

The Holy Spirit in Scripture

Session #2



The Holy Spirit as a dove; alabaster window. Gian Lorenzo Bernini, 1660. St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Rome.

Welcome!

Zoom Etiquette – a reminder

1

Mute / Unmute

Mute unless you need to say something.

Beware of being a “stray voice” during the presentation!

Practice with Mute/Unmute button (Alt-A on Windows)

2

Camera

Keep camera on when you can, so you can be seen – especially in breakout groups

But turn your camera off:
- if you don't want your picture to be recorded during the presentation;
- or if something's going on in the background

3

Chat

Use the Chatbox to ask questions.

Please post your questions as early in the session as you can.

We'll try to cover your Qs in the Q&A session at the end.

4

Breakouts

Click 'Join' button when invited to join your breakout group.

Remember the number of your breakout group!

Prayer

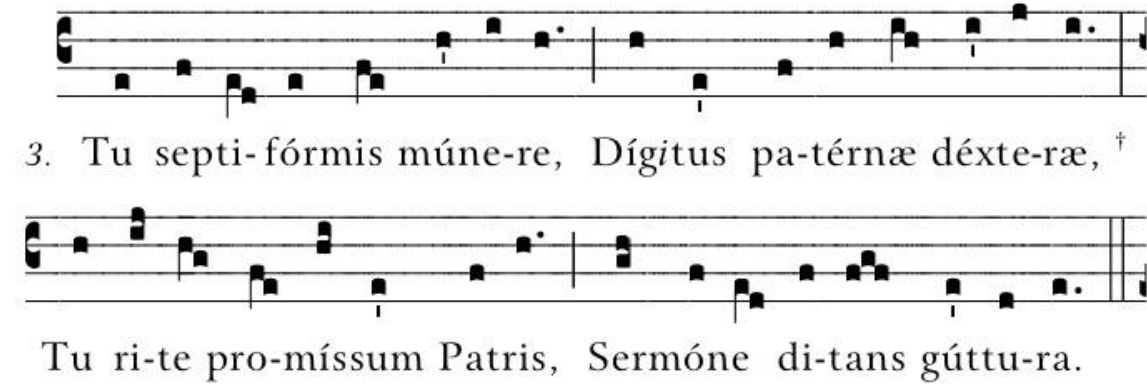
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful,
And kindle in them the fire of Your love;
Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created,
And You will renew the face of the earth.

O God, Who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
Grant that, by the gift of that same Spirit, we may be always truly wise,
And ever rejoice in His consolation,
Through the same Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

From *Veni Creator Spiritus*, the Pentecost Sequence *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, [Ps 104:30](#) and the Collect from the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, *Roman Missal*.

7 Sessions

1. Introduction
2. Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
3. Holy Spirit in the Gospels
4. Holy Spirit in Acts of the Apostles
5. Holy Spirit in Paul
6. Holy Spirit in General Letters & Revelation
7. Review and Summary



3. Tu septi-fórmis múne-re, Dígitus pa-térnæ déxte-ræ, †
Tu ri-te pro-míssum Patris, Sermóne di-tans gúttu-ra.

From *Veni Creator Spiritus*, Transcription from St Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde, UK

Topics

- A caveat, an apology and an appeal
- The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (OT) – Overview
- Breakout session #1
- The Holy Spirit in the OT – “Of God”
- Breakout session #2
- The Holy Spirit in the OT – Impact

A Caveat and an Apology

- There are ~327 verses in Scripture which refer to the Holy Spirit
- We can't cover them all in detail (sorry) 🤪
- At times we will go past many verses too quickly
- Think of this series like a city bus tour
 - Gives you a view of many sights
 - Allows you to stop and explore some in more detail (especially in Breakout sessions)
 - Encourages you to come back, and look at what you might have missed



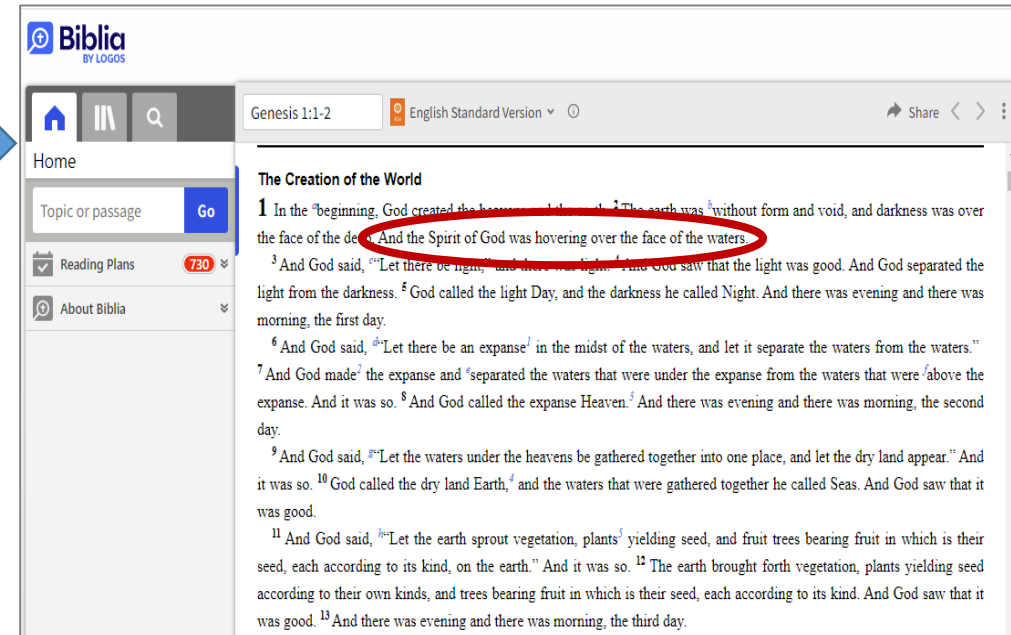
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And an Appeal

- I will distribute a PDF containing my presentations, after each episode
- Please do use them!
 - To review the material after each episode, in “slower time”
 - Follow the links to Scripture passages
 - It’s like doing a walking tour after you’ve finished the bus tour

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

[Gen 1:2](#)



The screenshot shows the Biblia app interface. The top navigation bar includes a home icon, a book icon, and a search icon. The search bar contains 'Genesis 1:1-2' and the version is set to 'English Standard Version'. The main content area displays the text of Genesis 1:2, which is circled in red. The text reads: '1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.' The phrase 'And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.' is circled in red. A blue arrow points from the callout box above to this text.

