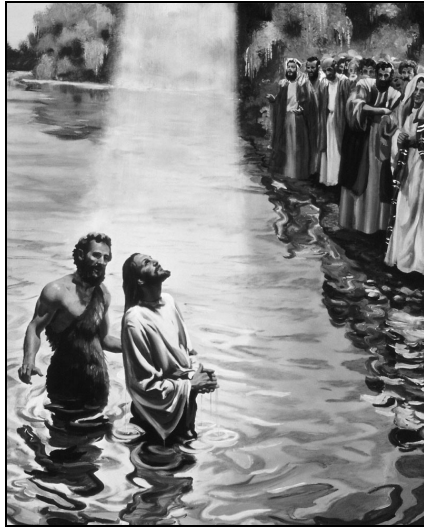
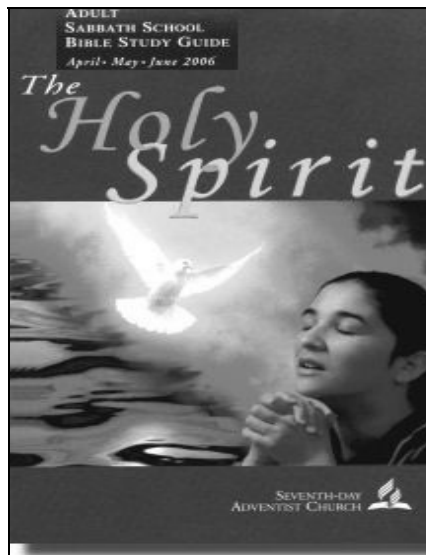


Sabbath School Bible Study Guide: An Alternative Commentary



Lesson 2



Lesson 2 April 1 -7

The Holy Spirit symbolized in Scripture.

This weeks study looks at some of the symbols used in describing the work of the Spirit.

Wind, dove, Water, oil, seal, light, fire.

Sabbath afternoon

John 3:8 *“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”*

In the preceeding verses Christ is teaching Nicodemus (and us) about the new birth, the baptism of the Spirit. Note in Vs. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8. Note how often the word “born” is used.

Another word we can use for born is “life”. Often when a child is born, it is said “a new life has come into the world”

This is what the Scripture is trying to convey to us in Jn 3. We need a new life empowered by the Spirit. And in Vs 8 Christ likens this experience to the wind.

Note how the SOP comments on this passage.

“The Holy Spirit is a free, working, independent agency. The God of heaven uses His Spirit as it pleases Him; and human minds, human judgment, and human methods can no more set boundaries to its working, or prescribe the channel through which it shall operate, than they can say to the wind, "I bid you to blow in a certain direction, and to conduct yourself in such and such a manner." {FLB 52.4}

Notice how in the work of conversion, God uses His Spirit as it pleases Him, independent of human devising.

In DA (Desire of Ages) 172, 173 commenting on the same passage we read:

“By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart.....When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life.”

Note how Christ and the Spirit of God are used interchangeably in describing the Spirit filled life.

Compare also Acts 2:2 where the Spirit is described as a mighty wind coming from heaven.

And in Acts 17:25 the same word translated wind in Acts 2 is translated “breath”, in pertaining to life. See also Jn 20:22 and Gen. 2:7.

Sunday

The Dove of Burnished gold.

This was the promised sign to John the Baptist that Jesus was the Messiah.

In Jn 1:14, 27, 30 John the Baptist testifies that the Christ would be a man who would come after him, who was before him. Or as “Today’s English Version” translates “He is greater than I am because he existed before I was born.”

And in Vs 34 John declares “*And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*”

When John declares “*And I saw*” he was referring to the promised sign. The Spirit of God, like a dove of burnished gold, hovering over the head of Christ.

The Baptist knew that Christ would be the incarnate Son of God.

And the symbols God used for the promised sign, testified to this.

In the scriptures, Birds are often used as a symbol for man. For example – Prov. 27:8, Ps. 124:7 and Rev. 18:2. and a dove would symbolize meekness, and lowliness. In DA 112 commenting on the dove the SOP states a “fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly one.”

Gold in Scripture is often used as a symbol for Divinity. See for example Ex. 39:30

In DA 112 the burnished gold is called “purest light” this too is a symbol of Divinity see 1 Jn 1:5.

When you combine the two symbols, a dove-like form of burnished gold, you have humanity, Holy and harmless blended with Divinity, the incarnate Son of God.

This is why John said “I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God.”

Heb 7:26 “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”

Monday

The water

John 7:37-39: *“In the last day, that 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, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”*

Q – What is the condition Jesus gives in Vs. 38 in order to receive and impart the Spirit to others?

