

GOSPELS INTRODUCTION

about 6 A.D., and the one prior to that 8 B.C. The last one quite well fits into the time for Jesus' birth.

That this is probably true is said in relationship to the fact that inscriptions are known which place Quirinius in Syria at about 8-6 B.C. He was engaged in an official capacity (note that we are not sure what Luke means by his word "governor", in Greek *hēgemoneuontos*. This word occurs in such passages as Mt. 2:6; 10:18; 13:9; 27:2; Lk. 20:20; 22:26; Acts 7:10; 23:24; II Cor. 9:5; Phil. 2:3; Heb. 13:7, 17 etc.) in the country of Syria, and perhaps as an imperial legate, or even military leader, since the Romans were engaged in the Homonadencian War. There is an inscription extant which may well indicate he held such a position.

The papyri finds and inscriptions, etc., indicate that women were not necessarily required to enroll. But if Mary was in the condition she apparently was, it is rather unlikely that Joseph would go all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem and leave her behind. The fact that he stayed in Bethlehem after the birth, and was going to return to Bethlehem from Egypt may indicate that he "moved" to Bethlehem, expecting to remain there.

WHO OR WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

by Seth Wilson

- I. The Holy Spirit is a person (a thinking, feeling, acting, responsible individual).
 - A. He is said to do what only persons can do.
 1. He speaks, I Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:7; etc.
 2. He testifies, John 15:26.
 3. He teaches, John 14:26; I Cor. 2:13.
 4. He searches and reveals, I Cor. 2:10.
 5. He leads and forbids, Acts 16:6, 7.

B. He is said to have characteristics of a person.

1. Mind, Rom. 8:27.
2. Knowledge, I Cor. 2:11.
3. Affection, or love, Rom. 15:30.
4. Will, I Cor. 12:11.
5. Being grieved or vexed, Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30.
6. Being resisted, Acts 7:51.
7. Being lied to, Acts 5:3.
8. Being despised or scorned, Heb. 10:29.

C. Personal pronouns in the masculine gender are applied to Him, in close connection with the noun "spirit" which is neuter and should normally have all of its pronouns and modifiers in the neuter, Jn. 15:26; 16:7, 8, 13, 14.

D. The Spirit is not a mere impersonal force or influence which we somehow get hold of and use; but He is a personal being, wise and holy, who is to get hold of us and use us. He is one with whom we may have the closest friendship, or fellowship. Phil. 2:1; II Cor. 13:14. He enters into our personalities, and we become new persons, with renewed minds, affections, desires and wills.

If we have trouble thinking clearly and distinctly about the Spirit of God, it probably is because we do not understand clearly our own spirits. But we can accept the fact that He is a person like Jesus Christ, except for the body Jesus used, or like ourselves in that He has the essential faculties that make us to be persons rather than material machines.

II. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, with Deity like that of God and Christ.

A. He is said to have the attributes of God.

1. He is eternal, Heb. 9:14; was with God in creation, Gen. 1:2.

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2. Knows what God knows, I Cor. 2:10, 11.
 3. He exerts the power of God, Luke 1:35; Acts 1:8; Mic. 3:8; Judges 14:6.
 4. He is everywhere present as God is, Psalms 139:7-10.
 5. He is holy, the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 1:4); Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:29); Spirit of truth (John 14:17; 16:13); Spirit of wisdom (Isa. 11:2).
- B. The works of the Spirit are the works of God.
1. Creation, Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30.
 2. Giving life, Gen. 2:7; Rom. 8:11; John 6:63; John 3:5.
 3. Authorship of prophecies, II Pet. 1:21.
 4. Working of miracles, Matt. 12:28; I Cor. 12:9, 11.
- C. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and is spoken of in such connection with God and Christ that it shows they are of the same divine nature, I Cor. 12:4-6; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3, 4; II Cor. 13:14.

In addition to Bro. Wilson's essay above, we add the following information about the Holy Spirit.

I. Holy Spirit in lives of people.

A. John the Baptist

1. Luke 1:15 to be filled with H.S. from birth, thus ministry guided by H.S.

B. Simeon

1. Luke 2:25, full of H.S., 2:26, revelation to him by Holy Spirit.
Luke 2:27, led by H.S. to temple, revealed unto him babe was Messiah.
2. prophecy (vs. 34-35) probably under Spirit's guidance.

C. Mary

1. Mt. 1:18-29; Luke 1:35, child to be begotten by Holy Spirit.
2. prophecy (1:46-55) probably under Spirit's guidance.

D. Elizabeth

1. Luke 1:41, filled with H.S.
2. Luke 1:42-45, prophecy through H.S.

E. Zechariah

1. Luke 1:67, filled with H.S.
2. Luke 1:68-79, prophecy through H.S.

F. Saul/Paul

1. Acts 9:17; 13:9, filled with H.S.
2. Acts 13:2-4; 16:6-7, led by H.S.
3. Acts 20:23, H.S. witnessed to him about impending trouble.
4. Acts 21:4, 11, Disciples at Tyre and Agabus through H.S. told of impending trouble.
5. Rom. 9:1, H.S. bears witness that he cared about fellow countrymen.
6. Rom. 15:19, ministry aided and empowered by H.S. Cf. I Cor. 2:4; II Cor. 6:6.
7. I Cor. 7:40, states fact of having H.S. which is reason for taking epistles as God's own Word. See I Thess. 1:5.
8. Acts 19:6; Rom. 1:11; II Tim. 1:6, imparted spiritual gifts by laying on of his hands.
9. Phil. 1:19, Paul's expected release to be helped by H.S.