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (OT) – Overview

- The Old Testament
 - Books
 - Timeline
- Entering into the OT mindset
- Occurrences by book
- Names



Deuteronomy 29:19-30:11, from Aleppo Codex c.920. Shrine of the Book, Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

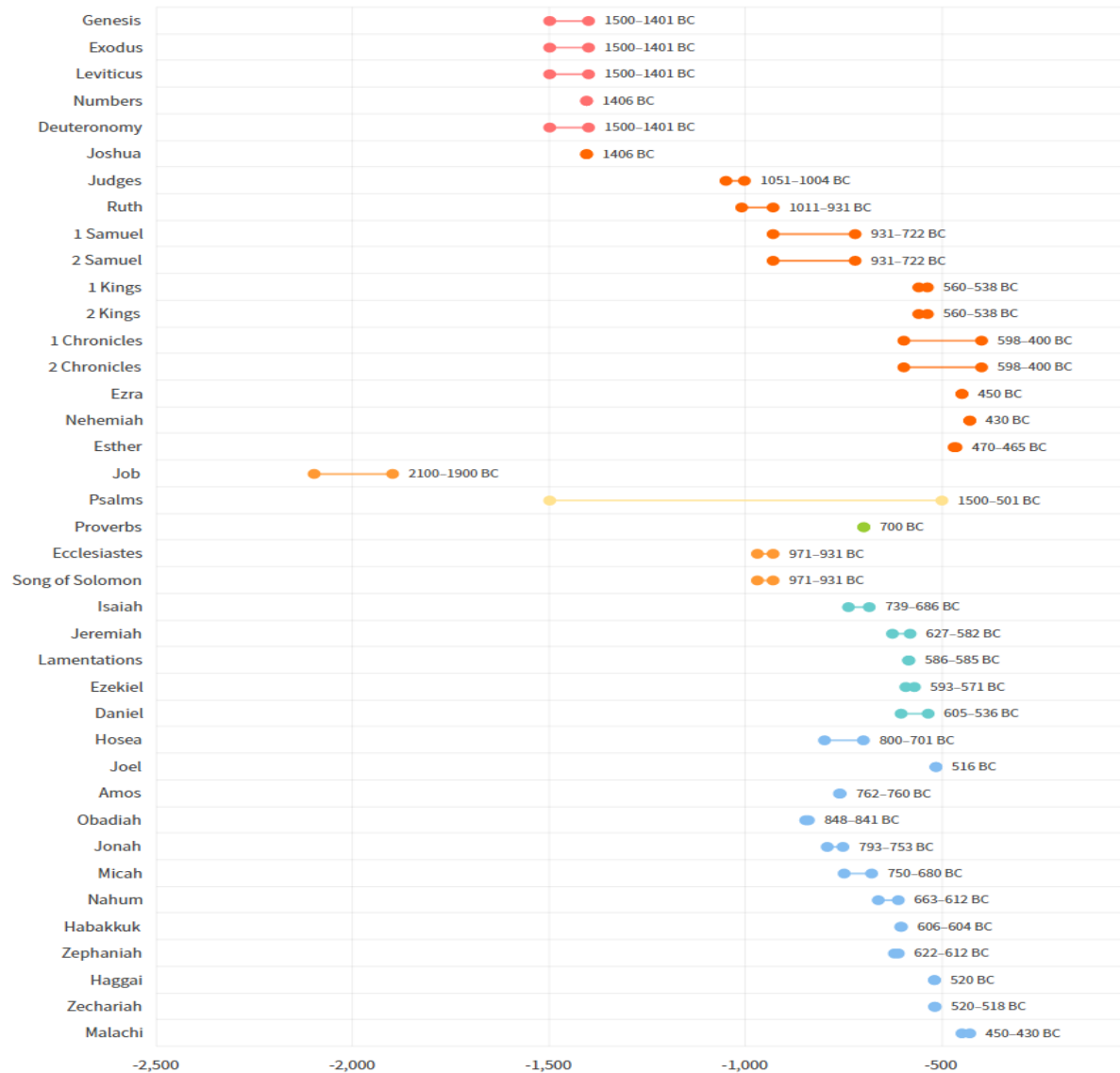
The Old Testament

- Jewish = TaNaKh
 - Torah
 - Nevi'im (Prophets)
 - Ketuvim (Writings)
- Modern scholars
 - Pentateuch
 - Histories
 - Wisdom writings
 - Prophets
 - Deuterocanon
 - Books regarded as canonical by Catholic Church, but not by Protestant denominations
 - Includes: Tobit, Judith, Baruch, Sirach, Wisdom, 1 & 2 Maccabees and additions to Esther & Daniel

OLD TESTAMENT - 46 Books		
LAW (PENTATEUCH)-5	WISDOM BOOKS - 7	PROPHETIC BOOKS - 18
GENESIS	JOB	ISAIAH
EXODUS	PSALMS	JEREMIAH
LEVITICUS	PROVERBS	LAMENTATIONS
NUMBERS	ECCLESIASTES	BARUCH
DEUTERONOMY	SONG OF SONGS	EZEKIEL
	WISDOM	DANIEL
	SIRACH	HOSEA
		JOEL
		AMOS
		OBADIAH
		JONAH
		MICAH
		NAHUM
		HABAKKUK
		ZEPHANIAH
		HAGGAI
		ZECHARIAH
		MALACHI
HISTORICAL BOOKS - 16		
JOSHUA		
JUDGES		
RUTH		
1 SAMUEL		
2 SAMUEL		
1 KINGS		
2 KINGS		
1 CHRONICLES		
2 CHRONICLES		
EZRA		
NEHEMIAH		
TOBIT		
JUDITH		
ESTHER		
1 MACCABEES		
2 MACCABEES		

Books of the Bible Wall Chart, Catholic Edition © Rose Publishing, Inc.