A – *“He that believeth on me”*

Q – what must we do or confess in order to believe on Jesus?

A – 1 Jn 4:15 *“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”*

1 Jn 4:13 :” *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. ”*

Here we see that to believe on Jesus is to believe He is the Son of God and God will give us of His Spirit.

We also saw last week in Acts 8:36-39 how the eunuch was baptized after he confessed that Jesus is the Son of God.

We also need to have the correct knowledge of who this Spirit is that we receive.

In numbers 20:1-13 is recorded the story of the smitten Rock. From the Rock (Christ) in Horeb once smitten, flowed the life giving water that refreshed Israel.

In PP (Patriarchs and Prophets) p 411 we read:

“The smitten rock was a figure of Christ, and through this symbol the most precious spiritual truths are taught. As the life-giving waters flowed from the smitten rock, so from Christ, "smitten of God," "wounded for our transgressions," "bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:4, 5), the stream of salvation flows for a lost race.”

And on p 413 we read “Christ combines the two types. He is the rock, He is the living water.”

Here we see two plain, definitive statements “So from Christ” flows the stream of salvation. And Christ is the rock, He is the living water.

And Scripture declares “*And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*” Gal. 4:6

And the SOP states “The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ.” {RH, April 5, 1906 par. 16}

Perfect harmony with Scripture. As the life giving water flowed from the Rock, so does the life giving Spirit proceed from the only begotten Son of God.

Tuesday Oil

Matt 25:1-4 *“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”*

Dear friends, when studying this parable, please understand the 10 virgins are Seventh Day Adventists! They have a knowledge of the scriptures and are confidently expecting Christ’s appearing.

But when the cry is given “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,” many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit. {COL 408.2}

Q – Why are the foolish virgins destitute of the Holy Spirit?

A – p 411 “They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live.” COL

Notice friends, inspiration declares the three main reasons SDA’s will be lost and hear the fateful words “I know you not”

- They do not know God.
- They have not studied His character.
- They have not held communion with Him.

Q – How can this happen to God’s people?

A – p 415 “It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted.”

Please take note the prophet looking forward to our day states that men would be losing the knowledge of God’s character. That His character would be misunderstood and misinterpreted!

Friends, if she saw men losing the knowledge of God's character, it means they must have had the correct knowledge in order to lose it.

And the SDA church had the correct knowledge of God! Today they have lost it! Through the trinity, God's character has been misunderstood and misinterpreted!

Remember the three reasons

- 1 – They do not know God. - The trinity denies God is a Father but some invisible co-eternal, co-equal member of a trinity.
- 2 – They have not studied His Character - How can you study the character of a trinity god, when there isn't one text for its support, and trinitarians themselves confess "it's a mystery."
- 3 – They have not held Communion with Him. - How can you hold communion with God when you reject that He communes with us through His Spirit. And you also reject His Son as the One mediator between God and man

But friends the wise virgins had oil in their vessels.

"Their light burned with undimmed flame through the night of watching. It helped to swell the illumination for the bridegroom's honor." {COL 414.1}

The wise virgins give the loud cry to the world.

Q – What enabled the wise virgins to receive the outpouring of the Spirit?

A – "By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God." {COL 414.2}

Friends, do you see the difference? The wise virgins (SDA) joyfully receive the principles of God's word.

The foolish virgins receive the principles of men that misinterpret the knowledge of God's character. Namely fundamental principles 2-5

Notice the great controversy. At the time when the knowledge of God is being misunderstood and misinterpreted the prophet declares: "At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known..... The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." {COL 415-416}

We are told "It is in a crisis that character is revealed". And the God/god you worship will determine whether your character is built on the Rock, the Son of God, or the shifting sand of the trinity.

The oil in the sanctuary is also a good object lesson. In Lev 24:2: "*Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.*"

Note the oil used for the candlestick had to be beaten out of the olive. So our Saviour had to be beaten, for us to receive His spirit.

The showbread also was made with olive oil. Christ is the living bread (Jn 6:51, 58). And His words are spirit and life Vs 63.

The candlestick was fuelled by the olive oil to give light to the temple. So Christ is the light of the world Jn 1:9 "that lighteth every man"

The incense was made with the olive oil, a symbol of Christ's righteousness that makes our prayers accepted before the Father. So the prayers of the saints inspired by the Spirit of Christ ascend to the Father as a sweet smelling incense.

Wednesday Seal and guarantee

Q – How do we receive the seal of the Holy Spirit?

