I. HIS WORK IN CREATION.

- A. We find this part of the work of the Holy Spirit revealed to us in the second verse of the Bible (Genesis 1:2); where He is said to be “hovering over the face of the waters” of the yet unformed earth. As the third Person of the Godhead, He was even said to have been involved in the planning of creation (Isaiah 40:12-14).
- B. But His work was not limited to the beginning of creation. He was also said to have a renewing and life-sustaining role in the creation (Psalm 104:27-30)--making Him not only Creator, but also Sustainer of creation.

### II. HIS WORK IN REVELATION.

- A. The work of the Holy Spirit in revelation was declared in the Old Testament in that individuals were clearly said be speaking by means of the Spirit (such as David in 2 Samuel 23:2 and the prophet Micah in Micah 3:8).
- B. It is also shown from the fact that words of Old Testament writers were attributed to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament (compare Psalm 110:1 with Matthew 22:43-45; Psalm 69:25 and 109:8 with Acts 1:16-20; Isaiah 6:9-10 with Acts 28:25-27; Psalm 95:7-11 with Hebrews 3:7-11; and Jeremiah 31:33-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17).
- C. But the clearest affirmations of the work of the Holy Spirit in giving Old Testament scripture are found in the letters of Peter: that the prophets were “searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow” (1 Peter 1:11); and that “holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

### III. HIS WORK IN SPECIFIC PEOPLE.

- A. The Holy Spirit clearly worked in all the Old Testament saints; because wherever there is spiritual life, there is the work of the Holy Spirit. But it seems that the Spirit’s work was presented in more of a “person-specific” way in the Old Testament. He was recognized as being “in” some (Genesis 41:38; Numbers 27:18; Daniel 4:8; 5:11-14; 6:3), “upon” some for a time (even some who were not necessarily “saintly” or “saved”--Numbers 24:2; Judges 13:25; 1 Samuel 10:10), and “filling” some for service (Exodus 31:2-3; 35:30-31).
- B. The Spirit’s work in Old Testament times seems to have been limited as to people, for specific ministries, and only for a brief period. Perhaps the difference is best shown in Jesus’ words to the disciples regarding Pentecost: “He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17). His indwelling now is “forever” (v. 16); and is true of all those who are Christ’s (Romans 8:9).