

Study 8: The Godhead, Israel & the Sanctuary

In this study we want to see if all Three Persons of the Godhead were involved in the freeing of Israel from Egyptian bondage and in the wilderness.

When God called Moses to free Israel He gave him the following instructions:

Exodus 4:15-17 Now you shall speak to him [Aaron] and **put the words in his mouth**. And I will be with **your mouth** and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. So he shall be **your spokesman** to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall **be to him as God**. And you shall take this **rod** in your hand, with which you shall do the **signs**."

- Here we find a picture of the role for each Person in the Godhead. Moses represents the Father, and Aaron, the spokesperson for Moses, represents the Son. The rod with which they would do the signs or miracles represents the Holy Spirit.
 - **Hebrews 2:4** God also bearing witness both with **signs and wonders, with various miracles**, and gifts of the **Holy Spirit**, according to His own will?

Exodus 25:8 And let them make **Me a sanctuary**, that I may **dwell among them**.

Psalm 77:13 **Your way**, O God, **is in the sanctuary**; Who is so great a God as our God?

- In Exodus 25 God asks Moses to build a sanctuary and in Psalm 77 it says that God's way is explained in the sanctuary. Therefore all truth can be found in the sanctuary. If God is Three, then the sanctuary should reveal this. So let's have a closer look at the sanctuary.

There are **three** major sections to the sanctuary, and the pattern for the sanctuary was seen by Moses in heaven:

Hebrews 8:5 who serve the copy and shadow of **the heavenly things**, as Moses was **divinely instructed** when he was about to **make the tabernacle**. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the **pattern shown you** on the mountain."

The three major sections were:

- The courtyard
- The holy place
- The most holy place

Let's see if all three of these compartments contain a role for each Person of the Godhead:

1. The courtyard

- We will use the experience of Israel to see what happens in the courtyard of the sanctuary. When you study the Bible you will find that spiritually God takes His people through the sanctuary experience, as it is His way. For example:
 - Israel went through the sanctuary experience when called from Egypt to the Promised Land
 - In Exodus 12 they had to slay the Passover lamb, which was a symbol of the altar of burnt offering in the courtyard of the sanctuary.
- **This Lamb represented Jesus, the Son**
 - In Exodus 14 they went through the Red Sea, which was a symbol of baptism, represented by the laver in the courtyard of the sanctuary.

1 Corinthians 10:1, 2 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea

Here in Corinthians we see that Israel was baptized in the red sea. Baptism represents our adoption into the family of God and living the new life, through the Son's life, death, and resurrection and through this we can be adopted into the family of God and live new lives.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

In these verses we see that the Father is the One that plays the important role when it comes to baptism, He is the One that raised Christ and He becomes our Father when we are adopted into the family of God. He is the One that spoke the day Christ was baptized:

- **Matthew 3:17** And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
 - So the altar of burnt offering points to the Son and the laver to the Father. Where do we find the Holy Spirit in the courtyard?

The answer is in Israel's story. Look again at 1 Corinthians 10:1, 2:

- **1 Corinthians 10:1, 2** Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea
 - The verse says that they were also baptized into Moses in the cloud. What does this baptism represent? The New Testament gives the answer:

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

- Here we find three important steps to being born again. Water baptism, baptism by the Holy Spirit, and Jesus dying on the cross

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent (blood), and let every one of you be baptized (water) in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (witness).

- When Israel was baptized into the cloud, they were baptized in the Holy Spirit
- The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we have been saved, or He is the One that witnesses our conversion:

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came by water and blood; Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

- The cloud was Israel's guarantee that God was with them, it also protected them, guided them and God spoke from the cloud. These are all attributes of the Holy Spirit:

"On the summit of Sinai, overshadowing the plain where the people spread their tents, rested the pillar of cloud which had been the guide of their journey. A pillar of fire by night, it assured them of the divine protection..."

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“The Holy Spirit with us as a Comforter, a **Guide** in our perplexities, to soothe our sorrows, and **shield** us in temptation!” [Sons & Daughters of God pg. 295](#)

- When we look at Jesus’ courtyard experience we find the same three elements as before. He was baptized, received the Holy Spirit and died on the cross. The water, the blood and the Holy Spirit as a witness.
- What does it mean when the Bible says that the Holy Spirit witnesses? What is the purpose? Previously we said that when we are baptized then we live a new life and are adopted into the family of God. Listen to what Romans says:

Romans 8:15, 16 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "Abba, **Father**." The **Spirit Himself bears witness** with our spirit that we are **children of God**

- Here is clearly defined what the role of the Holy Spirit is in the courtyard of the sanctuary:
 1. He is our guarantee
 2. He protects and guides
 3. He then bears witness that we have been adopted into the family of God

The Son is our sacrifice and the Father becomes our Father in the courtyard. Therefore the Father said:

- **Matthew 3:16 , 17** When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God descending like a dove** and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**"

In our next study we will look at the holy place of the sanctuary to see whether all Three Persons of the Godhead are involved in the salvation of man through the sanctuary.

Author: Renier Horn
Editor: Jenny Lovemore

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