

- I. Session 4: Old Testament prediction of the Spirit's work through the Messiah
- a. Note: This is new for the first time in this series.
  - b. Purpose: In this session we shall see what the Old Testament has to say about the Spirit's work through the Messiah.
  - c. The Spirit's work in the Old Testament makes us yearn for more ministry of the Spirit
    - i. The Spirit empowered people but some of these people were not godly
      1. Think of Sampson.
      2. Think of King Saul.
    - ii. The Spirit can depart from His people
      1. Again think of King Saul: *"Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him."* (1 Samuel 16:14).
      2. In light of the Spirit's departure David's had legitimate fear that He will lose the Spirit because of His sin: *"Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."* (Psalm 51:11).
    - iii. The Spirit reveals His Word but people were hardened to the Word.
      1. Recall the sins of the people in regards to not listening to the Word of God: *"They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts."* (Zechariah 7:12)
      2. So much of Old Testament history is filled with the people hardening their hearts to God's Word.
    - iv. Examples such as these make us yearn to see God's Spirit to do a deeper work.
  - d. The Prediction of the Holy Spirit working through the Messiah
    - i. The Spirit and the Messiah in Isaiah 11:1-2
      1. The passage: *"Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."* (Isaiah 11:1-2)
      2. "Branch" is a title for the Messiah: Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15.
      3. This "Branch" *"will spring from the stem of Jesse"* (v.1) which we shouldn't be surprised since those Jeremiah verses we looked at indicates the Messiah will be from David's line.
      4. Note how in verse 2 *"The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,"* with Him referring to the Messiah.
      5. We see here that when the Messiah reveals Himself the Spirit will be with Him and empowering Him.
    - ii. The Spirit and the Messiah in Isaiah 42:1-7
      1. Turn to the passage and read the text.
      2. Note verse 1: *"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations."* (Isaiah 42:1) → This Messianic Servant will have the Spirit upon Him.
      3. Characteristic #1: He will bring justice.<sup>1</sup>
        - a. Three times justice mentioned:
          - i. *"He will bring forth justice to the nations."* (Isaiah 42:1c)
          - ii. *"He will faithfully bring forth justice."* (Isaiah 42:3c)

<sup>1</sup> The following four characteristics is from Christopher Wright, *Knowing The Holy Spirit through the Old Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), 107-108.

- iii. “*Until He has established justice in the earth;*” (Isaiah 42:4b)
- b. **What does justice mean?** “In Old Testament terms, to do justice means putting things right. It includes putting an end to situations that are unfair, situations of exploitation and violence, and restoring those who are victims of such behavior.”<sup>2</sup>
- c. Note the scope of this justice that the Messianic Servant brings is for the whole world:
  - i. “*to the nations.*” (Isaiah 42:1c)
  - ii. “*in the earth;*” (Isaiah 42:4b)
- d. This ability to bring justice of course is due to the power of the Spirit coming upon the Messianic Servant.

#### 4. Characteristic #2: He will be compassionate.

- a. Note Isaiah 42:2-3: “*He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street. 3 “A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.”*”
- b. The meekness of the Messianic Servant is in contrast with others in the Old Testament that had the Spirit coming to empower them but they were not humble such as Sampson, Saul, etc.

#### 5. Characteristic #3: He will be freeing those enslaved.

- a. Note Isaiah 42:7: “*To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.*”
- b. The Messiah empowered by the Spirit will liberate people, possibly alluding to freeing them from their sins in light of the darkness mentioned.

#### 6. Characteristic #4: He will save the Gentiles

- a. Note Isaiah 42:6: “*“I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,”* → Because of the Spirit upon Him He is going to be a light to the Gentiles!
- b. This is consistent with Isaiah 49:5-6: “*And now says the Lord, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the Lord, And My God is My strength), 6 He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”*” → Note He is a light to the Gentiles!
  - i. Verse 5 shows the Servant is not Israel itself since the Servant will return Israel back to God.
  - ii. Verse 6 shows the Servant not only ministers to Israel but will be “*a light of the nations*”
  - iii. End of verse 6 shows the purpose why the Servant will be “*a light of the nations*” is “*So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth*”

#### iii. The Spirit and the Messiah in Isaiah 61:1-2

<sup>2</sup> Christopher Wright, *Knowing The Holy Spirit through the Old Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), 107.

1. The passage: *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,”* (Isaiah 61:1-2)
2. This here now is the Messianic Servant Himself speaking. The first person singular here is the Messiah! We know this because **verse 1** says *“the Lord has anointed me”* and what He is able to do according to the passage.
3. When the Messiah says *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me”* this is confirming the truth in **Isaiah 11:1, Isaiah 42:1 and Isaiah 48:16** of how the Messiah will have the Spirit of God.
4. **Isaiah 61:1-2** is similar to **Isaiah 48:16** where it is also the Messiah speaking in the first person: *“Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit.”* → Not here that the Messiah is sent by both *“the Lord God”* and *“His Spirit.”*
5. Notice what the Messiah is able to accomplish through the Spirit upon Him: *“To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners”* (**v.1b**) → These overlap with the characteristics of the Messiah we saw earlier in **Isaiah 42**.
6. In **Luke 4:16-21** Jesus would later quote **Isaiah 61:1-2** in **Luke 4:18-19** and say *“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing”* (**Luke 4:21b**).
  - a. This is astounding to say: Hundreds of years of expectation by the Jews, now fulfilled before the people’s very eyes and years.
  - b. It would of course be the description of Jesus’ Messianic ministry.
  - c. Note also in **Luke 4:18-19** only the first coming portion is quoted. Jesus left out the last part of **Isaiah 61:2** which states *“And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn.”* That would come later in His Second Coming.

**e. Fulfillment: The Coming of the Spirit upon Jesus**

- i. **The Spirit and the Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11)**: *“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; 11 and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.””*
  1. The Spirit’s descent upon Jesus is fulfilling Old Testament prediction about the Messiah!
  2. We should not see this lightly if we understood the Jews for hundreds of years have been expecting the Messiah and one of the Sign is the Spirit coming upon Him!
- ii. **Many of Jesus’ ministry shows the fulfilment of the expectation of the Spirit working through the Messiah.**
  1. Can you think of when the Spirit empowered Jesus to display wisdom?
  2. Can you think of when the Spirit empowered Jesus to free captives?
  3. Can you think of when the Spirit empowered Jesus to help the broken-hearted?
  4. Can you think of when the Spirit empowered Jesus to be a light to the Gentiles?