



The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

By Shannon Ford on April 16, 2024

TODAY'S READING: 1 Samuel 10

In 1 Samuel 10, the prophet Samuel anoints Saul as the first king of Israel after the nation had rejected God and His power and deliverance (10:17-19). In this chapter, we also read that Saul, not a prophet, begins to prophesy after the Spirit of the Lord comes powerfully upon him (10:6, 9-11). So here in 1 Samuel 10 and in yesterday's reading in Judges 14, we see the Holy Spirit at work. It is important to understand that the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit is different in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the believer is indwelt and sealed with the Holy Spirit at salvation. This is a permanent indwelling. The Holy Spirit will always be present in your life to lead, guide, convict, and comfort you. He is your helper who intercedes for you and gives you a spiritual gift to build His church.

The Holy Spirit's ministry in the Old Testament is different. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Old Testament times was selective and temporary. The Spirit's indwelling was specifically related to enabling someone to do a particular task. A clear example is when the Spirit filled Bezalel (Ex. 31:1-5) with a special enablement in artistic designs to lead the craftsmen as they worked on the tabernacle. However, the Holy Spirit could cease to indwell a person once the task was completed or because of disobedience to God. The Spirit empowered Samson but later left him because of disobedience (Judges 16:20). The Spirit empowered Saul in today's passage to prophesy but later left him after David was anointed king (1 Sam. 16:13-14). When David sinned with Bathsheba, he pleaded that God would not take the Holy Spirit from him (Psalm 51:11).

Saul and Samson both received the Holy Spirit to battle the enemies of God. However, both experienced physical and spiritual defeat when the Holy Spirit departed from them because of their sin. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit's coming was temporary and restricted to a few individuals. Now the Holy Spirit comes as a permanent indwelling to all who called upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Today, the gift of the Holy Spirit is both an endowment of power and a mandate to witness for all true followers of Christ. So, let's be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18-20) and let us live by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

PRAYER: Father, You have chosen to make my life Your home; the place where Your Spirit dwells, speaks, ministers, and moves. Thank You for Jesus. Thank You for the cross and the empty grave. Thank You for Your Spirit who lives in me to lead and guide me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 3

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