

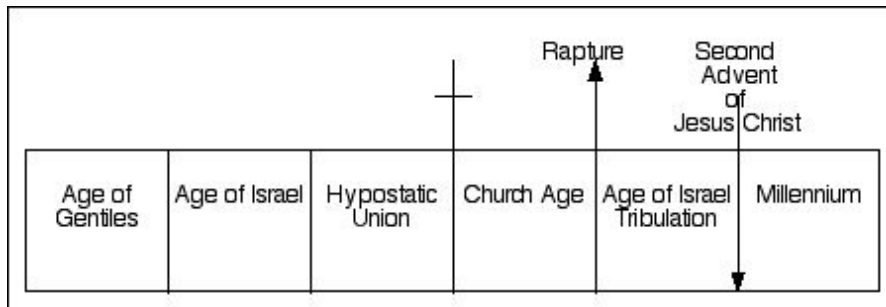
# THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE GENTILE, JEWISH AND KINGDOM AGES

## 1. Introduction

1.1 You cannot understand the functions of the Holy Spirit unless appropriate accommodation is made for the various dispensations.

1.2 During the time period covered by the Old Testament, which would include the Age of the Gentiles-Adam to Abram and the Age of Israel-Abram to the First Advent of Christ there was no universal-perpetual indwelling as we have today in the Church Age.

1.3 There was, instead, an endowment of special powers to perform special functions. A simple dispensation chart might prove helpful at this point.



## 2. The Age of Gentiles

2.1 Certainly the Holy Spirit was an active member of the creation and restoration.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Gen 1:2 And the earth became worthless; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

2.2 The Spirit strives actively with all men 120 years before the flood.

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

2.3 Certainly Enoch, the only prophet found in the Age of the Gentiles, was helped in his ministry by the Holy Spirit.

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Jude 1:15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

2.4 As you can see, we know little of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Age of the Gentiles.

### 3. The Age of Israel

3.1 In the Age of Israel, or the *Jewish Age Proper*, the Holy Spirit empowered only certain believers to perform special functions.

3.2 The Spirit came upon and left certain people. Perhaps this was after their special tasks had been performed. We do know for sure the Spirit left certain people who failed in their unique roles.

3.3 Examples of such unique endowments, at least in part, are:

- Joseph,

Gen 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

Gen 41:39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Gen 41:40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Gen 41:41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

- Bezaleel, a craftsman in gold, silver and bronze,

Exo 31:2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

Exo 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

Exo 31:4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

- those who made the priestly garments,

Exo 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

- The seventy elders who assisted Moses (and from this we can assume so also was Moses),

Num 11:25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

- Joshua,

Num 27:18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

- David,

1Sa 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

- and Elijah and Elisha.

2Ki 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

2Ki 2:10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

3.4 Because of the manifest failures of certain Old Testament characters, the Holy Spirit is said to have left them.

- Saul

1SA 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

- David knew the Spirit could be taken from him, therefore he prayed concerning the potential--this after several major failures.

Psa 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Psa 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

3.5 Many Old Testament believers used confession to access certain benefits and powers of the Holy Spirit. David perhaps is our most prominent example.

- David

Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Psa 66:19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

Psa 66:20 Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

3.6 Though there was no universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit as in the Church Age, the Spirit certainly “gave understanding” and “made doctrine known.”

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

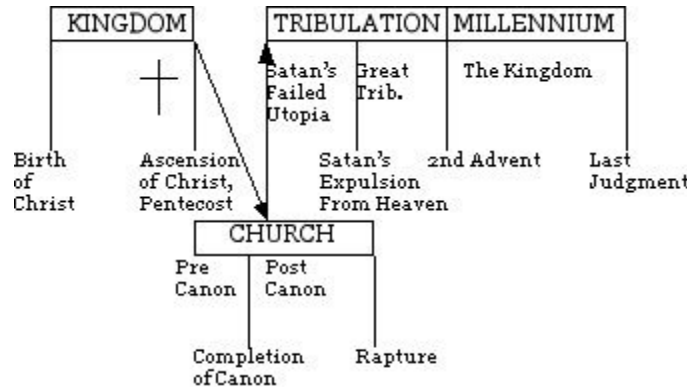
Pro 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Pro 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

4. The Age of the Kingdom, or Hypostatic Union

4.1 In the Kingdom Age, or Age of the Hypostatic Union as it is also called, the Holy Spirit performed certain unique ministries. Several expositors have termed these ministries as “sustaining ministries.”