The Old Testament - Timeline



- All dates are approximate
- Opinions on dating vary
- But groupings are useful
 - Job could be very old
 - Pentateuch & Joshua = before Davidic monarchy
 - Other histories = post-Davidic period
 - Prophets = between ~800 and ~400 BC
 - Deuterocanon (not shown on diagram) = 300-100 BC
- Overall period ranges > 1000 years
 - A lot of time for development of ideas

Entering into the OT Mindset

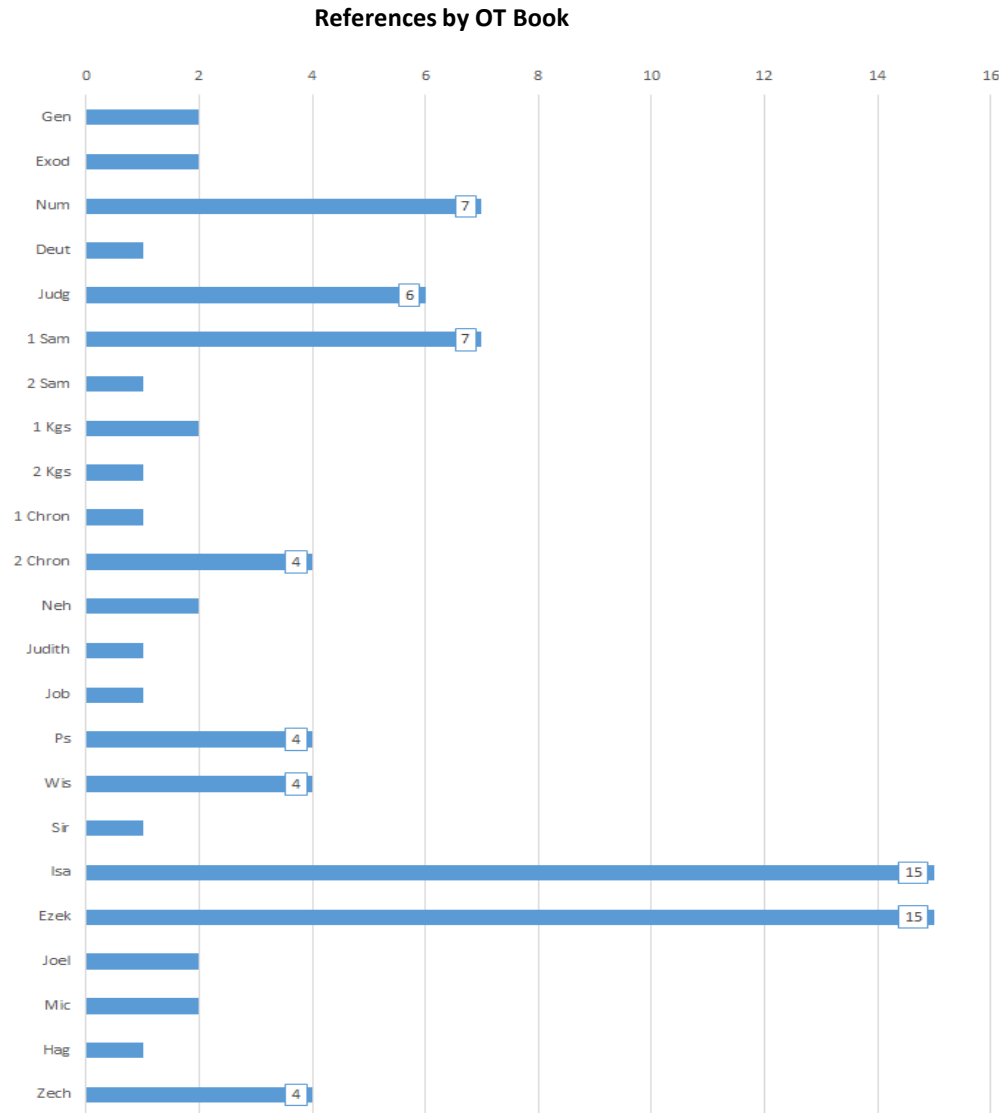
שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:

Hear, Israel:
the Lord our God,
the Lord is one.

[Deut 6:4](#)

- Uncompromisingly monotheistic
 - No explicit mention of Jesus as Son of God in OT
 - The Spirit in the OT has an affinity with God
 - But relatively little independent identity or activity
- God is in control
 - Everything – including the Spirit – comes from Him
 - The Spirit is “given” (using a variety of verbs)
 - The “purpose” of the Spirit
 - Often to bring humankind back to covenant with God, in conformance to God’s will

