

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

To begin with our topic, we need to know that the Holy Spirit is God. In fact, He is part of what the New Testament refers to as the "Godhead", a term used in King James but not in most modern translations which prefer "Deity". Godhead or Deity, THEIOS, indicates "That which is divine," see Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians. 2:9. A more popular term is "Trinity." While Trinity is not a biblical term, Webster's Dictionary defines it as, "The union of three divine persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost," see Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 Peter 1:1-2. By the way, we are also a trinity - "body, spirit, soul," see 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 4:12, Luke 1:46-48. Verses saying Jesus is God are Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:23, John 5:17-18, 8:58, 10:30-33, 14:9-11, 20:28, Acts 20:28, Philippians 2:5-7, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Titus 2:13-14, Hebrews 1:8-9.

God told Moses what His name was in Exodus 3:13-15. "Say to the sons of Israel, I AM, has sent me". Ancient Hebrew writing presented only the consonants and the vowels had to be added from memory by the reader. Consequently God's name, I AM, as written was four consonants, YHWH. This was referred to as "Tetragramaton" which means "four letters". With the passing of time, devout Jews became so afraid of taking the name of God in vain, (Exodus 20:7), that they quit reading God's name. Instead they substituted the words ADONAI (Lord in Hebrew), or KURIOS (Lord in Greek) in the place of God's name. Eventually the proper vowels were forgotten and never recuperated. ELOHIM is the common term for God in the Hebrew and it is a plural term. In Genesis 1:26-27 this term was used by God when He said, "Let US make man in OUR image" ( see Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words).

Spirit, RUACH in Hebrew, and PNEUMA in Greek both mean wind or breath. This term is also used in the New Testament to indicate the immaterial part of man (1 Corinthians 2:11). In the New Testament, PNEUMA also means ghost but it must be accompanied by the word "holy" (Vine). "The word PNEUMA, which is translated "spirit" is neuter so it usually takes neuter pronouns. That is not always the case as when Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit, He used both the demonstrative pronoun, EKIENOS (helper or comforter), (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8, 13, 14), and the personal pronoun, AUTON (him), (John 16:7), when promising the Holy Spirit to His disciples. Both are masculine. It is not the Holy Spirit, "it," but the Holy Spirit, "He." "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." (John 14:26) (Jimmy Jividen, Alive In The Spirit, p. 3).

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS THE ATTRIBUTES OF DIVINITY: ETERNITY – Hebrews 9:4, OMNISCIENCE (He knows everything) – 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, OMNIPOTENCY (He has all power) – Micah 3:8, Romans 15:19, HE IS

PERFECT TRUTH – John 16:13, HE IS PERFECTLY HOLY – 1 Samuel 2:2, HE CANNOT BE TEMPTED BY SIN – James 1:13. HE SAVES - Titus 3:4-7.

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A PERSON: HE SPEAKS – 1 Timothy 4:1, HE TEACHES – John 14:26, HE TESTIFIES – John 15:26, HE GUIDES – John 16:12-13, HE FORBIDS – ACTS 16:6-7, HE HAS A MIND – Romans 8:27, HE HAS AFFECTION – Romans 15:30, HE HAS A WILL – 1 Corinthians 12:11, HE CAN BE GRIEVED – Ephesians 4:30, HE CAN BE RESISTED – Acts 7:51, HE CAN BE BLASPHEMED – Matthew 12:30-32, HE CAN BE DESPISED – Hebrews 10:29. NOW WE ENTER AN UNCHARTED TERRITORY THE BIBLE CALLS ETERNITY !

Who can define eternity! I call it the "eternal now". God's territory is in the area which is called eternity and is the heavenly realm. That is why He is referred to as our Heavenly Father (Matthew 6:26). This of course includes the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In His ascension Jesus passed through the heavens (Hebrews 4:14), and went far beyond the heavens (Ephesians 4:10, Hebrews 7:26), where He is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens (Hebrews 8:1). We also know that our atmosphere is especially created to fit the needs of a physical occupancy. Eventually our world will be destroyed as we go to our new home (2 Peter 3:1-18). We also know that the Heavens are not suited for physical occupancy. That is why Moses was told that if he were allowed to see God's face he would die – Exodus 33:12-23, see also John 1:18, 6:46, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, 1 John 4:12. In our resurrection we will be given a spiritual body adjusted to living in our heavenly home – 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. We also know that a spirit body does not have flesh and bones – Luke 24:39. Our heavenly body will be neither male nor female (Galatians 3:28), and in our new home there is neither marriage nor giving in marriage – (Matthew 22:30). Will we know each other in heaven? I believe so. Our human spirit is the knowing part of our body just as the Holy Spirit is the knowing part of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-16). The account of the rich man and Lazarus shows that after death we maintain memory of our earthly history (Luke 16:19-31). (I am not sure this is a parable. If it is, it is the only parable which gives the key person's name CM).

