

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND JESUS

We are not informed of whatever activity there may have been going on between the Jewish people and the Holy Spirit in the about 450 years between the close of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New. What is important is the fact that with the Babylonian captivity and its successors, the Jews finally understood the folly of bowing down before gods made of wood, stone, silver and gold!. There are of course other kinds of so-called gods (fame, material wellbeing, power, etc}. In relationship to this topic, It is interesting that Malachi, the last Book of the Old Testament, is concluded with a prophecy regarding the future coming of the "New Testament Elijah," (John the Baptizer), who would introduce the Messiah (Malachi 4:5-6).

To our knowledge, the visit of the angel Gabriel to Zacharias the priest breaks the silence (Luke 1:5-25). Of course we understand that Jesus knew that the Old Testament prophets had given an overview of His life long before our Lord entered our world in a human form (Luke 24:25-27, 44-49).

A. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS RELATED TO JESUS CHRIST:

1. The prophets gave prior knowledge about the coming of Christ (1 Peter 1:10-12).
2. That Christ is the one who would defeat and reverse the evil work of Satan was first mentioned in Genesis 3:15. Jesus was the "seed of woman" who would enter into conflict with Satan. While Satan would only bruise ("crush") Christ's foot, the "seed of woman" (Jesus") would bruise ("crush") the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15).
3. He would be a descendent of Jesse (David's father), and "the Spirit of the Lord would rest upon him": giving Him wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of he Lord (Isaiah 11:1-3).
4. By the Spirit, without violence he would bring justice to the earth (Isaiah 42:1-4).
5. As above, His way would be prepared by John the Baptizer (Luke 1:15-17).
6. He would be born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-8).
7. Born of a virgin His task was to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-25).
8. The Holy Spirit confirmed that Mary's child was the Christ (Luke 2:25-35).
9. He would have no physical beauty to draw people to Him (Isaiah 53:2-3).
10. God declared Him His Son at His baptism and on that occasion the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and was with Him in His temptations (Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11).
11. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would have the Spirit of the Lord God upon Him. Jesus said His works proved Him to be the one spoken of, and that on that very day the Jews had seen the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:14-21).

12. In Hebrews we are told Jesus established the New Covenant by offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice on the cross by which He took away all sin, something which the animal sacrifice under the Old Covenant could not do (9:11-28). For that reason He was given a body (10:4-18)!

13. Both God (Acts 2:22-23) and the Spirit (Rom. 8:9-11) are said to have raised Jesus.

14. As He was nearing the end of His ministry, Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit which He called the "Comforter" (PARAKALEO in Greek meaning comforter, counselor, helper, literally "one called along side to help"), (Vine's Greek Dictionary of N.T. Words). See John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-15. The Holy Spirit would bring to the memories of the Apostles all the things Jesus had brought from Heaven so they could teach them to all of the world. Before returning to His heavenly home, Jesus told His disciples, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE" (Matt. 28:18-20).

B. JESUS HAD UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. The Holy Spirit was given to Jesus "without measure" – John 3:34-35.
2. His work was accompanied by literally thousands of miracles – Matt. 12:27-28.

C. HE HAD POWER OVER THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF THE UNIVERSE

1. Storms obeyed Him – Mark 4:35-41.
2. He walked on water - Matt. 14:22-27.
3. He passed through doors - John 20:19-29.
4. He changed water to wine – John 2:1-11.
5. He multiplied food – Matt. 14:13-21, 15:32-38.
6. He appropriated a coin from the mouth of a fish – Matt. 17:24-27.

D. JESUS HAD POWER OVER SICKNESS AND DISEASES:

1. The lame healed – John 5:5-15.
2. The blind healed – Matt. 9:27-31.
3. The deaf healed – Mark 7:31-36
4. A withered member healed – Mark 3:1-5
5. Healing from a distance - John 4:46-53.
6. Replaced a severed ear – Luke 22:47-51.
7. The paralyzed healed – Matt. 8:5-13.
8. The mute healed - Matt. 9:32-33.
9. Lepers healed – Luke 17:12-17
10. Stopped blood flow – Mark 5:24-34.
11. General healing–Matt. 9:35-36.

E. JESUS HAD POWER OVER THE DEVIL:

1. Resisted his temptations – Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:15.
2. Cast out demons – Matt. 17:1-18, Mark 1:23-28.
3. Defeated death – Heb. 2:14-15.

F. JESUS HAD POWER OVER DEATH:

1. He raised the widow's son – Luke 7:11-17.
2. He raised the ruler's daughter – Matt. 9:18-26.
3. He raised Lazarus – John 11:11, 14-15, 17, 34-44.

G. JESUS POSSESSED EXTRAORDINARY MENTAL POWERS:

1. He knew perfectly the Father's will – John 7:16-18, 8:28-29, 12:44-50.
2. He knew how to answer everybody – Matt. 22:15-46.
3. He taught with authority – Matt. 7:28-29.
4. He knew human thoughts even if unspoken – John 2:23-25, Luke 7:39-43.
5. No one ever taught like He taught – John 7:45-46.
6. He knew of happenings even though not personally present – John 1:43-45.

H. THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF HIS WORKS:

1. It is repeatedly said that He healed ALL of the sick in a certain place – Matt. 8:16, 9:35, 12:15, 14:34-36, 21:14, Luke 4:40 (we are talking about thousands of people).
2. Jesus promised future believers would do greater works than He did (John 14:12). No one has ever done greater or more numerous miracles than Jesus (John 21:25). The works in mind were works of eternal salvation which could be done only after Jesus' death on the cross, and His resurrection (Heb. 9:11-28).. The same idea is there when Jesus said no one born was as great as John the Baptist. "Yet the least in Christ's Kingdom was greater than John." John died before Jesus' Kingdom came into being (Heb. 9:13-17, Col. 1:12-13). Note that the Hebrew writer speaks of the fact that even the sins of the first covenant (given through Abraham and Moses), were taken away by the death of Christ (Heb. 7:11-8-22, 9:15-17).
3. Jesus never failed in His efforts to do a supernatural work – Mark 6:53-56.
4. The world would not be enough space to hold an account of all His wonderful deeds!– John 21: 25.

I. JESUS' CONTEMPORARIES NEVER DENIED HIS MIRACLES WERE REAL!

1. Note Matt. 9:1-8, 32-33, 12:22-24, John 11:45-48, 12:9:1-8.

J. THE PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST:

1. To prove He could forgive sins – Matt. 9:1-8.
2. To furnish a basis for belief in Him as the Son of God – John 20:30-31.
3. Because of His compassion – Matt. 14:14.
4. As God's authentication of Him and His message – Acts 2:22, Heb. 2:1-4.

(This is in my files with no name, so I do not know if I wrote it or borrowed it!
CM)