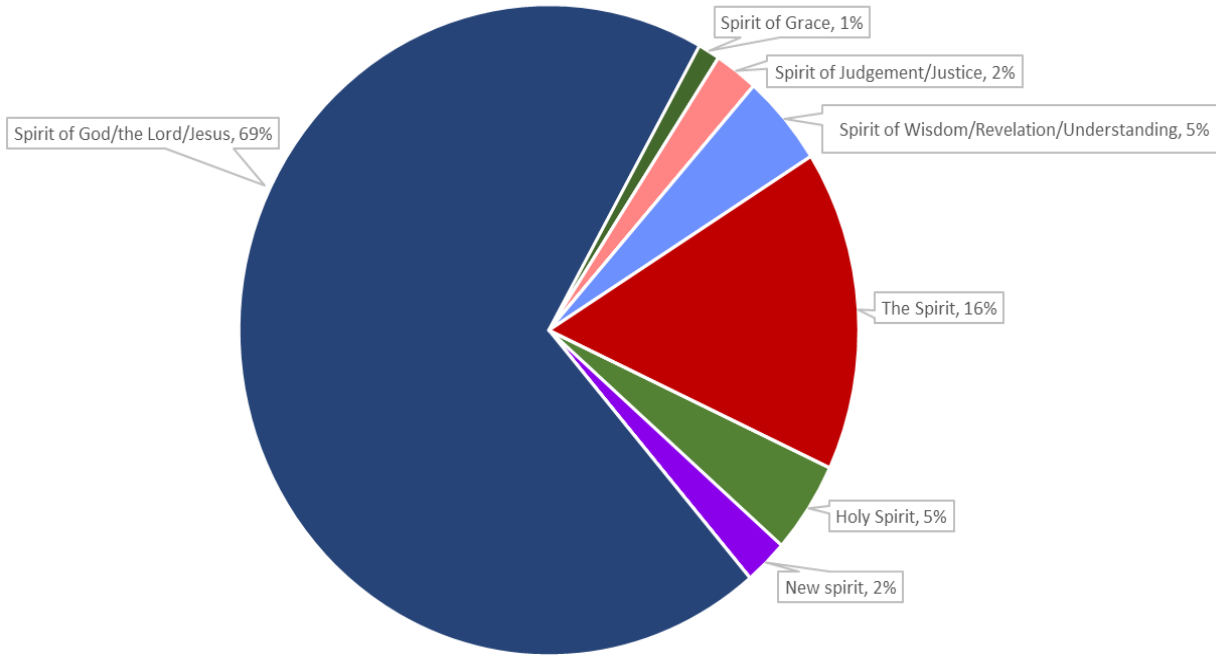
Holy Spirit – Occurrences in OT



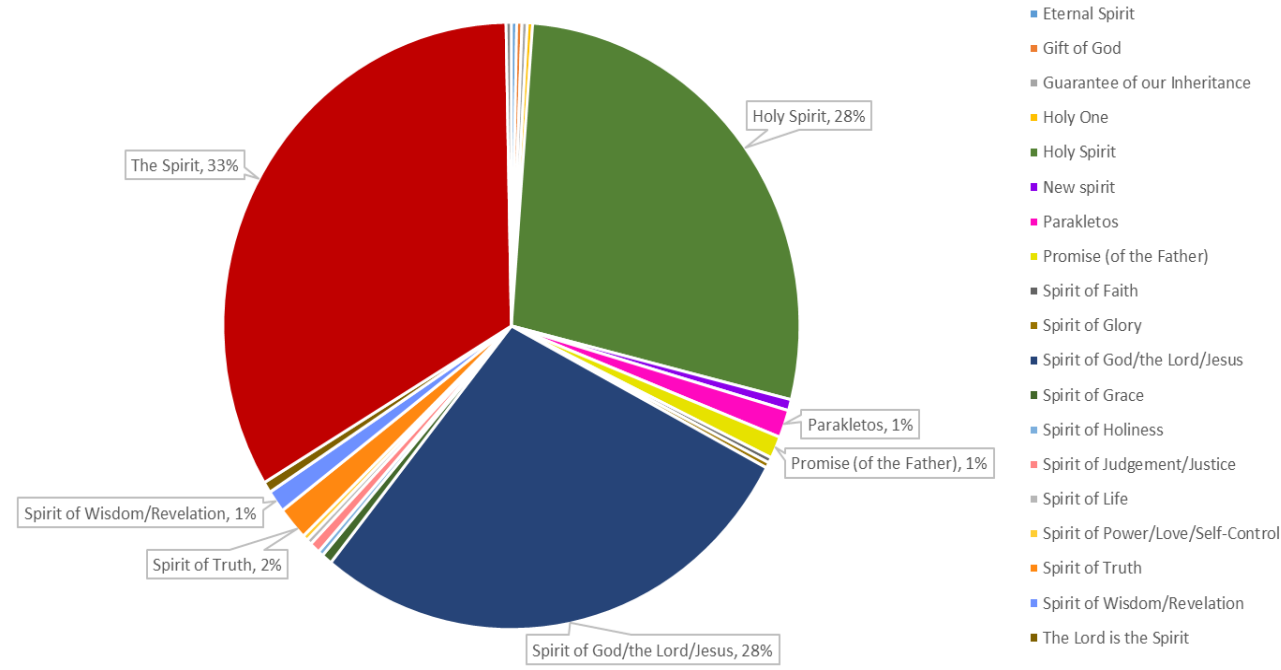
- 86 verses in OT, including Deuterocanon
 - Roughly 25% of all occurrences in the Bible
- Most frequent = Isaiah and Ezekiel (x15)
- Histories = 34 in all
- Some notable verses in
 - Wisdom literature (including Deuterocanon)
 - Some minor prophets

Holy Spirit: Names in the Old Testament (1)

Names of the Holy Spirit - Old Testament



Names of the Holy Spirit



- Distribution of names is different from Bible as a whole
- Spirit of God/the Lord predominates

Holy Spirit: Names in the Old Testament (2)

- Spirit of God/the Lord

- Most common = 61 of 86 OT verses
- *Ruah Elohim* רֹחַ אֱלֹהִים in Pentateuch
- *Ruah YHWH* רֹחַ יְהוָה in Judges
- 1 Samuel and 1-2 Chronicles use both

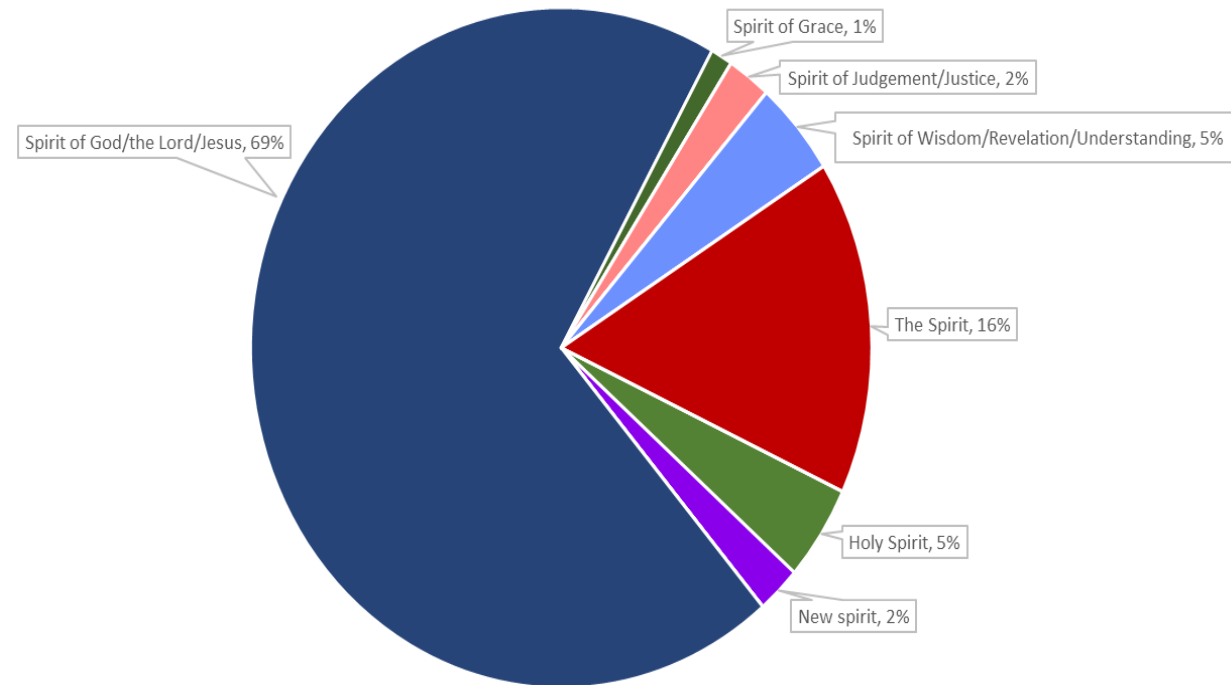
- The Spirit

- Especially in Ezekiel (8 of 14 verses)

- Holy Spirit (*ruah qadesh*)

- Not common: only 4 verses
- Maybe not a title as it appears to be in NT (especially Lk/Acts): more “spirit of holiness”?

Names of the Holy Spirit - Old Testament



Breakout Session #1

- Consider these Scripture texts

- [Judg 6:34](#)

But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

- [Ps 139:7](#)

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

- [Wis 1:7](#)

Because the Spirit of the Lord has filled the world, and that which holds all things together knows what is said

- [Ezek 36:26-27](#)

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

- [1 Sam 16:14](#)

Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you..."