4.2 A dispensation chart showing the Kingdom Age and its relationship to the Age of the Church, the Tribulation and the Millennium will prove helpful.



4.3 I want to list ten ministries of the Holy Spirit during the Kingdom Age.

- He fertilized Mary's womb.

Luk 1:34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Luk 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

- He descended on Christ at His baptism, designating Christ as the Messiah and a sign to John the Baptist that he had baptized the right man.

Joh 1:27 He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

Joh 1:28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Joh 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Joh 1:30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

Joh 1:31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Joh 1:32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

Joh 1:33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

Joh 1:34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.

- He led Christ into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

- He provided power to Christ to perform many miracles to authenticate Jesus' role as the Godman.

Mat12:28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

- He glorified the Lord Jesus Christ.

Joh 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Joh 16:14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

- He assisted in the resurrection and the trip to Tartaros.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

1Pe 3:19 through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison

1Pe 3:20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

1Pe 3:21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also -- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1Pe 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand -- with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

- He was ready to indwell and fill believers who asked.

Luk 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Luk 11:10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Luk 11:11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

Luk 11:12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

Luk 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- He sustained the disciples during the difficult period following Christ's death, resurrection and appearances after His ascension.

Joh 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Joh 20:22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

- He reproved the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

Joh 16:7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Joh 16:8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

Joh 16:9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

Joh 16:10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;

Joh 16:11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- He was the primary agent of regeneration.

Joh 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Joh 3:4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Joh 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Joh 3:7 You should not be surprised.

## 5. The Age of Israel during the Tribulation.

5.1 At the Rapture every Christian will be removed from the world.

5.2 With the removal of the universal indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit in each and every believer, a new age, generally referred to as the Tribulation is ushered in.

5.3 John Walvoord in his book *The Holy Spirit* has provided an excellent outline for studying the work of God the Holy Spirit in the Tribulation. I want to build on that outline.

### I. The Neglect of the Doctrine

A. The future work of the Spirit in this first of two eschatological ages has attracted little attention in existing works on theology or books on the Holy Spirit. A review therefore of several basic facts concerning the events following the Rapture will help us in our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Tribulation--a Jewish age.

B. The events following the translation of the church will usher in a period of unprecedented trouble. A period of seven years, divided into two halves of three and one-half years each, immediately follows the removal of believers from the planet.

C. The last half of the Tribulation is known as the Great Tribulation. In it is an unprecedented display of sin and divine judgment upon the planet.

D. The return of Christ to set up His millennial kingdom abruptly closes the Tribulation. The Millennium, or Age of Christ as it is also called, follows in which Christ will rule and establish universal righteousness and peace.

E. The work of the Holy Spirit will be quite different from His present undertaking for the

church. While the body of Scripture is not large, it does speak to several important points. It is amidst the stirring events of this unprecedented age of evil that the Holy Spirit ministers in fulfillment of prophecy.

## II. The Work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation

### A. Many will be saved in the Tribulation.

1. It is obvious that many souls will be saved, some of them surviving the horrors of the Tribulation to enter the Millennium and others to die the death of martyrs.
2. In the Tribulation Israel becomes an active force in witnessing for our Lord. The 144,000 Jewish evangelist described in the book of The Revelation will be a mighty force in world-wide evangelism. Quite a contrast to what we see today.

Rev 7:2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea:

Rev 7:3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel ...

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

3. Israel's blindness is removed and thousands among Israel turn to their long-neglected Messiah. Jews scattered throughout the world will recover from their extended blindness.

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

4. Among Gentiles, too, there will be conversion from every nation and tongue.
5. While the Tribulation is characterized by wickedness and apostasy, it will nevertheless be a period of great soul harvest. In the light of these facts, it is essential that the Holy Spirit minister during this period.

