

EMPOWERED: "The Holy Spirit"

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Genesis 1:2- Hovering and waiting to bring about life, order and beauty

God's Personal Presence: Ruakh (Hebrew)

ENERGY

-Wind

-Breath

Just as wind and breath are invisible, God's Spirit is invisible

Wind is powerful--God's Spirit is powerful

Breath keeps us alive--God's Spirit sustains ALL of life

Continue on through the story of The Bible...we see special EMPOWERMENT for specific tasks...same is true for you and me today.

Joseph- understand and interpret dreams (Genesis 40)

Bezalel- artist who built the Ark of the Covenant, assisted by Aholiab (Exodus 31)

The Prophets- able to see what's happening in history through God's point of view (isn't that what we all want?)

God's Ruakh had created a beautiful world; yet humans gave into evil and unleashed chaos through their injustice; creating in essence a new type of dis-order. And so the prophets say that the Holy Spirit will come, just like in Genesis 1, but this time to transform the human heart. But why? **TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO TRULY LOVE GOD AND OTHERS!!!**

Centuries pass and we see God's Spirit come upon Jesus as he's getting baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. (Luke 3) This initiates a process where God's Spirit is EMPOWERING Jesus to begin the new creation; we see this happening when he heals people or when he forgives their sin- He's creating life where there once was death! **(FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH!)**

Even when Jesus was killed and placed in a tomb, God's Spirit was at work. When

He rose from the dead on the third day and His followers saw Him, they said it was God's energizing Spirit that raised Jesus. So here we see the beginnings of NEW CREATION- this term that becomes a theme for us throughout scripture.

And this idea of new creation continues on in the life of Jesus and then His followers. First, as Jesus breathes on them and says, "receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22) And soon after that, (Acts 2) the Holy Spirit comes upon all the disciples so they can become a part of this NEW CREATION, share the Good News of Jesus Christ and learn how to live by the energy and influence of God's Spirit.

SO IMPORTANT for us to know and remember that the Spirit of God is still hovering in dark places! Always pointing people to Jesus and transforming and EMPOWERING them so they can love God and others (always comes back to the basics).

Our HOPE: that the Holy Spirit is going to finish the job--The Story of The Bible ends with a vision of a new humanity living in a new world that's filled with God's love and life-giving Spirit.

We have a part to play from today to eternity by involving ourselves in His-Story and choosing to live the EMPOWERED LIFE that the Holy Spirit enables us to live, so that we can truly love God and others and we can see ourselves as a part of His new creation!