

Foothills Christian Assembly Sermon January 23, 2022

Acts 1: 4 "The Promise of the Father"

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

I. Introduction

- a. Before the great day of Pentecost in the year of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, some of God's people in the OT experienced the special work of God's Spirit. To make him able to perform all the craftsmanship for the tabernacle, The Lord "filled" Bezalel "with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship." (Ex 31:3-5) Eldad and Medad and the other elders of the 70 leaders all prophesied when God placed His Spirit upon them. (Num 11:25-27) Also, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon before he led Israel to deliverance. (Jud 6:34) Similarly, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson "mightily" before he killed 30 men of Ashkelon. (Jud 14:19) Yet, we do not see the widespread outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the OT, and often the work of the Spirit in these saints was for a specific purpose and limited time. So, as we will see in the Scriptures today, we can contrast the work of God's Spirit in the OT with the work of God's Spirit in the NT. The Promise of the Father had not yet been given in the OT, but the Promise of the Father was indeed poured out at the great day of Pentecost in the year of our Lord's ascension.
- b. Today's sermon: Acts 1:4 "The Promise of the Father"
 - i. The Promise in the OT
 - ii. The Promise in the NT
 - iii. Questions to know, love and obey God

II. The Promise of the Father in the OT

a. Proverbs 1:20-23 (v23)

- i. "Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. 21 She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: 22 "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. 23 Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you."
- ii. Solomon taught his contemporaries that God would pour out His Spirit upon His people, and in the context we see this outpouring as a prerequisite for humbly receiving God's conviction and going on to learn from God's Word.
 1. Henry "The author of this grace is the Spirit, and that is promised: *I will pour out my Spirit unto you, as oil, as water; you shall have the Spirit in abundance, rivers of living water, Jn. 7:38. Our heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those that ask him.*"¹

b. Joel 2:28-32 (v28)

- i. 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls."
 1. This is the representative text that Peter, by God's inspiration, chose to cite in his sermon in Acts 2 as the focal point of the OT promise of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Note the key aspect of the coming promise:
 - a. "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh"
 - i. Henry "The blessing itself here promised is the *pouring out of the Spirit of God, his gifts, graces, and comforts, which the blessed Spirit is the author of. We often read in the Old Testament of the Spirit of the Lord coming by drops, as it were, upon the judges and prophets whom God raised up for*

¹ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 957). Hendrickson.

extraordinary services; but now the Spirit shall be poured out plentifully in a full stream”²

- b. “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh”
 - i. Sons and daughters shall prophesy
 - ii. Old men will dream dreams
 - iii. Young men shall see visions
 - iv. Menservants and maidservants shall receive the outpouring of God’s Spirit
- c. Poole “*Upon all flesh*; before these gifts were confined to a few people, to one particular nation, to a very small people; but now they shall be enlarged to all nations, Acts 2:33; 10:45, to all that believe, all that are regenerate.”³

c. Is 32:14-18 (v15)

- i. “Because the palaces will be forsaken, The bustling city will be deserted. The forts and towers will become lairs forever, A joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks-- 15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest. 16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, And righteousness remain in the fruitful field. 17 The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. 18 My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”
 - 1. Poole “And therefore these promises concern the times of the gospel, when God’s Spirit was in a most evident and glorious manner poured forth upon the apostles, and other believing Jews, to the astonishment of their very adversaries; and when the following promises were in a good measure fulfilled, and are more fully to be accomplished in God’s due time”⁴
 - 2. And note the comprehensive fruits and benefits of the outpouring of God’s Spirit.
 - a. Righteousness, peace, quietness and assurance forever, in secure dwellings, in peaceful and quiet resting places.

d. Ezekiel 39:29

- i. ““And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” says the Lord God.”
 - 1. The outpouring of God’s Spirit connected with a new age of unending favor before God’s Face.

² Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 1499). Hendrickson.

³ Poole, M. (1853). [*Annotations upon the Holy Bible*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 893). Robert Carter and Brothers.