G. Jesus

1. Mt. 1:18-20; Luke 1:35, begotten by H.S.
2. Mt. 3:16; Mk. 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32, descended upon him at baptism.
3. Mt. 12:18; Acts 10:38, annointed with H.S. Cf. Heb. 1:9.

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4. Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33, immerses others with H.S.
 5. Mt. 4:1; Lk. 4:1, led by Spirit into the wilderness.
 6. Mk. 1:12, Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness.
 7. Mt. 12:28, cast out demons by power of H.S.
 8. Luke 4:1; John 3:34, filled without limit with H.S.
 9. Luke 4:14, went into Galilee in power of H.S.
 10. Luke 4:18, claimed preaching was because H.S. was upon Him.
 11. John 1:33, H.S. identification of Jesus for John.
 12. Acts 1:2; Rev. 19:10, preaching through H.S.
 13. Acts 1:2, gave commands through H.S.
 14. Rom. 1:4; I John 5:7-8, H.S. bears testimony of Jesus' life.
 15. I Tim. 3:16, justified by H.S.
 16. Heb. 9:14, offered Himself through *eternal* Spirit.
 17. I Peter 3:18, made alive through H.S.; Preached to pre-flood world through Noah through Spirit in Noah. Cf. Gen. 6:3.
- II. Immersion of, filled with, guidance of Holy Spirit.
- A. Immersion of Holy Spirit.
1. Acts 1:5, promised by Jesus to apostles only. Cf. Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:13-14; Acts 1:8. These verses plus Mt. 10:19-20; Mk. 13:11; Lk. 12:12 pinpoint apostles as ones to receive immersion of Holy Spirit. They also show the people meant by John the Baptist in Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33.
 2. Fulfillment of promise in Acts 2:1-4. Cf.

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- Acts 2:33; also Jn. 20:22 where Spirit is promised to apostles.
3. Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-16; 15:8, immersion is a sign of God's approval of Gentiles to Peter and brethren with him, as well as to all Jews.
- B. People filled with Holy Spirit.
1. Lk. 1:15; John the Baptist to be filled from mother's womb.
 2. Lk. 1:41, Elizabeth.
 3. Lk. 1:67, Zechariah.
 4. Lk. 4:1, Jesus.
 5. Acts 2:4; 4:31, apostles.
 6. Acts 4:8, Peter.
 7. Acts 6:3-4, 7, deacon's qualification.
 8. Acts 7:55, Stephen.
 9. Acts 9:17; 13:9, Saul (Paul).
 10. Acts 11:24, Barnabas.
 11. Acts 13:52, disciples at Antioch of Pisidia.
- C. People given guidance by Holy Spirit.
1. Mt. 4:1; Mk. 1:12; Lk. 4:1, Jesus.
 2. Acts 8:19, 39, Philip.
 3. Acts 10:19; 11:12, Peter.
 4. Acts 13:2-4; men in church at Antioch of Pisidia.
 5. Acts 16:6-7, Paul and Silas.
- D. Holy Spirit helps prophets and others.
1. David, Mt. 22:43; Mk. 12:36; Acts 1:16-20; 4:25-26; Heb. 3:7-11.
 2. Isaiah, Acts 28:25-27.
 3. Jeremiah, Heb. 10:16-17.
 4. Apostles, Acts 2:4.
 5. Peter, Acts 2:22-41.
 6. Disciples at Tyre, Acts 21:4.
 7. Agabus, Acts 11:28; 21:11.
 8. Early preachers of gospel, I Peter 1:12.

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III. General information about Holy Spirit.

1. Not to come until after Jesus went back to heaven, Jn. 7:38-39; 14:26; 15:16; 16:7-13.
2. Offers invitation, Rev. 22:17. Cf. Lk. 8:11; Rom. 10:14-17; Eph. 3:5; 6:17.
3. Jn. 3:6, Spirit produces spiritual beings, impossible through natural processes of birth. (See Jn. 6:63).
4. Acts 2:18, subject of prophecy.
5. Acts 2:33, Pentecost experiences result of Jesus going back to heaven.
6. Acts 19:1-2, Spirit to be received at time of baptism; perhaps should be taught about at this time.
7. Quoted by N.T. writers, Acts 20:23; I Tim. 4:1; Rev. 14:13.
8. Unpardonable sin against Holy Spirit, Mt. 12:31-32; Mk. 3:28; Lk. 12:10. Cf. Heb. 10:26-29.
9. Spirit versus law, Rom. 2:28-29; 7:6; II Cor. 3:6-18; Gal. 3:2-5; 4:3-7; 5:18.
10. Spirit and His Word (Bible), Lk. 8:11; Jn. 6:63; Gal. 3:2-5; Eph. 6-17; Heb. 4:12; James 1:18; I Peter 1:22-23.
11. Spirit comes to dwell personally through hearing, Gal. 3:2-5, 14. Cf. II Tim. 1:14.
12. Jude 19, unbelievers don't have Him. Cf. Rom. 9:9 and Acts 2:39; Eph. 4:30 and I Thess. 5:19; Gal. 5:16-25 and Eph. 5:18 as seen in light of Gal. 3:25; Rom. 10:17.
13. Just one Holy Spirit, I Cor. 12:4, 9, 11, 13; Eph. 4:3-6.
14. II Timothy 1:14, Timothy to guard his committed trust which came through the Holy Spirit.