Jesus, of course, took on our human nature. His body both before and after his resurrection, was like ours - John 20:24-29. Some of the disciples did not recognize Him because their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him – Luke 24:13-35. We also know that Jesus does not now look the way he did when he left the earth. As Paul writes, "Though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer" – 2 Corinthians 5:16. We also know that when Jesus returns we will see him as he now is, and we in our resurrected body will look like Him – (1 John 3:1-2). Note that John says our resurrected body will look like the Lord's body, but we will not know what that is until we see Him (keep in mind that John had seen Jesus in His resurrected body in the 40 day period between

Jesus' resurrection and His ascension back to heaven (Acts 1:1-11), and yet he says we, (including himself), do not know what he looks like now. It is good to ponder Paul's statement to the Corinthians, "For (our) momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

LET US LOOK AT VERSES THAT TAKE US INTO THE HEAVENLIES WHERE THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, PLANNED AND WORKED OUT THE ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED FOR US TO BE SAVED! EVIDENTLY THE ANGELS WERE NOT PRESENT AT THAT MEETING (1 Peter 1:10-12). WHAT A WONDROUS LOVE THE GODHEAD HAD FOR MANKIND BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME!

Jesus spoke of this in John 17:24, "Father, I desire that they also whom you have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, FOR YOU LOVED ME BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD." Although our salvation was planned in eternity, it had to wait until the work was done by Jesus in His mission in time on the earth! "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as he chose us in Him BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself according to the kind intention of His will to the glory of His grace which He freely bestowed in us in the Beloved" – Ephesians 1:4-6. This plan formed before the foundation of the universe was established by God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, and God the Son, the later two being the leading players in this greatest of all happenings within the dimensions of this universe. "If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. FOR HE WAS FOREKNOWN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, but has appeared in these last times, for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God who raised him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God" (1 Peter 1:17-21). The plan established before the foundation of the world included the fact that the shed blood of Christ on the cross was to be offered through the "ETERNAL HOLY SPIRIT" (Hebrews 9:14). Peter picks up on this when he writes about the sacrifice of our Lord which he says was "FOREKNOWN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD" (1 Peter 1:17-21).

LEST WE THINK GOD HAS SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN WHO IS GOING TO BE SAVED INDEPENDENT OF HUMAN CHOICE, the Bible states otherwise. Peter

writes that God's wish is that no one would perish (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus said there is great rejoicing in heaven over the salvation of a sinner (Luke 15:7). Isaiah prophesied about the satisfaction of Jesus that His death brought salvation to the lost (Isaiah 53:10-12). As the last verses of the New Testament clearly state, "The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come, let the one who wishes, take the water of life without cost" (Revelation 22:17). God has specifically stated that salvation and condemnation are personal and depend on the choices that we make (Ezekiel 18:20-28, 2 Timothy 2:20-21). For God a lost person's death is a tragedy (Ezekiel 18:23). The last commandment of Jesus was that the Gospel be preached to everyone and that those who believe and are baptized will be saved (Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20). What was predestined was that the saved will be those who accept that salvation through human works is impossible, and can only be gained as a gift (grace) available only through Jesus' sacrifice (Ephesians 2:8-10). We obey the will of Christ because we love him, and not by earning our salvation (John 14:21-24).

THE ROLES OF THE GODHEAD MEMBERS IS A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE! Many have described the roles in different ways. It has been said the Father creates, the Son redeems, and the Holy Spirit sets apart; the Father calls, the Son perfects, the Holy Spirit signs, seals, and delivers; the Father sends, the Son teaches, the Holy Spirit guarantees the Word; I think of the Father as the Architect, the Son as the Builder, and the Holy Spirit as the Finisher. You can make up your own way of designating roles! No matter how such designations are made, there is significant overlap as to their roles.

