

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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God the Holy Spirit: His Advent

- Introduction
 - The coming of the Holy Spirit into the world on the day of Pentecost must be seen in relationship to His work in prior dispensations.
 - In the O.T. the Holy Spirit was in the world as omnipresent God, yet He is said to come into the world on the day of Pentecost.
 - During the present age He is said to remain in the world, but will depart out of the world – in the same sense as he came on the day of Pentecost – when the Rapture of the Church occurs.
 - In order to understand this truth of the Holy Spirit, various aspects of His relationship to the world must be considered.
- The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 - Before the first coming of Christ, the Holy Spirit was present in the world and worked in and through the people of God according to His divine will (Gen 41:38; Ex 31:3; 35:31; Num 27:18; Job 33:4; Ps 139:7; Hag 2:4-5; Zech 4:6).
 - In the O.T. the Spirit of God is seen as active, having a part in the creation, inspiration of the Scriptures which were written, enabling believers for service, and performing miracles.
 - But there is no indication that O.T. believers were indwelt by the Spirit – there is evidence to the contrary (1 Sam 16:14).
 - The sealing/baptism of the Spirit were not mentioned prior to the day of Pentecost, so it follows that after Pentecost the Holy Spirit would have an even greater work than in preceding ages.
- The Holy Spirit During the Life of Christ on Earth
 - In relation to Christ Himself...
 - ✦ The Holy Spirit was the generating power by which the God-man was formed in the virgin's womb (Matt 1:18).
 - ✦ The Spirit descended upon Christ at His baptism (Mk 1:10).
 - ✦ Through the Spirit Christ offered Himself to God (Heb 9:14).
 - In relation to mankind...
 - ✦ At first, Christ told His disciples that they could receive the Spirit by asking the Father (Luke 11:13). This was different from the time prior to Christ's coming

and there is no record of anyone actually availing themselves of the Spirit by asking for Him.

- ✦ At the end of His earthly ministry and just before His death, Jesus told His disciples He would ask the Father to send the Spirit that he might be with them forever (John 14:16-17).
 - ✦ After His resurrection, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22), but in spite of this temporary gift of the Spirit they were to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came and they were clothed with power from on high (Lk 24:49; Ac 1:4).
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
 - The Holy Spirit – who is omnipresent and has always been in the world – came on the day of Pentecost that He might make His abode in the world.
 - The significance here is that the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit was changed from heaven to earth when He came, thereby establishing the new ministry of this age of grace.
 - The Holy Spirit came, first of all, to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11).
 - ✦ The unbeliever is made to understand that the sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior is the one sin that stands between him and salvation (John 3:18). It is not a question of his worthiness, his feelings, or any other factor.
 - ✦ The unbeliever is informed concerning the righteousness of God. This includes the fact that God is perfectly righteous and that no work of man can rise to the level of His righteousness. Also, the Spirit reveals that God’s righteousness is available to us through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16-17; 3:22; 4:5-6).
 - ✦ The fact is revealed that Satan himself has been defeated – judged at the cross and doomed to eternal punishment.
 - In His coming to the world on the day of Pentecost, the work of the Spirit in the Church began.
 - ✦ He regenerates every believer (John 3:3-7).
 - ✦ He indwells every believer (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:15-17; Rom 5:5; 8:9-11; 1 Cor 6:19-20).
 - ✦ He seals the believer for the day of redemption (Eph 4:30).
 - ✦ He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13).
 - ✦ All of the above ministries apply equally to every true believer in this present age.
 - ✦ Believers also have available to them the possibility of the filling of the Spirit and walking by the Spirit, but this requires that they do not grieve (Eph 4:30) nor quench (1 Thess 5:19) the Holy Spirit.
 - When the purpose of God in this age is brought to completion by the Rapture of the Church, the Holy Spirit will have accomplished the purpose of His special advent into the world and will depart from the world in the same sense that He came.

- This present age, then, is in many respects the age of the Spirit, an age in which the Spirit of God is working in a special way to call out a company of believers, both Jew and Gentile, to form the body of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit will continue to be omnipresent after His departure at the Rapture and He will continue to work, although in different ways, throughout the time of tribulation, the millennial kingdom, and the fullness of the times.
- Questions
 - In what sense was the Holy Spirit in the world before Pentecost?
 - What important works of the Holy Spirit are found in the Old Testament?
 - Distinguish the meaning of the Holy Spirit being “with” the O.T. saints in contrast to the present age when the Holy Spirit is “in” the saints.
 - How is the Holy Spirit related to the conception and birth of Christ?
 - What ministry did the Holy Spirit have in the period of the gospels?
 - Why did the disciples have to wait until the day of Pentecost for the coming of the Spirit even though the Lord had breathed on them (John 20:22)?
 - In what sense did the promise of Christ concerning the giving of another Comforter who would abide with the disciples forever promise a new ministry of the Spirit?
 - In what sense did the Holy Spirit come on the day of Pentecost and how does this relate to His omnipresence?
 - What three doctrines are taught by the Spirit in convicting the world?
 - In coming on the day of Pentecost, what important works of the Spirit are contemplated?
 - How important is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the present purpose of God?
 - What change in the ministry of the Holy Spirit will take place at the time of the Rapture?
 - Will the Holy Spirit continue to work in the world after the Rapture?