- Discuss

- What does each text reveal to you about the Holy Spirit?

- Do any of these texts call to mind any other part of Scripture? Which?

- Is there anything in these texts that is new to you?

The Holy Spirit in the OT – “Of God”

- Associated with God
- Given by God
- Life-giving



The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsa) chapters 41-43, 2nd century BCE, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Associated with God: Presence

Implicit

And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.
And **God said...**

[Gen 1:2, 3a](#)

...according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. **My Spirit remains in your midst.** Fear not.

[Hag 2:5](#)

- The Spirit with God at the beginning of creation; associated with his creative word
- The Spirit as a sign of the Lord's continuing support for Israel

More explicit (via parallelism)

Cast me not away from your presence [*pane*], and take not your **Holy Spirit [*ruah qadesh*]** from me

[Ps 51:11](#)

Where shall I go from **your Spirit?**
Or where shall I flee from your presence? [*pane*]

[Ps 139:7](#)

- The Spirit equated with God's presence, via the parallel
- Also a hint of the Spirit as the source of life, or sustenance

Proxy

The Spirit as a representative presence of God

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 [*ruah qadesh*]**?

[Isa 63:11](#)

Then he cried to me, "Behold, those who go toward the north country have set **my Spirit** at rest in the north country."

[Zech 6:8](#)

Associated with God: Sovereignty

Authority/Power

Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but **by my Spirit**, says the Lord of hosts"

[Zech 4:6](#)

"Ah, stubborn children," declares the LORD, "who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but **not of my Spirit**, that they may add sin to sin.

[Isa 30:1](#)

- The rhetorical structure in each case makes clear that the Spirit is equivalent to the Lord
 - #1 = Contrast
 - #2 = Parallelism

An expression of God's will

If the great Lord is willing, he will be filled with **the spirit of understanding**

[Sir 39:6](#)

And I will **put my Spirit** within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

[Ezek 37:14](#)

- The Spirit is given as an act of the Lord's will, and a sign of His determination to carry out His promise

Obedience

The Spirit directs Israel to follow God's law

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let **your good Spirit** lead me on level ground!

[Ps 143:10](#)

And I will **put my Spirit** within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules

[Ezek 36:27](#)

Associated with God: Capability

Omniscience

Because **the spirit of the Lord** [*pneuma kuriou*] has filled the world, and that which holds all things together knows what is said

[Wis 1:7](#)

- Again, parallelism reveals the association of the Spirit with God.
- In the preceding verse ([Wis 1:6](#)), it is God who is a “hearer of the tongues” of blasphemers

Wisdom

Who has measured **the Spirit of the Lord** [*ruah YHWH*], or what man shows him his counsel?

[Isa 40:13](#)

- Again, context shows the association of the Spirit with God.
- This reference to *ruah YHWH* comes in the middle of a passage ([Isa 40:12-31](#)), which pays tribute to the unmatched greatness of God
- Quoted (with LXX translation of *ruah* as *nous* [mind]) in [Rom 11:34-35](#) and [1 Cor 2:16](#)

Associated with God: Agency

The Spirit does act in the OT, but always in relation to the initiative of the Lord

Seek and read from the book of the Lord: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the Lord has commanded, and **his Spirit has gathered them** [the animals].”

[Isa 34:16](#)

Like livestock that go down into the valley, **the Spirit of the Lord [ruah YHWH] gave them rest.** So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name

[Isa 63:14](#)

- The parallels associate the Spirit’s action with the deeds of the Lord
 - #1 = Spirit’s gathering follows the Lord’s command
 - #2 = Spirit giving rest precedes the Lord’s leading His people
- In both cases, the wider context of the surrounding verses is the Lord’s action

Associated with God: but with a Personal Aspect

- The Spirit is someone who can be

- Grieved

But they rebelled and **grieved** his Holy Spirit [*ruah qadesh*]; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them

[Isa 63:10](#)

- Impatient

Is it being said, O house of Jacob:
'Is **the Spirit of the Lord** [*ruah YHWH*] **impatient**?
Are these His doings?
Do not My words do good
to the one walking uprightly?

[Micah 2:7 NASB](#)

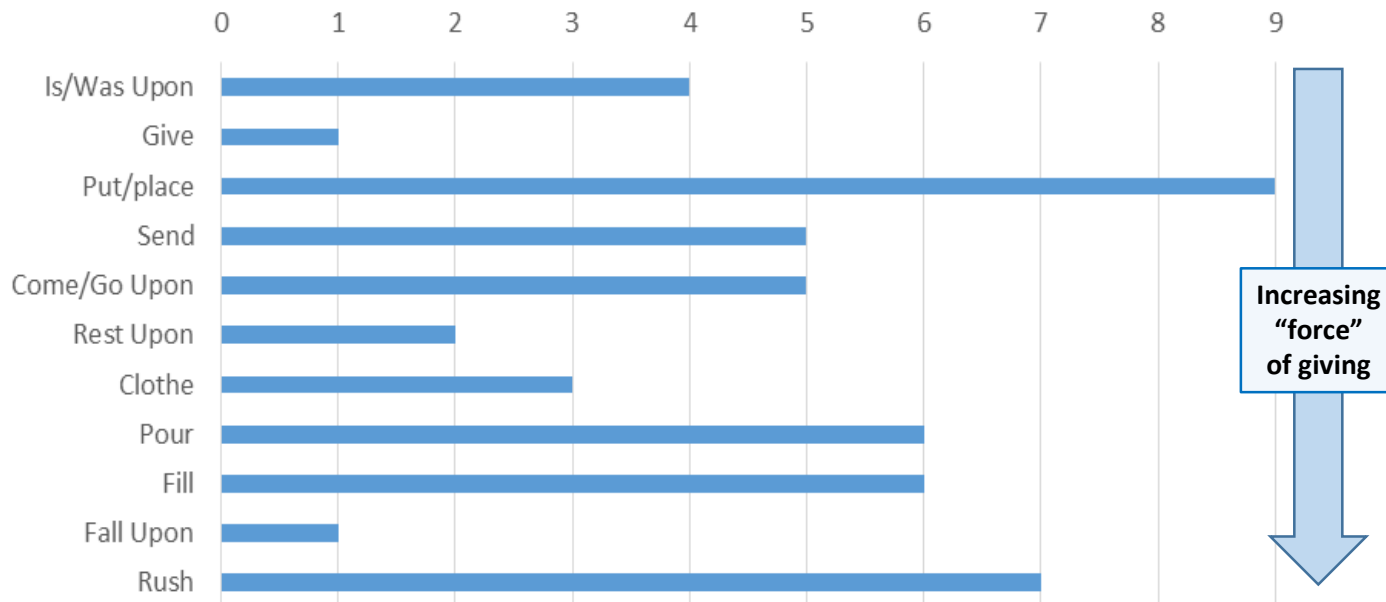
- But in each case, the offence is clearly against God

