



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#123)

The baptism of the Holy Spirit:  
What the Old Testament says.

### A COMPARISON OF THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS

OLD	NEW
Focused on a <u>physical</u> kingdom; delivered from <u>Egypt</u> .	Focused on a <u>spiritual</u> kingdom; delivered from <u>sin</u> and <u>death</u> .
Showed people <u>how</u> to live.	Gave people <u>power</u> to live that way.
Included <u>both</u> saved and unsaved people.	Includes <u>only</u> saved people (though fakes try to imitate it).
As a nation, the people kept breaking the covenant. Their hearts and minds were unchanged. (As individuals, <u>some</u> did change.)	This covenant cannot be broken. God changes forever the hearts and minds of <u>all</u> who belong to this covenant.
Since the people kept breaking the Old Covenant, God said he would <u>replace</u> it with a New Covenant.	This covenant <u>fulfills</u> the promises God made through the Old Testament prophets.

**One of the great features of the NEW Covenant: The Holy Spirit is present in all who belong to this covenant.**

(And the covenant is available to all people, not just Jews!)

OLD	NEW
Though the heart-changing Spirit was present in the Old Testament era, <u>his presence was not part of the covenant</u> .	Receiving the life-changing Spirit <u>is</u> part of the New Covenant. A person without the Spirit is <u>not</u> under this covenant.
This covenant applied to the <u>Jews</u> (and converts to Judaism).	This covenant applies to <u>anyone</u> who repents and turns to God.

- Jesus, who brought us the New Covenant, promised he would send the Spirit.
- The Spirit is the reason for the New Covenant changes in our hearts. This is why God's people have the "fruit" (results) of salvation.

**THE OLD COVENANT DID NOT SAVE PEOPLE.**

The Old Covenant did not save people spiritually. They still needed changed hearts in order to chose obedience. Moses himself, using the symbolism of circumcision told them this!

- Moses said that, under the Old Covenant, they still needed a heart-change. Therefore, circumcise your hearts and don't be stiff-necked any longer. Deuteronomy 10:16 (CSB)
- Moses prophesied about a future day, when God would change their hearts (as a nation). The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants, and you will love him with all your heart and all your soul so that you will live. Deuteronomy 30:6 (CSB)
- By the time we reach the end of the Old Testament era, the prophets had said much more about this future change, and described it as part of a new covenant.

**THE NEW COVENANT HAS COME!  
THE PROMISES ARE FULFILLED... BUT ONLY IN PART.**

**THE JEWS (AS A NATION) HAVE REJECTED THE COVENANT.**

- Because of this, some of the New Covenant promises are not yet fulfilled. But Scripture tells us that someday the nation will repent and return to the true God – and then the promises will be fulfilled.

**MEANWHILE, GOD HAS OFFERED THE COVENANT TO GENTILES!**

- This was because the Jews, as a nation, rejected it. But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, ... Romans 11:11b (NET)
- This offer was promised in the Old Testament – all the way back to Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." Galatians 3:8 (NIV)

**SINCE THE JEWS BROKE THE OLD COVENANT AND REJECTED THE NEW COVENANT, ARE THEY STILL "GOD'S PEOPLE"?**

**"YES and NO!"**

- Their ongoing rebellion and pursuit of false gods resulted in God rejecting them as his people. "... you\* are not my people and I am not your\* God." Hosea 1:9 (NET)  
\*(These words – "you" and "your" – are plural and refer to the nation as a whole.)
- Even so, the prophets told of a future day when this will change! However, in the future the number of the people of Israel will be like the sand of the sea which can be neither measured nor numbered. Although it was said to them, "You are not my people," it will be said to them, "You are children of the living God!" Hosea 1:10 (NET)

- **AS A NATION:** Israel is still under God's judgment; they are not his people. Yet as *individuals*, Jews who turn back to God are his people. (They are not rejected.) As Paul describes the situation...

A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.

Romans 2:28-29a (NIV)

- **AS INDIVIDUALS:** There have *always* been *some* saved Jews, a "remnant" that remained God's people.

So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

Romans 11:5 (ESV)

**Currently (past and present), *individual* Jews are saved.  
In the future, *all* Jews will turn to the Lord.**

7

### THIS EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT,

changing our hearts and minds  
so that we would desire to follow God

**IS NOT A NEW CONCEPT!**

The Old Testament told us it would happen, so when it *did* happen, *there was no legitimate reason for the Jews (as a nation) to reject it!*

Many Old Testament prophets mentioned a future day when the Spirit would come. This day would be associated with changes in the people's hearts (such as repentance) and all sorts of blessings for the nation of Israel.

8

### NOW THAT JESUS HAS COME, WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS NEW COVENANT.

- ① This heart-changing covenant was brought to us through Jesus' death and resurrection. God used Jesus' sacrifice to give us a "forever-change."

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Hebrews 10:14 (NIV)

- ② This change was enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The **Holy Spirit** also testifies to us about this. ...

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

Hebrews 10:15a, 16 (NIV)

This is a  
quote from  
Jeremiah 31:33.

