

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 3, The Spirit in the Old Testament

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 3, The Spirit in the Old Testament, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Peterson's lecture, "The Holy Spirit and Union With Christ, Session 3," examines **the multifaceted work of the Holy Spirit within the Old Testament**. The lecture highlights the Spirit's role in **creation and the inspiration of Holy Scripture**, citing biblical passages to support these claims. Furthermore, Peterson details how the Spirit **equipped and empowered various individuals** such as leaders, judges, and kings for specific tasks. Finally, the lecture explores the Spirit's involvement in **enabling prophecy, offering encouragement, and foretelling future events**, including messianic prophecies and the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 3 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Holy Spirit and Union with Christ).



**Peterson_HolySpirit
_Session03.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 3, The Spirit in the Old Testament

Briefing Document: The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (Dr. Robert A. Peterson)

Overview:

This document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert A. Peterson in Session 3 of his teaching on "The Holy Spirit and Union With Christ," focusing specifically on the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. Peterson outlines various ways the Spirit was active before the coming of Christ, setting the stage for understanding His role in the New Testament and in union with Christ, which will be covered in subsequent sessions.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Holy Spirit's Role in the Production of Holy Scripture (Inspiration):

- Jesus pre-authenticates the New Testament through the "Spirit of Truth" passages in John (14:17, 15:26, 16:13), stating the Spirit will minister in Jesus' name, thus enabling the apostles' preaching and the writing of the New Testament.
- The Spirit played a crucial role in the inspiration of both the Old and New Testaments, as highlighted in 2 Peter 1:20-21. Peter emphasizes that prophecy does not come from human interpretation but is divinely inspired: *"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*
- While human authors with their unique styles and abilities wrote Scripture, the Holy Spirit worked through them, protecting them from error to produce God's Word. *"Specifically, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*
- Even Old Testament prophets did not always fully understand the meaning of their own prophecies, as seen in 1 Peter 1:10-11 regarding the "Spirit of Christ" predicting Christ's sufferings and subsequent glories. *"Can you imagine Isaiah, speaking Isaiah 53, writing that? He could not fully understand his own words."*

1. The Holy Spirit Equipping and Empowering Individuals:

- **Craftsmen:** The Spirit gifted individuals like Bezalel and Aholiab with artistic and practical skills for the construction of the tabernacle (Exodus 31:3, 35:31). *"...I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship..." (Exodus 31:3)*
- **Leaders:** Joshua was appointed as Moses' successor as a "man in whom is the Spirit" (Numbers 27:18), signifying the Spirit's role in equipping leaders for their responsibilities.
- **Kings:** The Spirit "rushed upon David from that day forward" after Samuel anointed him as king (1 Samuel 16:13), providing him with the necessary gifts and abilities for his role. David himself acknowledged the Spirit's activity in his life, even in his last words (2 Samuel 23:2): *"The spirit of the Lord speaks by me, his word is on my tongue."*
- **Judges:** The Spirit empowered judges like Othniel (Judges 3:10), Gideon (Judges 6:34), and Samson (Judges 14:5, 19; 15:14) for military victories and deliverance of Israel. *"The spirit of the Lord was upon him [Othniel], and he judged Israel." (Judges 3:10)*
- **King Saul:** The Spirit "rushed upon Saul" enabling him to rally the people and defeat the Ammonites (1 Samuel 11:6).