- From the related statements in the same verse
 - And the context of the surrounding verses

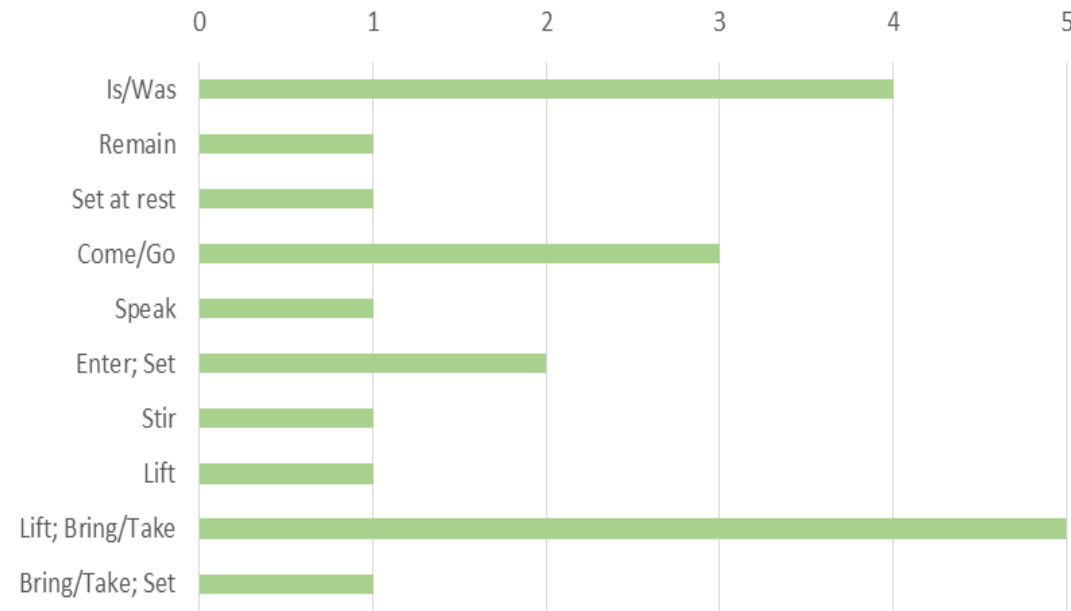
Given by God: Verbs of Endowment

- Of 86 verses about the Holy Spirit in OT, 69 refer to the Spirit as “given”
 - 49 are explicit actions of giving; 20 are implied
- Actions of giving range from the relatively passive (Is/Was upon), to the strongly active (Pour, Fill, Fall upon, Rush)

OT Verbs by which Holy Spirit is Given



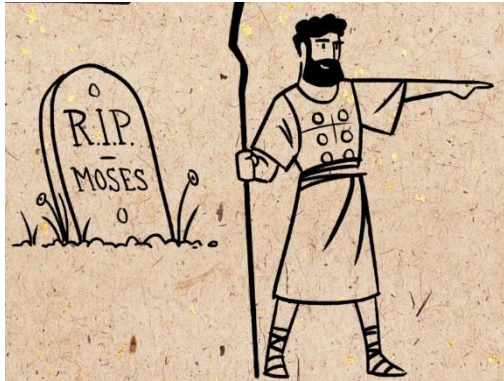
OT Verbs by Which Holy Spirit is Given (Implied)



Given by God: to serve God and His people (1)

Leadership – in Israel's early history

- Joshua



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And Joshua the son of Nun was **full of the spirit of wisdom**, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

[Deut 34:9](#)

- Judges

- Leadership in combat
- Formula: “The Spirit of the Lord...”
 - “Was upon him”
 - “Clothed him”
 - “Began to stir him”

Othniel

The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.

[Judg 3:10](#)

Gideon

But **the Spirit of the LORD clothed** Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

[Judg 6:34](#)

Jephthah

Then **the Spirit of the LORD was upon** Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites..

[Judg 11:29](#)

Samson

And **the Spirit of the LORD began to stir** him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

[Judg 13:25](#)

Given by God: to serve God and His people (2)

Words of authority/insight – in later Histories

- Same verbs as in Judges
 - Clothed
 - Came upon
- Message = insight about the Lord
- Azariah's words are explicitly described ([2 Chron 15:8](#)) as “prophecy” [*nebuah*]

Amasai

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 Chron 12:18](#)

Pledges allegiance of the men of Benjamin to David

Jahaziel

And **the Spirit of the Lord came upon** Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. And he said...

[2 Chron 20:14-15](#)

Advises King Jehoshaphat that the Lord will deliver Judah in war

Azariah

The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him...

[2 Chron 15:1-2](#)

Admonishes King Asa to abandon Judah's idolatry and follow the Lord

Zechariah

Then **the Spirit of God clothed** Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.’ ”

[2 Chron 24:20](#)

Challenges Judah's infidelity to the Lord, in the time of King Joash

Given by God: to serve God and His people (3)

Strength: Samson



Samson Slays a Thousand Men with the Jawbone of a Donkey (c. 1896–1902); James Tissot. Jewish Museum, New York

Then **the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him**, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat...

[Judg 14:6](#)

And **the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him**, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house.

[Judg 14:19](#)

...Then **the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him**, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands.

[Judg 15:14](#)b, c, d

- Formula: “The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him”
- Not all resulting actions are positive – there is a destructive element, and also dangerous emotion

Skill: Bezalel



God commissions the craftsman Bezalel; Anton Koberger Bible, Nuremberg 1483. University Library of Leipzig.

and I have **filled him with the Spirit of God**, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship...

[Exod 31:3](#)

and he has **filled him with the Spirit of God**, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship,

[Exod 35:31](#)

- The result of this gift of the Spirit is not moral stature, but human skill: craftsmanship
- Its purpose is “that they may make all that I [YHWH] have commanded you” ([Exod 31:6](#))
 - Including the Tent of Meeting, the Ark of the Covenant, the Mercy Seat, the Lampstand, the Altars of Incense and of Burnt Offering, the garments of Aaron and the priests...

Given by God: to serve God and His people (4)

Messiah endowed with the Spirit

And the **Spirit of the Lord** [*ruah YHWH*] shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

[Isa 11:2](#)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have **put my Spirit upon him**;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

[Isa 42:1](#)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD [*ruah adonai YHWH*] is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

[Isa 61:1-3](#)

Given by God: formation of individuals/groups (1)

Wisdom

Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called on God, and the **spirit of wisdom** [*pneuma sophias*] came to me.