A – We saw in Monday’s lesson how in Acts 8: 36-39 the eunuch received the baptism of the Spirit after he confessed Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

In Acts 19:1-6 we see another account

In Vs 4 Paul speaking with the disciples of John the Baptist declares:
“Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

Vs 5 *“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

Vs 6 *“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”*

The disciples of John received the Holy Spirit (more abundantly) after they believed on Him.

Jn 1:12 *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”*

To believe on His name is to believe Christ is who He claimed to be, the Son of God. Matt 26:63, 64 ; Mark 14:61, 62

How ironic that this quarterly study seeks to teach us a trinity of three co-eternals. Thus denying the Father, denying the Son, and denying their Spirit. And yet they want to teach us about the seal of the Spirit!

We appeal to these brethren to be mindful of the inspired words “**And grieve not he Holy Spirit of God** whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

See also Jn 3:18, Jn 5:24 and 1 Jn 2:23

Thursday Light and Fire

The quarterly study quotes Jn 1:9 and then a passage from COL p 385 where Sister White states “there is revealed the working of God’s Holy Spirit”

In Jn 1:4 we read of Jesus “*In him was life and the life was the light of men*”

Vs 6-8 speak of John the Baptist who came to bear witness of that light (Christ).

And in Vs 9 we read “*That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*”

So we can conclude

1. Christ is the light
2. He lighteth every man
3. His life is the light (the illumination) of men

Now notice Vs 12 “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*”

So when we believe on Christ, we receive His life (His Spirit) and become the sons of God!

Notice again in Gal. 4:6

“*And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*”

Yes friends, the power we received is the Spirit of Christ, His life that lighteth every man.

This is why the apostle John declared in Jn 1:16 “*And of His Fullness have all we received.*”

Fire

Much could be said about the symbol of fire for the Holy Spirit. As the quarterly points out, fire is a symbol of the presence of God, of His approval and sanctifying power.

Fire is also a symbol of the outpouring of the Spirit (Acts 2:3). It is also a symbol of a counterfeit outpouring, of a false spirit, accompanied with signs and miracles. Rev. 13:13, 14:

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

Remember we noted that Christ is the true light and His Spirit is the life of men.

Notice the next verse in Rev 13

Vs 15 “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast”

This false Spirit who deceives men with great wonders and miracles also gives power and authority to those who worship him through his image. This image of the beast is the union of Rome, the fallen churches and the state in seeking to force and dictate the conscience of men, namely through a Sunday law.

This movement inspired by the Spirit of antichrist will deceive almost the entire world.

But God’s faithful have been promised by Jesus Himself that His church, His people that believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God will not be prevailed against. Matt 16:16-18. This is their foundation, this is the Rock of their faith.

Q – What will be the foundation of the false Spirit and his counterfeit fire of miracles and lying wonders?

Satan's foundation is the exact opposite to the Christian's declaration of faith. He will deny Jesus is the Christ the Son of God. This is the spirit of antichrist, and through Rome and her foundation doctrine "the trinity" he has succeeded in deceiving almost the entire religious world including the SDA church!

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." 1 Jn 2:22

Friday

Fridays study makes the comment “But the Spirit Himself is a mystery. Of the three persons **in** the Godhead He is the most unfamiliar to humanity ...no one has ever seen the Spirit, nor has anyone revealed Him to us.”

This statement is a blatant misrepresentation of scripture and the SOP.

Search the EGW CD and see if you can find the statement “three Persons **in** the Godhead”. She never used this term, the SOP states “three Persons **of** the Godhead”. This is no accident, if one thinks this is a minor point, then why do so many compilers go to the trouble of changing the word “of” to “in” when they could just copy straight from the inspired writing? Not to mention how we saw in last weeks study the changing of the word “it” for the Holy Spirit to capital “He or Him”.

Further more the statement “no one has ever seen the Spirit, nor has anyone revealed Him to us” contradicts plain scripture.

In Jn 14:17 Jesus declares “*Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*”

How can you say no one has ever revealed the Spirit to us.

When Jesus told His disciples they knew Him already and that He was already dwelling (living) with them!

Notice friends who it is that does not know the Spirit nor see Him. Vs 17 “*whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him...*”

It is the world, the unbelievers who do not see Christ or know it is Christ by His Spirit.

It is the unbelievers who deny the simple words “I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you.”

Look at Vs 19 “*Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.*”

Again we see it is the unbelievers who cannot see Christ, but to His followers, our lord says “But ye see me”

Our appeal to all those receiving these studies is:

Dear friends look to Christ, it is Christ who is seeking to comfort and empower you with His very own life.

Believe His word friends, for He is a faithful and true witness.

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