1. The Holy Spirit Enabling Prophecy:

- God took some of the Spirit upon Moses and placed it on the seventy elders, enabling them to prophesy (Numbers 11:16-25).
- The Spirit even enabled unlikely individuals like Balaam to speak prophetic blessings upon Israel, despite his own wicked intentions (Numbers 24:2): *"...the spirit of God came upon him, and he took up his discourse and said..." (Numbers 24:2-3)*

1. The Holy Spirit Strengthening and Encouraging:

- The Spirit came upon the prophet Azariah, who encouraged King Asa to pursue spiritual renewal in Judah (2 Chronicles 15:1). *"The Spirit of God came upon Azariah, the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you while you are with him." (2 Chronicles 15:1-2)*

- The Spirit moved the priest Jehaziel to assure King Jehoshaphat and Judah that God would deliver them from their enemies (2 Chronicles 20:14-17). *"Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jehaziel...in the midst of the assembly. And he said, Listen, all Judah...do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's."* (2 Chronicles 20:14-15)
- The Spirit was present among the people during the rebuilding of the temple, encouraging them not to be afraid (Haggai 2:5; Zechariah 4:6).

1. **The Holy Spirit Predicting Future Events (Prophetic Prediction):**

- Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah, upon whom the Lord would put His Spirit to bring justice (Isaiah 42:1, 61:1). *"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."* (Isaiah 61:1)
- Isaiah also predicted a future outpouring of the Spirit that would bring prosperity, transformation, and deliverance to Israel (Isaiah 32:15, 44:3, 59:21). *"Until the spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field..."* (Isaiah 32:15)
- Ezekiel prophesied that God would give Israel a new heart and put His Spirit within them, causing them to obey Him and experience national rebirth (Ezekiel 36:26-27, 37:14, 39:29). *"I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes..."* (Ezekiel 36:27)
- Joel famously prophesied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on "all flesh," with manifestations like prophecy, dreams, and visions, which Peter identifies as being fulfilled at Pentecost (Joel 2:28-32). *"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 2:28)

1. **God's Constant Presence with His People:**

- Psalm 139:7-10 illustrates God's omnipresent Spirit, indicating that God's gracious and loving presence is always with His people, not just in empowering specific individuals. *"Where shall I go from your spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?"* (Psalm 139:7)

Conclusion:

Dr. Peterson concludes that the Holy Spirit was actively involved in numerous ways throughout the Old Testament, including inspiring Scripture, equipping and empowering various individuals for specific tasks, enabling prophecy, strengthening and encouraging God's people, and predicting future events, most notably the coming of the Messiah and the future outpouring of the Spirit. This understanding of the Spirit's work in the Old Testament provides a crucial foundation for understanding His role in the New Testament and in the concept of union with Christ, which will be explored in the subsequent session.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 3, The Spirit in the Old Testament

The Holy Spirit's Work in the Old Testament: A Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. According to 2 Peter 1:20-21, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the production of Holy Scripture, specifically prophecy?
2. Give two examples from the Old Testament where the Holy Spirit equipped and empowered individuals for specific tasks.
3. Explain how the Holy Spirit's work was evident in the judges of Israel, using one specific judge as an example.
4. How does Psalm 139:7-8 illustrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, and what is significant about this presence?
5. Describe the Holy Spirit's involvement in the prophetic ministry in the Old Testament, referencing at least one example.
6. In what ways did the Holy Spirit strengthen and encourage individuals in the Old Testament? Provide one example.
7. According to Isaiah 61:1, what role would the Holy Spirit play in the ministry of the Messiah?
8. How does Isaiah 32:15 describe a future work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the land and righteousness?
9. What promise does God make through Ezekiel (36:26-27) regarding the Holy Spirit and the people of Israel?
10. According to Joel 2:28-29, what future outpouring of the Holy Spirit is prophesied, and upon whom will it be poured out?

Quiz Answer Key

1. According to 2 Peter 1:20-21, prophecy in Scripture does not originate from human interpretation but rather from God. The Holy Spirit carried along the prophets, ensuring that they spoke God's words, highlighting the divine origin of the prophetic word.

