



THE HOLY SPIRIT – A BRIEF HISTORY

Old Testament – Ruah

Ruah is the Hebrew word for God's animating force given only to humans. In The Tanach (Hebrew Scripture) or Old Testament referred to alternatively as The Spirit of God or the Spirit of the Lord, it is often referred to as an anointing conferred only on special people but not generally available.

Ruah and Anointing by the Spirit of God

Genesis 1:2 – A mighty wind sweeps over the waters of the earth.

Genesis 2:7 – Adam receives the breath of life (Ruah)

Exodus 3:12a – Moses receives the Spirit of God

Numbers 11:16-17a, 24-30 – The seventy elders are anointed by the Spirit of the Lord

Deuteronomy 34:9 – Joshua is anointed by the Spirit of the Lord

Judg. 3:10; 6:34 – Othniel receives the Spirit of the Lord and becomes a judge over Israel

The beginning of the Theocratic Anointing

First Samuel 10:1-2a, 3-7, 10-11 – Anointing of Saul and the Prophets by the Spirit of the Lord

First Samuel 16:1-14 – the Spirit of the Lord is transferred from King Saul to David

First Samuel 28:3-19 – the Witch of Endor holds a séance for King Saul

First Kings. 3:7-12, 28; 4:29-34 – Solomon is anointed by the Spirit of the Lord

The end of the Theocratic Anointing

Ezek. 8-11

New Testament – The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is mentioned no fewer than 90 times in the New Testament. It is in the New Testament that The Holy Spirit is identified as having a personality (Acts 9:31) and is deified (Acts 5:3-4). In the New Testament the Holy Spirit as made available to those who receive the Baptism of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Baptism and Temptation

Matthew 3:16-17 (Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34)

Matthew 4:1 (Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

Promise of the Holy Comforter

John:14:15-17

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4

The Spirit of the Lord Tested Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1-10

The Holy Spirit Attends the Death of Stephen

Acts 7:55-56

The Holy Spirit Removes the Apostle Philip from the Presence of the Eunuch

Acts 8:39-40

The Holy Spirit Conferred on the Gentiles at Caesarea

Acts 10:44-48

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit – The Only Sin for Which There is No Forgiveness

Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, and Luke 12:10

From The Beatitudes of Revelation

Revelation 14:13

1 John 4:13-16

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.