

## HOLY SPIRIT: IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Holy Spirit was the active Divine agent in the Old Testament. He exercised sovereignty over the earth and the affairs of men before there was ever a chosen people. As we have seen the Holy Spirit worked in creating the world. He brooded over the waters like a bird on its nest. The Holy Spirit brought eternal light out of a created darkness. He made the heavens and its hosts, and He gathered the waters of the sea together (Psalm 33:6-7). The Holy Spirit “garnished the heavens” (Job 26:13). The Holy Spirit strove with men before the worldwide flood (Genesis 6:3). Job credited the Holy Spirit for giving him life (Job 27:3; 33:4). The Old Testament prophets were “moved by the Holy Spirit” to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:21). The Holy Spirit was sovereign in His relation to men, although it seems that no one received the Holy Spirit by asking for Him. The Spirit came upon men and departed according to His will. David prayed, “Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:11). He was not referring to the loss of his salvation but to his anointing as king. God had withdrawn the anointing from Saul as Israel’s king and had given it to David. In the Old Testament there was no indwelling of the Holy Spirit as taught in the New Testament, neither were believers temples of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not taught in the Old Testament. People were filled with the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. The filling was the same as the Spirit coming upon people. It was temporary. The Spirit would depart after the accomplished purpose. In short, the Holy spirit was powerfully active in the lives of people God used, but there was no regeneration or indwelling as taught in the New Testament. The basic difference between the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments was stated by Jesus, “You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17).