⁴ Poole, M. (1853). [*Annotations upon the Holy Bible*](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 401–402). Robert Carter and Brothers.

a. Henry “God will *pour out his Spirit* upon them, to prevent their departures from him and returns to folly again, and to keep them close to their duty. And then, He will *never hide his face any more from them*, will never suspend his favour as he had done; he will never turn from doing them good, and, in order to that, he will effectually provide that they shall never turn from doing him service. Note, The indwelling of the Spirit is an infallible pledge of the continuance of God’s favour. He will hide his face no more from those on whom he has *poured out his Spirit*. When therefore we pray that God would never *cast us away from his presence* we must as earnestly pray that, in order to that, he would *never take his Holy Spirit away from us*”⁵

e. Zechariah 12:10

i. “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

1. Note the connection between the outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit and the conviction of sin. Specifically, here, the sin in question is the crucifixion of Christ.

2. Henry “This is the effect of their looking to Christ; it makes them mourn. This was particularly fulfilled in those to whom Peter preached Christ crucified; when they heard it those who had had a hand in piercing him were *pricked to the heart*, and cried out, *What shall we do?* It is fulfilled in all those who sorrow for sin after a godly sort; they look to Christ, and *mourn for him*, not so much for his sufferings as for their own sins that procured them. Note, The genuine sorrows of a penitent soul flow from the believing sight of a pierced Saviour. Looking by faith upon the cross of Christ will set us a mourning for sin after a godly sort.”⁶

III. The Promise of the Father in the NT

a. Luke 3:21-23

i. “When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” 23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age”

⁵ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 1416). Hendrickson.

⁶ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 1590). Hendrickson.

1. Here we see the Father opening heaven (as the Son prays) and sending the Promised Holy Spirit upon Jesus Christ at His baptism, His anointing unto His calling. We hear the Father's Voice speaking to Jesus, proclaiming for all to hear, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Jesus was the first Man on earth to receive the Promise of the Father in this way.
- b. John 7:37-39
- i. "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."
 1. Note that all of those who believe in Christ receive the Promise of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Note that at that time, during Christ's earthly ministry, the Holy Spirit was not yet given. Why not?
 3. Because Jesus was not yet glorified. The Holy Spirit could only be given after the glorification of Christ at the Father's right Hand was completed.
 4. Henry "The Spirit of God was from eternity, for in the beginning he *moved upon the face of the waters*. He was in the Old-Testament prophets and saints, and Zacharias and Elisabeth were both *filled with the Holy Ghost*. This therefore must be understood of the eminent, plentiful, and general effusion of the Spirit which was promised, Joel 2:28, and accomplished, Acts 2:1, etc. *The Holy Ghost was not yet given* in that visible manner that was intended. if we compare the clear knowledge and strong grace of the disciples of Christ themselves, after the day of Pentecost, with their darkness and weakness before, we shall understand in what sense *the Holy Ghost was not yet given*; the earnest and first-fruits of the Spirit were given, but the full harvest was not yet come. That which is most properly called the *dispensation of the Spirit* did not yet commence. *The Holy Ghost was not yet given* in such rivers of living water as should issue forth to water the whole earth, even the Gentile world. "⁷
- c. John 14:16-18
- i. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you

⁷ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 1962). Hendrickson.

know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

1. Jesus asks the Father to give to His people another Helper.
2. The Holy Spirit will abide with God's people forever in the Church age of Pentecost.
3. The Holy Spirit dwells with us.
4. The Holy Spirit dwells in us.
5. Jesus comes to us with the Holy Spirit.

d. John 15:26

i. "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

1. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to the Church from the Father.
2. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father.
3. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus.

e. John 16:5-15

i. "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."

1. The Holy Spirit could only come to the Church after Jesus departed to God's right Hand, glorified.
2. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His Church after He departed to God's right Hand.
3. The Holy Spirit will guide the Church into all truth.
4. The Holy Spirit only speaks what He hears from Jesus and from the Father.

f. Acts 2: 32,33

i. "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

- ii. The great day of Pentecost in the year our Lord ascended to God's right hand saw the fulfillment of the Promise of the Father being given to the Church.

IV. Questions to know, love and obey God