

Judges Series

Lesson #28

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**The Holy Spirit in
the Old Testament:
In the Prophets and
Leaders of Israel**

Judges 3:7–9

JUDGES

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

2021 Series

OTHNIEL
The First Judge

Judges 3:7–11

Judg. 3:10, “And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.”

**עָזַז Verb qal wawConsec 3
fem sing “to be strong,
overpower,”
“When used of man, this word
carries the idea of prevailing as
in a war or struggle” ~TWOT**

**עַל־2 prep
upon, over, above**

Judg. 3:10, “The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim.”

Judg. 6:34, “But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.”

Judg. 11:29, “Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.”

Judg. 13:25, “And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”

Judg. 14:6, “And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.” Judg. 14:19; 15:14.

What the Bible Teaches About

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament



How would a first-century Jew understand the use of the term “Holy Spirit” if there were no prior reference to Him in the Hebrew Scriptures?

Who is the Holy Spirit? Is He a person, a force, or an influence? Just an idiom for the actions of God?

Matt. 3:16, “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Matt. 3:17, “And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ ”

Tracing the Ministries of the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament

1. While the Holy Spirit at times had ministries to individuals that were *similar* to the New Testament Church Age ministries, they were *different* in that they were not for everyone, they were not related to the spiritual life, and they were not permanent.

The Holy Spirit's ministry was selective. That is it was not for every believer. It was primarily only for those who had some special role in the leadership of the nation: prophets, priests, kings, writers of Scripture, judges.

2. Several different words are used, *came upon, filled, were in, clothed with, empowered*, we will examine these as we go through the passages.

3. At no point do we have it said that it related to their spiritual life, or that they were making a temple for the indwelling of God the Father or God the Son.

4. At no point is there any suggestion that it was related to illumination of Scripture or a spiritual walk.

“It will be noted, first, that the coming of the Spirit to indwell individuals has no apparent relation to spiritual qualities. Only a few were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and these were known for their distinctive gift, were sought out as leaders and prophets, and were usually marked men.”

~Walvoord, *The Holy Spirit*, 72

5. Since this ministry was selective and temporary, God could remove the Holy Spirit. He removed the Holy Spirit from Saul in 1 Sam. 16:14. After David's sin with Bathsheba and conspiring to have her husband Uriah killed, he prayed in Psa. 51:11 that God would not remove His Holy Spirit from him.

Saul

1 Sam. 10:6, “Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.”

1 Sam. 10:10, “When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.”

1 Sam. 11:6, “Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused.”

עַל־אֲלֹהִים *al-2* prep
upon, over, above

The Craftsmen in the Temple

Ex. 31:3, “And I have filled him *with* the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

Ex. 31:4, “to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze,

Ex. 31:5, “in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.”

מלא *mala'* piel

wawConsec 1 com sing
“to fill, to be full”

The Craftsmen in the Temple

Ex. 31:6, “And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:”

Note: It doesn't mention the Holy Spirit here, but it's assumed because of the previous statement in Exodus 31:3. Just as “put wisdom” also leaves out “understanding, knowledge, and all manner of workmanship.” (cf., Hiram, in 1 Kings 7:14)

David

1 Chron. 28:12, “and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit with Him, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;” ~NKJV

David

1 Chron. 28:12, “and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit with him, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;” ~RD

1 Chron. 28:12, “He gave him the blueprints of all he envisioned for the courts of the LORD’s temple, all the surrounding rooms, the storehouses of God’s temple, and the storehouses for the holy items.” ~NET

David

1 Chron. 28:12, “He gave him the blueprints of all he envisioned for the courts of the LORD’s temple, all the surrounding rooms, the storehouses of God’s temple, and the storehouses for the holy items.” ~NET

tn. “the pattern of all which was in the spirit with him.”

Prophets—Those Empowered Temporarily

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

**φέρω *pherō* pres passive part masc plur
nom to be moved, or borne along, or
carried along as a ship by the wind, Acts
27:15, 17**

Prophets—Those Empowered Temporarily: Azariah

2 Chron. 15:1, “Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded.

2 Chron. 15:2, “And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: ‘Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.’ ”

2-לַעֲלֹת *al-2* prep
upon, over, above

Prophets—Those Empowered Temporarily: Jahaziel

2 Chron. 20:14, “Then **the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah**, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

2 Chron. 20:15, “And he said, ‘Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: “Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.” ’ ”

עַל־2 *al-2* prep
upon, over, above

Prophets—Those Empowered Temporarily: Zechariah

2 Chron. 24:20, “Then the Spirit of God came upon [clothed himself with] Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, ‘Thus says God: “Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.” ’ ”

לָבַשׁ *lavash* qal perf 3 fem sing “to wear,
to clothe”

עַל-2 *al-2* prep
upon, over, above

Matt. 23:34–35, “Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.”

Prophets—Those Empowered Temporarily: Balaam

Num. 24:2, “And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him.” [literally: “was upon him.”]

**עַל־אֵל *al-2* prep
upon, over, above**

Prophets—Those Empowered Temporarily: Amasai

1 Chron. 12:18, “Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said: ‘We are yours, O David; We are on your side, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you.’ So David received them, and made them captains of the troop.”

לָבַשׁ *lavash* qal perf 3 fem sing “to wear,
to clothe”

עַל־2 *al-2* prep
upon, over, above

Prophets—Those Empowered More Permanently: Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2:9, “And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?’ Elisha said, ‘Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’ ”

Prophets—Those Empowered More Permanently: Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2:15, “Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, ‘The Spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.’ And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

2 Kings 2:16, “Then they said to him, ‘Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley. ...’ ”

Prophets—Those Empowered More Permanently: Micah

Mic. 3:8, “But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.”

Zech. 7:12, “Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.”

Neh. 9:30, “Yet for many years You had patience with them, and testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.”

The Holy Spirit empowered the leaders of the theocratic government.

Moses

Num. 11:17, “Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.”

**עַל־2 *al-2* prep
upon, over, above**

The Seventy Elders

Num. 11:17, “Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.”

Neh. 9:20, “You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them [the Exodus generation], and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.”

Isa. 63:10, “But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.”

The Role of the Spirit in Prophecy

Isa. 11:2, “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

The Role of the Spirit in Prophecy

Isa. 30:1, “ ‘Woe to the rebellious children,’ says the LORD, ‘Who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;’ ”

The Role of the Spirit in Prophecy

Isa. 42:1, “Behold! My Servant whom I [God the Father] uphold, My Elect [Choice One] One [the Messiah–God the Son] in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”

The Plurality of the Godhead in the Old Testament

Isa. 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”

The Plurality of the Godhead in the Old Testament

Isa. 48:12, “Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. [who is speaking?]

Isa. 48:13, “Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand up together.”

Isa. 48:16, “Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me.”

The Plurality of the Godhead in the Old Testament

Isa. 63:8, “For He said, ‘Surely they are My people, children who will not lie.’ So He became their Savior.”

Isa. 63:9, “In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them all the days of old.”

Isa. 63:10, “But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.”

Isa. 63:11, “Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: ‘Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them,

Isa. 63:12, “ ‘Who led them by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name,

Isa. 63:13, “ ‘Who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they might not stumble?’

Isa. 63:14, “As a beast goes down into the valley, and the Spirit of the LORD causes him to rest, so You lead Your people, to make Yourself a glorious name.”