

God's Spirit and Israel



Grieving the Holy Spirit

God spoke about His guidance of Israel throughout the generations (Isa 63).

How does someone **rebel against the Spirit?**

How does someone **grieve the Spirit?**

“But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them” (Isa 63:10; cf. 30:1).

The Holy Spirit for Israel

What did the Holy Spirit ever do **for Israel**?

“Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name” (Isa 63:11–14).

The Spirit upon Moses

How did **the Spirit** help Moses?

God commanded Moses to gather to the 70 elders of Israel and bring them to the tabernacle.

God revealed, “And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.” (Num 11:17; cf. 11:11–15)

The Spirit on the Elders

What happened when **the Spirit** was placed on the 70 elders?

“Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it” (Num 11:25).

The most common action of the Holy Spirit in the OT is prophecy.

The Spirit also guided the craftsmen for the tabernacle (Exod 31:3; 35:31).

The Spirit & Prophecy

What did Moses think about others than the 70 having the Spirit of God?

In Numbers 11, two men, Eldad and Medad, began prophesying who were neither at the tabernacle nor of the list of elders.

Joshua went to Moses requesting that Moses stop them.

Moses responded, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” (Num 11:29).

Good Spirit

What did **the Spirit** do for the Israelites in the wilderness?

Nehemiah observed that God's gave His "good Spirit to instruct them" (Neh 9:20).

Therefore, God can give His Spirit, and His Spirit instructs His people.

When did **prophecy** stop?

In Nehemiah's time, they were rebuilding the wall bear the end of the age of OT prophets.

Warn Israel

How did God **warn Israel**?

“Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands” (Neh 9:30).

God continued to **warn Israel by His Spirit.**

How? The Spirit spoke through the prophets.

The Spirit upon a Man

How did God distinguish Joshua as **a leader to replace Moses?**

God commanded Moses to inaugurate Joshua before all the congregation (Num 27:18–20).

In the OT, the Spirit worked primarily for prophecy.

God described Joshua as “a man in whom is the Spirit” (Num 27:18).

By the Spirit

Israel's judges conquered and had strength **by the Spirit of God**.

The Spirit of the LORD was upon Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson (Judg 3:9–10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25).

Samson's **acts of strength** were by the Spirit of the LORD (Judg 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14–15).

Spirit on the King

Saul prophesied and was able to conquer **by the Spirit.**

What did Samuel say Saul would do?

Samuel prophesied that Saul would become a new man (1 Sam 10:6).

“When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them” (1 Sam 10:10).

The Spirit on King Saul

When Saul heard about the Ammonites besieging Jabesh-Gilead, **the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon Saul.**

Saul took two oxen, cut them in pieces, and sent those pieces throughout Israel.

This united Israel as one. Saul divided them into three companies and struck down the Ammonites until there were not two together (1 Sam 11).

A Harmful Spirit

What happened to Saul **when he rebelled against God?**

“Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him” (1 Sam 16:14).

Saul’s messengers went to take David, but prophesied three times and then Saul too (1 Sam 19:17–24).

What does this show about the Spirit (John 11:49–53)?

The Spirit upon David

When did **the Spirit come upon David**?

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah” (1 Sam 16:13).

How did **the Spirit help David's army**?

“Then the Spirit clothed Amasai, chief of the thirty, and he said, ‘We are yours, O David, and with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you.’ Then David received them and made them officers of his troops” (1 Chr 12:18).

David's Request to God

Would David have ever thought about King Saul receiving a harmful spirit and losing **the Spirit**?

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you” (Psa 51:10–13).

If you were David and you sinned like him, would you fear the same punishment as **the Spirit departing** from Saul?

The Spirit of the LORD Speaks

How did Jesus describe **David's source of prophecy**?

"David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.''" (Mark 12:36; cf. Psa 110:1; Matt 22:43)

In David's last words, David confessed, "**The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; his word is on my tongue**" (2 Sam 23:1–2; cf. 23:3–7).

Even, David's instructions for the construction of the Temple came from the Spirit (1 Chr 28:11–13).

Looking Forward

Think about **how the Spirit operated** in the OT to create and give life.

The Spirit also worked through prophets and doing wonders.

The Spirit helped leaders to guide people toward God.

What might someone expect of the Spirit in the NT?

How did the Spirit's work the OT effect **the whole course of Israel's history?**

Were there always prophets and wonders?

What about the church today?

Invitation

When you are baptized, you receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit**.

Peter preached, “Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38).

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