

## Dreams and Visions

### The Promise

**“And it shall come to pass afterward, I will pour 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. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2:28-29) The Old Testament scriptures look forward to the New Testament Age, the coming age of the Spirit. Numerous Old Testament prophecies are quoted in the New Testament regarding role that the Spirit would play in the life of the coming Messiah. When Jesus read the words from Isaiah 61 in his hometown synagogue at Nazareth, he concluded, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” (Lk 4:21)**

### Full Power of the Spirit

**The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the eternal triune God. His full power was not revealed to God’s people until the ministry of Jesus, and, later, at Pentecost (Ac 2).**

**“*Ruah*” is the Hebrew word for “*Spirit*”, which can be translated as “wind” and “breath.” The breath of God or a wind from God are mentioned in the Old Testament and refer to the work of God’s Spirit.**

**Old Testament scriptures describe various activities of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had an active role in creation. Gen 1:2, “The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters,” preparing for the creative word of God to shape the world. (Job 26:13; Ps 33:6; Job 33:4; Ps 104:30)**

#### **Work of the Spirit**

**The Holy Spirit communicates God’s message to His people.**

**\*The Spirit instructed the Israelites in the desert. (Ne 9:20)**

**\*When the psalmists of Israel sang their songs, they did so by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Sa 23:2; Ac 1:16, 20)**

**\*The Prophets were inspired by God's Spirit to declare His Word to the people. (Nu 11:29; 1 Sa 10:5-6,10; 2 Ch 20:14; 24:19-20; Ne 9:30; Isa 61:1-3; Mic 3:8; Zec 7:12; 2 Pe 1:20-21).**

**The leadership of God's Old Testament people was energized by the Spirit of the Lord. Moses, was one with the Spirit of God to such an extent that he shared God's very feelings, suffering when he suffered and becoming angry at sin when he became angry. (Ex 33:11; Ex 32:19)**

### **Special Service**

**The Spirit of God came upon individuals to equip them for special service. Joseph, was a notable Old Testament individual, who was given the Spirit to enable him to function effectively in Pharaoh's cabinet. (Ge 41:38) Bezalel and Oholiah, were filled by God's Spirit in order to do the artistic work needed for the tabernacle construction and also to teach others. (Ex 31:1-11; 35:30-35) In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon and empowered only a few select individuals chosen for special service to God. The Spirit of the Lord came upon many of the judges: Othniel (Jdg 3:9-10), Gideon (Jdg 6:34; Jephthah (Jdg 11:29) and Samson (Jdg 14:5-6; 15:14-16) When God chooses to use people greatly, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon them**

### **The Fulfillment of the Promise**

**God promised when the life and power of His Spirit would come upon his people, they would prophesy, see visions, and have prophetic dreams, live lives of obedience, holiness and righteousness, and witness with great power. The Old Testament prophets foresaw and prophesied about the Messianic Age when the outpouring and filling of the Holy Spirit on all humanity would take place. This prophecy was fulfilled ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven on Pentecost Sunday. According to Joel's prophecy, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for those already in God's kingdom, the believers, or God's servants, both men and women, who are saved and regenerated and who belong to God. (Ac 2:17-18) The power and blessing of the Spirit is for every Christian to have and experience throughout the church age.**