

not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the ordinances of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after Spirit" (Rom. 8: 3-4).

2. The Promise of the Spirit

According to Luke 24:49, Jesus, just before His Ascension to the Father, said to His apostles: "And behold, I send forth the *promise of my Father* upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high." And Peter said, in his Pentecost sermon: "Being therefore by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father *the promise of the Holy Spirit*, he hath poured forth this, which ye see and hear" (Acts 2: 33). By correlating these two Scriptures, we learn that "the promise of the Father" was "the promise of the Holy Spirit," that is, the "promise" of the Advent of the Spirit.

John 7: 37-39: "Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, from within him shall flow rivers of living water." To this, the inspired writer adds the following comment: "But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believed on him were to receive: *for the Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.*" Here we are told (1) that there was a time when the Holy Spirit was not yet given, and (2) that this time was prior to the glorification of Jesus. That is to say, there was a time when the powers and influences were not bestowed upon God's people generally. Under the Old Covenant, as we have learned, the gifts of the Spirit were conferred only upon God's chosen leaders for the accomplishment of specific tasks in the development of the Plan of Redemption. The Spirit did not, however, indwell the whole congregation, that is, all the people of Israel individually: the Old Covenant was essentially a fleshly and national Covenant, not a spiritual Covenant. There was no general outpouring of the Spirit in Old Testament times. In a word, there was a time when the Holy Spirit was not given to all saints, when He had not yet come to make the Church His dwelling-place

and to assume His Dispensational task, as the Agent of the Godhead, of preparing a peculiar holy people "meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Col. 1:12). This *time* of the absence from the world of the Spirit's gifts in profusion (*i.e.*, of His more excellent and exclusively *spiritual* gifts) took in all the centuries that passed *before Jesus was glorified*. And when was Jesus glorified, that is, clothed in the "body of his glory"? The answer is unmistakable. On the night of His betrayal, He prayed in these words: "And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" (John 17:5). Jesus was glorified, then, when He was raised from the dead, received up into Heaven, clothed in glory and honor and incorruption, and crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. Phil. 3:20, 21—"For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, *that it may be conformed to the body of his glory*, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself." Once the Messiah had been installed in His proper place on the Throne of the universe, at the right hand of the Father, and properly invested with the Scepter of the Kingdom, then God the Father, in the name of Christ, according to Divine promise, dispatched the Holy Spirit to earth, to qualify the Apostles for their work, to inaugurate the dispensation of Gbspel preaching, and to incorporate the Body of Christ and take up His abode therein. The Gospel Dispensation is, in fact, the Dispensation of the Spirit.

3. The Prophecy of Joel

God had foretold through Jeremiah, as we have seen, the spiritual character of the New Covenant. The first prediction of a general outpouring of the Spirit, however, was communicated to men through the prophet Joel. God said through Joel, by inspiration of the Spirit: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaid's in those days will I pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the