### B. The prophecy of Joel.

1. A notable prophecy of the Old Testament is quoted in the New testament by Peter in the opening of his sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Acts 2:19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Joel 2:30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

2. The prophecy has primary application to the Day of Pentecost and Church Age. A careful study of the passage will reveal only a partial fulfillment. Its ultimate fulfillment is in the consummation of God's purpose for Israel during the Tribulation.

3. The wonders in heaven and in earth obviously did not occur on the Day of Pentecost or any succeeding day of the Church Age. It remains for the Tribulation as described in the book of The Revelation to fulfill these details.

4. An important aspect of this passage is found in Acts 2:21.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

5. This is the order during the Church Age and it will continue throughout the Tribulation. In view of the blindness of the human heart, and the inability of man to understand the Gospel sufficiently to believe, apart from the convincing work of the Holy Spirit, it must be assumed the Holy Spirit is at work in revealing to the lost the way of salvation.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered Nicodemus, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Joh 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:



6. This ministry of the Holy Spirit is especially needed in the spiritual darkness which will characterize the Tribulation.

### C. Israel's Hope.

1. The discourse of Christ with Nicodemus confirms there will be salvation during the Tribulation, and that it will be a work of the Holy Spirit.

2. When Christ told Nicodemus that he must be born again to enter the kingdom, and expressed surprise that Nicodemus did not already know this, Christ was referring not only to the immediate necessity of the new birth to enter the spiritual kingdom of all believers but to the necessity of regeneration to enter the Millennium itself.

Joh 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Joh 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God ...

Joh 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

Joh 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

3. Accordingly, it may be deduced that the Spirit of God will not only convict men of their need of Christ and reveal the way of salvation but He will also regenerate those who believe. They will immediately receive eternal life and will enter the Millennium if they survive the Tribulation.

4. Israel, in particular, is given the promise of regeneration as a part of the blessing of her restoration into favor with God. That only those who believe will receive this blessing is evident from the judgments which fall on Israel during the Tribulation in which two-thirds of Israel will be killed and only one-third survive.

Zec 13:8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

Zec 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

### III. The Work of the Holy Spirit in Believers in the Tribulation

A. There is little evidence that believers will be indwelt by the Spirit during the Tribulation. The possibility of a universal indwelling in the Tribulation is contradicted by the revelation of 2Th 2:7.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

B. Unrestrained evil characterizes the Tribulation, though the lack of restraint is not total.

Rev 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Rev 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Rev 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Rev 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

Rev 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Rev 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Rev 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

C. The Tribulation reverts back to Old Testament conditions. As earlier seen, saints were never permanently indwelt except in isolated incidences; a number of endowments for service are found, however.

D. Taking all the factors into consideration, there is no evidence for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in believers of the Tribulation. Even if the Spirit does not indwell all believers of this period, it is clear that some are empowered to witness.

E. This is evident from the fact that there will be worldwide preaching of the Gospel during the Tribulation.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

F. The power to bear witness has ever been a result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and in the Tribulation this function abounds. The spiritual victory achieved by the martyrs to the faith in the Tribulation could hardly be accomplished apart from the Holy Spirit.

#### IV. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Tribulation Limited

A. The characteristics of the Tribulation are not conducive to a manifestation of the Spirit's ministries. In contrast to the Millennium that follows, the Tribulation is a period of unprecedented sin and rebellion against God.

B. While salvation is possible for those who believe, it must be concluded that the saved will be in fewer in number than they are at present. False doctrine will reach new heights of deception. Apostasy will reach its zenith. The restraining work of the Holy Spirit will be almost totally removed.

C. A notable lack in the ministries of the Holy Spirit will be in baptism, i.e., baptism by the Spirit. A search of the prophetic Scriptures finds no reference to baptism of the Spirit in the Tribulation

D. Although, the Spirit continues a ministry in the world during the Tribulation, there is no longer a corporate body of believers knit into one living organism. There is rather a return to national distinctions and fulfillment of national promises in preparation for the Millennium.