[Wis 7:7](#)

...he...will be filled with the **spirit of understanding**

[Sir 39:6](#)

Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent **your holy spirit** [*hagion...pneuma*] from on high?

[Wis 9:17](#)

...the **spirit of wisdom and understanding**

[Isa 11:2](#)

Instruction/Guidance

You gave **your good Spirit** [*ruah...tobah*] to instruct" the people of Israel (in the desert)...

[Neh 9:20](#)

[God] warned them [Israel] by **your Spirit** through the prophets

[Neh 9:30](#)

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let **your good Spirit** [*ruah...tobah*] lead me on level ground!

[Ps 143:10](#)

Judgement/Repentance

...once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by **a spirit of judgment** [*ruah mispat*] and by **a spirit of burning** [*ruah ba'er*].

[Isa 4:4](#)

In that day the LORD of hosts will be a garland of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people; and **a spirit of justice** [*ruah mispat*] to the one who sits in judgment.

[Isa 25:5-6a](#)

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem **a spirit of grace** [*ruah hen*] and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

[Zech 12:10](#)

Given by God: formation of individuals/groups (2)

Moral/Covenantal Transformation

And I will give them **one heart**, and a **new spirit [ruah hadasah]** I will put within them. I will **remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh**, that they may **walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them...**

[Ezek 11:19-20](#)

And I will give you a **new heart**, and a **new spirit [ruah hadasah]** I will put within you. And I will **remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh**. And I will **put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to **walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules**.

[Ezek 36:26-27](#)

And I will **put my Spirit within you**, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then **you shall know that I am the Lord**; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

[Ezek 37:14](#)

And I will not **hide my face anymore from them**, when I **pour out my Spirit** upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God.

[Ezek 39:29](#)

Given by God: but can also be withdrawn

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not **your Holy Spirit** [*ruah qadesh*] from me

[Ps 51:11](#)

Now the **Spirit of the LORD** [*ruah YHWH*]
departed from Saul,
and a **harmful spirit from the LORD**
[*ruah raah me'et YHWH*] tormented him

[1 Sam 16:14](#)

- *Ruah* is used in 2 different senses
 - Spirit of the Lord (*ruah YHWH*)
 - The other spirit may be supernatural, or may relate to Saul's resulting disposition
- Interestingly, even the harmful spirit comes from God (*ruah raah me'et YHWH*)
 - The point is underlined in subsequent verses ([1 Sam 16:15](#), [16](#) & [23](#)), where the spirit is referred to as *ruah elohim raah*

The Life-giving Spirit

Creating

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** [*ruah elohim*] was hovering over the face of the waters.

[Gen 1:2](#)

When you send forth **your Spirit** [*ruah*], they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

[Ps 104:30](#)

Contrasts (by parallelism) human breath [*ruah*], dependent on God ([104:29](#)), with the life-giving action of the Spirit [*ruah*]

Exploits (without explicitly referring to it) 2 different meanings of *ruah*: breath and spirit

The Spirit of God [*ruah el*] has made me, and the breath of the Almighty [*nismat saddai*] gives me life.

[Job 33:4](#)

You **sent forth your spirit** [*pneuma*], and it formed them [*okodemosen* = literally: "built up"]

[Judith 16:14](#)

Sustaining

Because **the spirit of the Lord** [*pneuma kuriou*] has filled the world, and that which holds all things together [*synechon ta panta*] knows what is said

[Wis 1:7](#)

For **your immortal spirit** [*aphtharton pneuma*] is in all things

[Wis 12:1](#)

Renewing

...until **the Spirit** is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest?

[Isa 32:15](#)

...none shall be without her mate ...for...**his Spirit** has gathered them [the animals]

[Isa 34:16](#)

And I will put **my Spirit** in you, and you shall live...

[Ezek 37:14](#)

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (1)

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.

³ And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (2)

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (3)

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’

¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.

¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.

¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (4) – Four senses of *ruah*

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out **in the Spirit of the LORD** and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

Prophetic inspiration; source = God

² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.

³ And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones **live**?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will **cause breath to enter you**, and you shall **live**.

Life principle

⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and **put breath in you**, and you shall **live**, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no **breath** in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the **breath**; prophesy, son of man, and say to the **breath**, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four **winds** of **breath**, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”

Hints at God's power

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the **breath** came into them, and they **lived** and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’

¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.

¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.

Life with more than a physical dimension: moral, spiritual, covenantal. Its source is God, just as physical breath is – God's *ruah* gives life to both

¹⁴ And I will **put my Spirit within you**, and you shall **live**, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

Breakout session #2

- Consider

- [Num 11:16, 24-26, 28-29](#)

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. 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. Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

- Discuss

- What does the Lord putting his spirit upon the 70 mean?
- What are the circumstances of the gift?
 - Who gets it?
 - Why do they get it?
 - What is the sign that they have it?
- What is the significance of Joshua’s challenge and Moses’s response?
- Does it remind you of any other passage from Scripture?

The Holy Spirit in the OT – Impact

- Prophecy
- Taking over a person
- Associated with the eschatological (Messianic) era
 - Source of attributes of the Spirit-endowed Messiah
 - Eschatological renewal



Nash Papyrus, showing the Ten Commandments and the Shema. Middle of 2nd century BCE, Cambridge University Library

Prophecy: Authority to speak in God's name

- For the majority of God's prophets, the commission is claimed directly from the Lord
- But in the following instances, the Spirit is the sign of God's authority

The Spirit of the LORD [*ruah YHWH*] speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken;
[2 Sam 23:2](#)

"How did the Spirit of the LORD [*ruah YHWH*] go from me to speak to you?
[1 Kings 22:24](#); parallel = [2 Chron 18:23](#)

And now the Lord GOD [*Adonai YHWH*] has sent me, and his Spirit [*ruhi*]
[Isa 48:16d](#)

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord [*ruah YHWH*], and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin
[Mic 3:7](#)

The "last words of David" directly claim God's authority

The false prophet Zedekiah objects to Micaiah's contradictory prophecy. The assumption is that a prophet cannot speak without *ruah YHWH*

The rest of [Isa 48](#) contains the message that is delivered on behalf of the Lord

Micah's power via *ruah YHWH* is ironically contrasted with the "wind" [*ruah*] of false prophets in [Mic 2:11](#)

Prophecy: the Spirit as its agent

The Spirit of God/the Lord came/fell upon me

And **the Spirit of God [ruah elohim] came upon** him, and he [Balaam] took up his discourse and said...

