

Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Lesson 1

Creator God, your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation. Let your Spirit hover over us that we might be inspired to follow you and bless others with the grace that you have given us. We pray this in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In this lesson, we'll be looking at how God's Spirit is active in the Old Testament.

Day 1 Read Genesis 1:1-5 & 2:4b-7

- 1a. In verse 2 of the first creation story, before God takes any creative action upon the earth, what are we told was hovering/blowing over the waters?
 - b. In verse 7 of the second creation story, the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground, and then what did God do?
2. In Hebrew, the word *ruah* carries three meanings. It can mean "wind," "breath," and/or "spirit."
 - a. Think about those three meanings. Given that *ruah* can mean all three things, what does that mean for how the Hebrews (the people of the Old Testament) thought about God's Spirit?
 - b. What does it say about God's Spirit that in both creation stories, God's Spirit is mentioned?

Day 2 Read Exodus 14:21-25

3. As the Israelites are fleeing from the Egyptians, they come to the Red Sea. What does God use to help them escape through the waters?
 - 4a. We see another role of God's *ruah* in this story. The Israelites were allowed to pass through on dry land where the Egyptians were stuck. What is another role for God's Spirit in Hebrew thinking?
 - b. How does the Egyptians interpret God's Spirit in this story. What is God's Spirit doing for the Israelites in Egyptian thinking?

Day 3 Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

5. The selection of David by the Lord involved a parade of Jesse's sons before the prophet Samuel and God communicating with Samuel about which one the Lord had chosen.
 - a. When the Lord selected David, what happened during the anointing of David?

- b. What do you think the Spirit of the Lord coming upon David meant for how David would reign as King?

Day 4 Read Isaiah 11:1-5

6. Isaiah 11 prophesies the coming of the Messiah, who will be a “Davidic King” who will come to reign over God’s people.

- a. What does verse 2 say about what will empower the Messiah?

- b. With God’s Spirit, what will characterize the Kingdom of the Messiah?

- c. Interestingly, verse 2 is the same blessing we receive in our baptism. What does that mean that we are baptized into?

Day 5 Ezekiel 37:1-14

7. How does Ezekiel describe the people of Israel living in exile in verses 1 and 2?

8a. What does the Lord say in verses 5 & 6 that he will cause to happen to the dry bones people?

- b. Verses 12 and 13 describe what this life giving will look like. How is it described?

9a. And what will God place in them?

- b. What do you think God’s Spirit will do for the people in the future, now that they have had that Spirit breathed into them?

Day 6 Read Psalm 51

10. Psalm 51 is generally thought to be David’s Psalm of contrition following his affair with Bathsheba and the death of his son. What do verses 10-12 find David asking for in regards to God’s *ruah*?

11. These verses (along with Ezekiel) help us form the Old Testament Theology of God’s Holy Spirit. What is the role of the Holy Spirit according to the Hebrews/Israelites?