**BUT THE OLD TESTAMENT TELLS US ENOUGH  
TO LEAVE US *WITHOUT EXCUSE!***

9

**JEREMIAH** described the effects that the New Covenant would have on Israel. ① It would change their hearts and minds. (The Old Covenant was powerless to do this.) ② With these changes, the nation of Israel would once again be God's people!

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord.

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

*I will be their God,  
and they will be my people."*

Jeremiah 31:33 (NIV)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Even though the Jews, as a *nation*, are currently "not God's people" they will *never* cease to exist. A few verses after the above quote, God promises that they will remain a "nation," and that he will not reject *all* the descendants of Israel.

This is exactly what we see, even today. The Jewish people *continue* to exist, and some *do* turn to Jesus for salvation (under the New Covenant).

10

**Jeremiah focused on the "covenant" aspect of this change.  
Other prophets focused on what the Holy Spirit would do.**

✦ **THEY OFTEN DESCRIBE THE SPIRIT AS BEING "POURED" ON THE PEOPLE.** ✦

- **ISAIAH** describes it as a time of restoration and blessing.

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;

**I will pour my Spirit** upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Isaiah 44:3 (ESV)

- **EZEKIEL** looks forward to the future *complete* return of Israel from exile. (Even today, their return is only *partial*.) At that future time...

"And I will never again turn my face from them, for **I will pour out my Spirit** upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!"

Ezekiel 39:29 (NLT)

11

- **EZEKIEL** also describes the changes that will occur when the Spirit is in them. This closely parallels Jeremiah's description of what happens under the New Covenant.

And **I will put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Ezekiel 36:27 (ESV)

- **ZECHARIAH** points to things that will occur at that future time. [There is uncertainty as to whether this verse refers to the results of what the Spirit will do, or to the Holy Spirit himself (see the translator's note). Either way, *the end result is the same.*]

"Then **I will pour out a spirit\*** of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died."

Zechariah 12:10 (NLT) \*Translator's note: Or *the Spirit*.

12

- **JOEL** goes even further. ① He includes *all people* (not just the Jews); ② he mentions some *signs* that will occur when this happens; and ③ he connects it to *salvation*. Though this prophecy has only been partly fulfilled, it is often referred to in the New Testament.

"And afterward,  
**I will pour out my Spirit** on all people.  
 Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
 your old men will dream dreams,  
 your young men will see visions.  
 Even on my servants, both men and women,  
**I will pour out my Spirit** in those days.  
 I will show wonders in the heavens  
 and on the earth,  
*[examples given here]*  
 before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.  
**And everyone who calls  
 on the name of the Lord will be saved; ..."**  
 Joel 2:28–32a (NIV)

13

After 400 years of "silence" (no prophets after Malachi), the last and greatest of prophets pointed directly to Jesus, *the one who would accomplish this!* John the Baptist was like an *Old Testament* prophet living in the *New Testament* era!

- **JOHN** introduced to the people the one who would accomplish these things – Jesus!

He proclaimed, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"  
 Mark 1:7-8 (CSB); see also Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16.

"I didn't know who he was. But God, who sent me to baptize with water, had told me, 'When you see the Spirit come down and stay on someone, you'll know that person is **the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**'"  
 John 1:33 (GW)

14

## HOW DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT "POURING" OF THE SPIRIT FIT WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT "BAPTISM" OF THE SPIRIT?

IN THE N.T., THESE TWO CONCEPTS ARE USED INTERCHANGEABLY.

WHEN THE GENTILES RECEIVED THE SPIRIT: The word "POUR."

All the believers who were circumcised and who had come with Peter were amazed that *the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured on people* who were not Jewish. ...

"No one can refuse to baptize these people with water. They have *received the Holy Spirit* in the same way that we did."

Acts 10:45, 47 (GW)

LATER, PETER DESCRIBED WHAT HAPPENED: The word "BAPTIZE."

"When I began to speak, *the Holy Spirit came* to these people. This was the same thing that happened to us in the beginning. I remembered that the Lord had said, 'John baptized with water, but *you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit.*'"

Acts 11:15-16 (GW)

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15

- **NEXT TIME:** We still need to consider what the *New Testament* says.
- **TODAY:** We can already see, based on what the *Old Testament* says:

*These are all interrelated, and are all revealed in the Old Testament.* ⇨ The New Covenant.  
 ⇨ The changes in people's hearts and minds.  
 ⇨ The work (or "outpouring") of the Spirit.

- **Therefore, the Jews had no excuse.** They were told all they needed to know, in order to recognize Jesus for who he was.

### But what about us?

Today, we know even *more* than they did. So if we turn away from the New Covenant and the heart-changes it brings, *we have even less excuse.*

16

This Old Testament message gives us  
 a wonderful **MISSION** to pursue:

The same Spirit that will someday change *Israel*  
 is now available to change *us*.

Let us be always eager to pursue this change!

And I will put my **Spirit** in you so that you will follow  
 my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Ezekiel 36:27 (NLT)

17

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18