

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL SYMBOLS

WIND and SPIRIT

In the Hebrew and Greek languages the words for breath, wind, and spirit are all one word (רוּחַ and πνεῦμα respectively) and the context clues determine which definition the author intends.

Ezekiel 37:1-3, 5-6, 9-10 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." ...[Then he said to me,] "This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

1.) What is point of connection between Israel and this field of dry bones?

2.) What was the prophet foretelling that God was going to do for them nationally, spiritually, and eternally? What would be his agent/means of accomplishing these miraculous feats?

3.) How does Jesus say that the Holy Spirit's work is like the wind?

John 3:8 "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

4.) What are some of the effects by which the Spirit makes his presence known?

John 3:5-6,8 Jesus answered [Nicodemus], "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:3 No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:22-25 The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

5.) On resurrection evening Jesus appeared to his disciples and breathed on them and gave them the Holy Spirit. What then is did he have the authority to do? What is the relationship within the Trinity between the Son and the Holy Spirit? (cf. also the Lamb with seven horns and eyes in Revelation 5:6, Nicene Creed)

John 20:22 [Jesus] breathed on [the disciples] and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

John 15:26 “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”

6.) What does the Holy Spirit enable Jesus’ disciples to understand?

John 3:3 Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

John 14:26 “The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 However [in contrast to all the wise and learned], as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

7.) Why do we need the Holy Spirit if we are to properly and profitably preach repentance and faith?

John 20:22-23 “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

John 16:8-11 “When [the Counselor] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”

8.) Why then was wind an appropriate element to accompany the arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?

Acts 2:1-2,4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ...All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Closing Prayer: Holy Spirit, forceful founder of our faith in Jesus, we adore you for your life-giving Word through which you simultaneously reveal the magnitude of our sin and depravity and also give us total confidence in the forgiveness and grace given to us in Jesus, our Savior. Breathe mightily into us that we may trust him powerfully, life for him forever, and built up your church through the message of repentance and faith. Amen.