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# The Holy Spirit in the History of Redemption

THE SPIRIT AND THE MESSIAH/THE SPIRIT AND MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT

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# Introduction

- The Goal: To comprehend, by the grace of God, the depth and breadth and wonder of the work of the Holy Spirit in the unfolding and progress of redemptive history.
- The Structure: Three-Fold Progress Rooted in the Messiah, the Christ –
  - The *Promise* of the Messiah and Messianic Blessing (Law and Prophets)
  - The *Fulfillment* of Messianic Promise and Blessing (The Coming of Jesus Christ)
  - The *Consummation* of Messianic Promise and Blessing (The Return of Christ)
- The Focus: The work of the Holy Spirit in the Messiah and the Messianic Era, according to the Prophets
- The Denouement: All eschatology (doctrine of last things) is messianic (concerns Christ, his Person and Work); thus all eschatology is Spirit-wrought.

# The Holy Spirit and the Messiah

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ISAIAH 11:1-5

ISAIAH 42:1-9

ISAIAH 61:1-3

## Isaiah 11:1-5

1 *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

## Isaiah 42:1-4

*1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.*

## Isaiah 61:1-3

*1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.*

## The Spirit-Endowed Messiah – Isaiah 11:2

- Isaiah declares not what Christ is in himself, but what Christ received from the Father through the Spirit in the exercise of his Messianic work
- Three pairs of representative gifts –
  - The Spirit of wisdom and understanding
  - The Spirit of counsel and might
  - The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD
- “Genitive of causality” – “The Spirit who produces or gives ...”
- “To be endowed for the Messianic work an anointing of [God] was necessary, and this anointing consisted in the impartation to the Messiah of the Spirit.” (E.J. Young) (cf. Isaiah 61:1; John 1:33,34; Colossians 2:9)

## The Spirit-Endowed Messiah – Isaiah 11:2

- Isaiah refers to the endowment of the Spirit upon Christ’s human nature (... *shoot from the stump of Jesse* ... Isaiah 11:1)
- Calvin: “Christ did not come empty-handed, but well-supplied with all gifts, that he might enrich us with them.”
- Calvin: “Although Christ was not deficient in gifts of this kind, yet as he took upon him our flesh, it was necessary that he should be enriched with them, that we might afterwards be made partakers of all blessings of which otherwise we are destitute; for *out of his fulness*, as John says, *we must draw as from a fountain.* (John 1:16; 7:37, 38)



## The Messianic Era—Prophetic Expectation

- The Messianic era is described by the prophets as a time of the reign of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of God’s people when the “opulence of his saving influences is developed.” – B.B. Warfield
  - *... until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. (Isaiah 32:15)*
- The Messianic era is described as a time when the Holy Spirit shall gather the elect into the Kingdom of God, and none will be missing.
  - *Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them. (Isaiah 34:16)*

## The Messianic Era – Prophetic Expectation

- The Messianic era is marked by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the individual as the crowning Messianic blessing.
  - *“And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the LORD, “from this time forth and forevermore.”* (Isaiah 59:21)
  - *“And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.”* (Ezekiel 11:19; cf., 18:31; 36:26)
- The Messianic era is profoundly marked by resurrection power by the Holy Spirit!
  - *“And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live ...”* (Ezekiel 37:14; cf. Romans 8:9-11)

# The Messianic Era – Prophetic Expectation

- The Messianic era bring freedom from bondage by the Holy Spirit.
  - *“Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations any more. And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the LORD GOD.”* (Ezekiel 39:28-29)
- The Messianic era is marked by Spirit-wrought grace and prayer.
  - *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy ... On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.”* (Zechariah 12:10, 13:1; cf., Romans 15:16)

## The Messianic Era – Prophetic Expectation

- The Messianic era is marked by days of blessing in which the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon the nations.
  - 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, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. 30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.” (Joel 2:28-32; cf. Acts 2: 14ff.)*

# The Holy Spirit and Messianic Fulfillment in Christ

- Jesus received the gifts of the Spirit as Christ (Messiah) which he now bestow them upon us. We are called “Christians” because Christ admits us by grace through faith into his fellowship, and distributes to us Spirit-wrought gifts and graces (blessings and benefits) out of his fulness for *in him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.* (Colossians 1:19)

## Guide for Prayer

“Whenever therefore we feel that we are in want of any of these gifts [wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, fear of the LORD], let us blame our unbelief; for true faith makes us partakers of all Christ’s benefits. We ought therefore to pray to the Lord not to permit the lusts of the flesh to rule us, that Christ may wholly unite us to himself.” – John Calvin