2. Two examples of the Holy Spirit equipping and empowering individuals in the Old Testament are Bezalel, who was filled with the Spirit to design and craft the tabernacle, and Joshua, upon whom the Spirit rested to lead Israel after Moses.
3. The Holy Spirit empowered the judges of Israel to deliver the people from their oppressors. For example, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel, enabling him to judge Israel and prevail in war against the king of Mesopotamia.
4. Psalm 139:7-8 illustrates the omnipresence of God's Spirit, indicating that there is nowhere one can go to escape God's presence. This signifies God's constant and gracious presence with his people in the Old Testament.
5. The Holy Spirit enabled prophecy in the Old Testament, even through unexpected individuals. For instance, the Spirit of God came upon Balaam, a man hired to curse Israel, and instead, he delivered blessings and prophecies about them.
6. The Holy Spirit strengthened and encouraged individuals in the Old Testament to fulfill God's purposes. For example, the Spirit of God came upon Azariah, who then encouraged King Asa to bring spiritual renewal to Judah, giving him courage to act.
7. According to Isaiah 61:1, the Spirit of the Lord God would be upon the Messiah, anointing him to bring good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to captives, and open prisons for those bound.
8. Isaiah 32:15 describes a future time when the Spirit will be poured upon the people from on high, transforming the wilderness into a fruitful field. This outpouring will lead to justice dwelling in the wilderness and righteousness abiding in the fruitful field.
9. Through Ezekiel 36:26-27, God promises to give the people of Israel a new heart and a new spirit, removing their heart of stone and replacing it with a heart of flesh. He will put His Spirit within them, enabling them to walk in His statutes and obey His rules.
10. Joel 2:28-29 prophesies a future outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh, resulting in sons and daughters prophesying, old men dreaming dreams, young men seeing visions, and the Spirit being poured out even on male and female servants.

Essay Format Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the Holy Spirit's role in the inspiration and authority of the Old Testament Scriptures, using specific examples from the text to support your claims.
2. Analyze the various ways in which the Holy Spirit equipped and empowered individuals in the Old Testament for leadership and specific tasks. What does this reveal about God's working in that era?
3. Compare and contrast the Holy Spirit's role in enabling prophecy and strengthening/encouraging individuals in the Old Testament. How do these two aspects of the Spirit's work contribute to God's relationship with his people?
4. Explore the prophetic significance of the Holy Spirit's work in the Old Testament, particularly as it anticipates the coming Messiah and the future restoration of Israel.
5. Based on the provided text, synthesize the overarching themes regarding the Holy Spirit's activity in the Old Testament. What conclusions can be drawn about the Spirit's character and purposes during this period?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Anachronism:** Something that is out of its proper historical time period, often referring to an attribute or custom that belongs to a later time. In this context, it refers to Peter potentially speaking of the Spirit in the Old Testament in light of the later Pentecost event.
- **Atonement:** The reconciliation between God and humanity through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. The excerpt discusses the Exodus as a "type" of this ultimate redemptive act.
- **Deity:** The state or quality of being God or a god. The lecture establishes the Holy Spirit's deity in previous sessions.
- **Exegesis:** The critical interpretation and explanation of a text, especially of Scripture. The excerpt mentions disagreements among exegetes regarding the translation of 2 Peter 1:19.
- **Inspiration (of Scripture):** The doctrine that the Holy Spirit superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they wrote what God intended, and their writings are therefore the Word of God.
- **Koine Greek:** The common dialect of the Greek language spoken and written throughout the Mediterranean world during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The excerpt notes God's use of this language in Scripture.
- **Pentecost:** The Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus Christ after his ascension, marking the birth of the Church.
- **Prophecy:** A message or revelation communicated by a prophet from God to people. This can include foretelling future events or speaking God's word to contemporary situations.
- **Type (Typology):** A person, event, or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows or prefigures a greater reality in the New Testament, particularly related to Jesus Christ. The Exodus is presented as a type of Christ's atonement.
- **Union with Christ:** A central concept in Christian theology referring to the believer's intimate and vital connection with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. This lecture series is building towards this topic.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 3, The Spirit in the Old Testament, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: The Holy Spirit's Work in the Old Testament

1. What role did the Holy Spirit play in the creation and inspiration of Holy Scripture in the Old Testament? The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the production of Holy Scripture. While human authors wrote with their own styles and vocabularies, the Spirit carried them along, ensuring the divine origin and freedom from error in their prophetic words. This is seen in 2 Peter 1:20-21, which highlights that prophecy did not originate from human interpretation but from God as individuals spoke from Him, moved by the Holy Spirit. Jesus also pre-authenticated the writing of the New Testament through the "Spirit of Truth" passages, indicating the Spirit's role in future scripture as well.