[Num 24:2-3](#)

A prelude to Balaam's prophetic speech, in which he also "hear[s] the words of God" ([Num 24:4](#))

The Spirit of God [ruah elohim] came upon Azariah the son of Oded

[2 Chron 15:1](#)

The prelude to Azariah's words of advice to King Asa, later ([2 Chron 15:8](#)) described as "prophecy" [*nebuah*]

And **the Spirit of the Lord [ruah YHWH] fell upon** me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the Lord: ..."

[Ezek 11:5a, b](#)

Ezekiel's commission results in him speaking the words of the Lord

Spirit-inspired words explicitly described as prophecy

You [God]... warned them [Israel] **by your Spirit through the prophets [nebie]**

[Neh 9:30](#)

They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent **by his Spirit through the former prophets [nebiim]**

[Zech 7:12](#)

The Hebrew word for prophet = *nabi*

The Spirit taking over a person: Prophecy

The 70 Elders of Israel; Eldad & Medad

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**.

[Num 11:25a-c](#)

Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and **the Spirit rested on them**. ... and so they **prophesied** in the camp.

[Num 11:26a, b, d](#)

Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would **put his Spirit on them!**

[Num 11:29b](#)

Saul

Then **the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you**, and you will **prophesy** with them and be turned into another man.

[1 Sam 10:6](#)

...behold, a group of prophets met him, and **the Spirit of God rushed upon him**, and he **prophesied** among them.

[1 Sam 10:10b-d](#)

when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, **the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul**, and they also **prophesied**.

[1 Sam 19:20](#)

...And **the Spirit of God came upon him** also, and as he went he **prophesied**...

[1 Sam 19:23](#)

In the Eschatological Era (the “day of the Lord”)

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will **pour out my Spirit on all flesh**; your sons and your daughters shall **prophesy**...

[Joel 2:28a, b](#)

- The Hebrew word for prophet, *nabi*, is the root of all the verbs “to prophesy”
- These passages seem to suggest a divine “taking over” of the person(s)

The Spirit taking over a person: Vision & Hearing



The majority of Spirit-inspired vision and hearing is in Ezekiel



the Spirit... brought me **in visions of God** to Jerusalem

[Ezek 8:3](#)

the Spirit... brought me **in the vision by the Spirit of God** into Chaldea

[Ezek 11:24](#)

the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and **behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple**

[Ezek 43:5](#)

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and **your young men shall see visions.**

[Joel 2:28a, b](#)

And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and **I heard him speaking to me.**

[Ezek 2:2](#)

Then the Spirit lifted me up, and **I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake**

[Ezek 3:12](#)

But the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and **he spoke with me...**

[Ezek 3:24](#)

The Spirit taking over: Elevation & Transporting

Elijah

...the Spirit of the LORD will **carry you** I know not where

[1 Kings 18:12](#)

Obadiah, Ahab's governor, is concerned that the Spirit will help Elijah escape from Ahab

...It may be that the Spirit of the Lord has **caught him up** and **cast him** upon some mountain or into some valley

[2 Kings 2:16](#)

The "sons of prophets", who are seeking Elijah, discuss with Elisha how to locate him

Ezekiel

Set on my feet

And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and **set me on my feet**, and I heard him speaking to me.

[Ezek 2:2](#)

But the Spirit entered into me and **set me on my feet**, and he spoke with me...

[Ezek 3:24](#)

Lifted up

Then the Spirit **lifted me up**, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake

[Ezek 3:12](#)

Transported

The Spirit **lifted me up** and **took me away**

[Ezek 3:14](#)

The Spirit **lifted me up** and **brought me** to the east gate of the house of the LORD

[Ezek 11:1](#)

the Spirit **lifted me up** and **brought me** into the inner court

[Ezek 43:5](#)

the Spirit **lifted me up** between earth and heaven and **brought me in visions of God** to Jerusalem

[Ezek 8:3](#)

the Spirit **lifted me up** and **brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God** into Chaldea

[Ezek 11:24](#)

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he **brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord** and **set me down** in the middle of the valley

[Ezek 37:1](#)

The Spirit-endowed Messiah

And the **Spirit of the Lord** [*ruah YHWH*] **shall rest upon him**,
the Spirit of **wisdom and understanding**,
the Spirit of **counsel and might**,
the Spirit of **knowledge and the fear of the Lord**.

[Isa 11:2](#)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have **put my Spirit upon him**;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

[Isa 42:1](#)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD [*ruah adonai YHWH*] **is upon me**,
because the LORD has **anointed** me
to **bring good news to the poor**;
he has sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**,
to **proclaim liberty to the captives**,
and the **opening of the prison to those who are bound**;
to **proclaim the year of the LORD's favour**,
and **the day of vengeance of our God**;
to **comfort all who mourn**;
to **grant to those who mourn in Zion—**
to **give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes**,
the **oil of gladness instead of mourning**,
the **garment of praise instead of a faint spirit**;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the **planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified**.

[Isa 61:1-3](#)

- The Spirit is “**upon**” the Messiah
- The Spirit confers **gifts**
 - Wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord
- The **anointing** (“Messiah” from Hebrew *masiah = anointed*) is in order to deliver
 - **Benefits** to Israel (justice, liberty, favour, comfort, gladness...)
 - And the **glory of the Lord**

The Spirit associated with eschatological renewal

- Renewal for Israel

...until **the Spirit is poured upon us** from on high,
and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field is deemed a forest

[Isa 32:15](#)

I will **pour my Spirit upon your offspring**,
and my blessing on your descendants;
They shall spring up among the grass
like willows by flowing streams

[Isa 44:3-4](#)

“And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD:
“**My Spirit that is upon you**, and my words that I have put in your mouth,
shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring,
or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the LORD,
“from this time forth and forevermore.”

[Isa 59:21](#)

- Renewal for everyone

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will **pour out my Spirit on all flesh**;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

[Joel 2:28a, b](#)



The Holy Spirit in OT: Key Themes

- God is sovereign
 - The Spirit comes from Him
 - It is His gift, to bestow or withdraw
- The Spirit of God/the Lord is associated with God
 - Expresses His power, His will
 - No independent identity or action
- The Spirit in a person = God acting in that person
 - Sometimes God “takes over”, in a manifestation of power (“The Spirit... rushed”)
 - Purpose = for service: to God, or Israel
 - Its climactic expression is in the Spirit-endowed Messiah



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Points to Ponder

- Is God sovereign in my life?
 - Or is He an optional extra?
- For what purpose has the Spirit been given to me?
 - Have I asked Him to reveal it to me?
- Do I believe the Spirit will renew me, and all of God's people, just as He did in Scripture?
 - And am I asking Him to come and do it?