NAMES GIVEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT SUGGEST ROLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2), Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding (Isaiah 11:2), Spirit of Counsel and Strength (Isaiah 11:2), Spirit of Knowledge and Fear of the Lord (Exodus 28:3), Spirit of Counsel and Might, (Isaiah 11:2), Spirit of Truth (John 14:17), Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29), Spirit of Glory (1 Peter 4:14), Spirit of Life (Romans :15), Spirit of Faith, 2 Corinthians 4:13), Comforter "called to your side" (John 14:26, 16:7), Spirit of Power, Love, and Discipline (2 Timothy 1:6-7), Spirit Confessing Jesus Came in Flesh(1 John 4:2).

THE ROLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ARE SIMILAR TO WHAT WE SEE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. More of the Holy Spirit's activities are recorded in the historical books of the Old Testament than are recorded in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). He was active in creation as already indicated in Genesis 1:2, and in Job 26:13, 33:4, Psalm 33:6, 104:29-30, Isaiah 40:13. THE SPIRIT acted through the laying on of hands on persons appointed to certain tasks so they would be empowered to do them (Exodus 31:1-11). Punitive sentencing in some cases, such as blaspheming, was accompanied by the laying of hands (Leviticus 24:13-16). Jacob laid hands upon the sons of Joseph, Ephraim

and Manasseh as he pronounced his blessing upon them (Genesis 48:13-20). Moses laid hands upon Joshua so that the spirit and leadership ability of Moses would pass to Joshua (Numbers 27:15-23). The people of Israel laid hands upon the tribe of Levi to appoint them to their spiritual work (Numbers 8:9-11). David was anointed by Samuel as God indicated who the next king of Israel was to be (1 Samuel 16:11-13). Elisha the prophet laid hands on King Joash of Israel to prophesy future defeats of their enemy Syria (2 Kings 13:14-19).

THE HOLY SPIRIT gave skills to individual persons to do important works involved in building the tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-11). He strengthened leaders to aid Moses in his work (Numbers 11:16-17). He equipped Othniel to deliver Israel from the king of Mesopotamia (Judges 3:9-11).

His titles show His oneness with the Father: Spirit of God – Genesis 1:2, Spirit of our God – 1 Corinthians 6:11, Spirit of Jehovah – Judges 3:10, Spirit of the Lord God – Isaiah 61:1, Spirit of your Father – Matthew 10:20, Spirit of the Living God – 2 Corinthians 3:3.

His titles also show His oneness with the Son: Spirit of Christ – Romans 8:9, Spirit of Jesus Christ – Philippians 1:19, Spirit of Jesus – Acts 16:7, Spirit of His Son – Galatians 4:6, Spirit of the Lord – Acts 5:9.

His titles show the works with which He is involved: Spirit of wisdom – Exodus 28:3, Spirit of counsel and might – Isaiah 11:2, Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord – Isaiah 11:2, Spirit of truth – John 14:17, Spirit of grace – Hebrews 10:29, Spirit of glory – 1 Peter 4:14, Spirit of adoption – Romans 8:15, Spirit of faith – 2 Corinthians 4:13, Spirit of help– fullness, John 14:26, 16:7. His specific work in the Old testament : a. He was active in the physical creation - Genesis 1:2, Psalm 33:6, 104:29-30, Job 33:4, Isaiah 40:12-14. (Note the joy of the sons of God and the stars when the creation was taking place! – Job 38:4-7). b. He endowed people with extraordinary powers: to do special works – Exodus 31:3, to aid leaders – Judges 3:9-10, 6:34, 14:5-6, Numbers 11:16-17, 25. c. He interpreted dreams – Genesis 41:14-16, 38-41, Daniel 4:8-9, 5:10-14, 6:3, to instruct Nehemiah 9:20, to plan the temple – 1 Chronicles 28:11-19, Zechariah 4:6-7, to deliver from enemies – Haggai 2:1-9, Isaiah 11:1-4. d. He inspired prophecy and teaching: David – 2 Samuel 23:2, Ezekiel – Ezekiel 2:2, 8:3, 11:1, 24, Micah - Micah 3:8, Hosea – Hosea 9:7, Isaiah – Isaiah 61:1, Jeremiah 1:4-10. 36:1-32. e. He inspired the writing of Scripture in both the Old and the New Testaments – 1 Peter 10-12, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 1 Corinthians 2:6-11, 2 Timothy 3:14-17. CM