2. In what ways did the Holy Spirit equip and empower individuals in the Old Testament? The Holy Spirit equipped and empowered various individuals for specific roles and tasks. This included giving master craftsman Bezalel artistic abilities for the tabernacle (Exodus 31, 35), equipping leaders like Joshua to succeed Moses (Numbers 27), and endowing King David with the Spirit upon his anointing (1 Samuel 16). Furthermore, the Spirit empowered judges like Othniel, Gideon, and Samson for military victories and deliverance (Judges 3, 6, 14-15), and even King Saul was filled with the Spirit for a specific task (1 Samuel 11).

3. How did the Holy Spirit enable prophecy in the Old Testament? The Holy Spirit was the divine source of prophetic utterances in the Old Testament. Prophets spoke from God as they were carried along by the Spirit, even at times not fully understanding the implications of their own words (1 Peter 1:10-11). Examples include the 70 elders of Israel prophesying when the Spirit rested upon them (Numbers 11), and even Balaam, despite his flawed character, being compelled to speak blessings upon Israel by the Spirit of God (Numbers 24).

4. Can you provide examples of the Holy Spirit strengthening and encouraging individuals in the Old Testament? The Holy Spirit provided strength and encouragement to leaders and the people of Israel. The prophet Azariah was moved by the Spirit to encourage King Asa to pursue spiritual renewal (2 Chronicles 15). Similarly, the priest Jehaziel was filled with the Spirit and encouraged King Jehoshaphat to trust in God for victory against his enemies (2 Chronicles 20). Even when the people were rebuilding the

temple after rejection of earlier prophets, God assured them through Haggai that His Spirit was with them (Haggai 2).

5. How did the Holy Spirit function in predicting future events in the Old Testament?

The Holy Spirit inspired prophets to make predictions about the future, both near and far. Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah, the servant of the Lord upon whom the Spirit would rest to bring justice and good news (Isaiah 42, 61). He also spoke of a future outpouring of the Spirit that would bring transformation and restoration to Israel (Isaiah 32, 44, 59). Ezekiel also prophesied of a time when God would give Israel a new heart and put His Spirit within them, leading to national rebirth and obedience (Ezekiel 36, 37, 39). Joel specifically foresaw the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Joel 2).

6. What does the Old Testament reveal about the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit with God's people? Psalm 139 illustrates the omnipresence of God's Spirit with His people. David reflects on how there is nowhere he can go to escape God's Spirit and presence, emphasizing God's constant and gracious involvement in their lives. This is distinct from the specific equipping of leaders, indicating a general availability of God's Spirit to His people.

7. How does the Old Testament portray the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the coming Messiah? The Old Testament anticipates the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Messiah. Isaiah 42 and 61 specifically prophesy that the Spirit of the Lord God would be upon the Messiah, equipping Him for His ministry of bringing justice, good news to the poor, healing, and proclaiming liberty. David's anointing and the Spirit rushing upon him is seen as an Old Testament anticipation of the Spirit's work in the "greater David," Jesus Christ.

8. What does the text suggest about the Holy Spirit being referred to as the "Spirit of Christ" in the Old Testament? 1 Peter 1:10-11 refers to the "Spirit of Christ" within the Old Testament prophets who testified in advance to the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. The text considers whether this is Peter anachronistically referring to the Spirit whom Jesus would send at Pentecost, or if it's a prophetic anticipation of that event. In either case, it highlights the connection between the Holy Spirit's work in the Old Testament and the future coming and work of Christ.