IV. Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts.

1. Gifts and giving discussed in I Cor. 12:4-11. All of chs. 12, 13 and 14 are about gifts of special nature and early church.
2. Gifts given to early Christians given through laying on of apostles' hands. Cf. Acts 6:6; 8:14-19; 19:6; Rom. 1:11; II Tim. 1:6.

V. Holy Spirit and Church.

A. General references.

1. Acts 9:31, gives comfort to church.
2. Acts 15:28, Holy Spirit helps make decision about Mosiac Law.
3. Acts 20:28, Ephesian elders made overseers through Holy Spirit.
4. I Cor. 3:16, church as a unit said to be dwelling place of Holy Spirit.
5. Eph. 4:3, church urged to keep unity of Spirit.
6. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22, Spirit speaks to churches.

VI. Holy Spirit and Christian.

A. General references.

1. Prayer, Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 2:18; 6:18; Jude 20.
2. Sealing, II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30.
3. Sanctification, Rom. 15:16; I Cor. 6:11; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:2.
4. All penitent believers receive same Spirit, Acts 2:38; I Cor. 12:4, 9, 11, 13; II Cor. 11:4, (Cf. Mt. 28:19); and partake of same Spirit, Heb. 6:4.
5. Jn. 3:8, everyone begotten by Spirit gives evidence of it.
6. Rom. 8:2, Law of Spirit of life (name for gospel) gives freedom from sin and death.

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7. Rom. 8:4, Spirit-led people through Jesus' death escape demand of law (death).
8. Rom. 8:5, Spirit-led people follow after things of Spirit.
9. Rom. 8:6, life and peace come through mind-ing things of Spirit.
10. Rom. 8:9, If Spirit dwells in us, we are doing will of Spirit, not will of flesh.
11. Rom. 8:11, Spirit is means of our future resurrection.
12. Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6, Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are sons of God.
13. Rom. 8:23, Christians have first-fruits, or things that come through Spirit.
14. Rom. 15:13; Eph. 3:16, Spirit helps empower Christians' life.
15. Rom. 15:30, Love of Spirit is motivating factor in prayer. Cf. Col. 1:8.
16. I Cor. 6:11, Christians are washed, sanctified and justified in name of Christ and in Spirit of God.
17. I Cor. 12:3, men guided by Spirit call Jesus Lord. Cf. I John 4:2-3.
18. II Cor. 3:3, Christians become epistles of Christ to men through Spirit.
19. II Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1, fellowship enjoyed by Christians through Spirit.
20. Gal. 4:29, Christians are like Isaac: children (partakers) of promise.
21. Gal. 5:5, Through Spirit by faith we look for hope of salvation.
22. Gal. 6:8, allowing Spirit to lead *guarantees* eternal life.
23. Eph. 2:22, Christian dwelling place of God

- through Spirit, Cf. II Tim. 1:14; I John 3:24; 4:13; I Thess. 4:8, whom God gives us.
24. I Thess. 1:6, joy received by Christians through Spirit. Cf. Gal. 5:22-23.
 25. II Tim. 1:7, Spirit brings, not fear, but power, love and discipline.
 26. I Peter 4:14, through Spirit's indwelling, we live like Christ and thus may be targets for reproach.

PALESTINE, A GLIMPSE OF THE CLIMATE

The following is written for the purpose of acquainting you with the land where Jesus lived. The article could have been expanded considerably, but at least it will give you a glimpse of the land God gave to Abraham and his descendants. Several references are often given, with a part of one of the verses sometimes quoted. You can look up the others. If it will make the land more real to you, and cause you to "see" in your minds' eye real people in a real land, the result intended has been accomplished.

The land is at most 90 miles wide by 150 long, though David controlled more than this area. The normal designation was from Dan to Beersheba. O.T. Palestine probably covered about 10,000 square miles, with N.T. Palestine somewhat larger.

Two basic seasons: summer, generally hot and dry, extending from May to October. Winter, moist and rainy, mild. Joppa has an average temperature of 57 degrees. Jerusalem, about 34 miles east, 2600' elevation, has 63 degrees average, while Jericho, only 15 miles further east but 700' below sea level, sustains tropical temperatures.