

2 *Enter the Holy Spirit*

So he answered and said to me:

“This is the word of the LORD to
Zerubbabel:
‘Not by might nor by power, but by
My Spirit,’
Says the LORD of hosts.”

(Zechariah 4:6)

From the beginning of time, God has been writing a love story that will continue until the end of history. Our Heavenly Father has been seeking a bride for His Son, people redeemed from this world and prepared to be eternal companions of the King of Kings. The Father sent the Holy Spirit into the world to seek that Bride, and the Spirit will be about that work until Jesus returns to take His throne, ruling over the heavens and the earth.¹

When He returns, those once fallen but now sanctified human beings whom He has “purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28) will reign forever with Him. Jesus is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). The Father knew that this beautiful world He created would rebel, and in the fullness of time

He offered His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Jesus freely gave His life for us. No one took it from Him.² He purchased eternal redemption *for us* by His own death on the cross. And because He died in our place, the Righteous One for unrighteous human beings, He can give us life instead of death, forgiveness instead of guilt, justification instead of condemnation, and eternal peace instead of unending torment.

2.1 THE HOLY SPIRIT SENT INTO THE WORLD

Jesus promised that after He rose from the dead and returned to the Father in heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit into the world:

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” (John 16:7, KJV)

The word “Comforter” comes from the Greek παράκλητος (*paráklētos*), meaning “Intercessor” or “Consoler,” which can also be translated as “Advocate” or “Comforter.”³ Those of us who have been redeemed from sin by the blood of the Lamb continue to live in a dark and fallen world. Jesus knew that we could not make it on our own, so out of His great love for us, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us all our days. The Spirit is our helper, our encourager, our teacher, and our guide to bring us safely through this life until we enter eternity to be with Christ forever.

But the Holy Spirit is not just drawing *us* to the Son. He is also drawing men, women, and children out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and tribe. Not one of these will fail to be represented in the eternal Kingdom of Heaven. As John recorded in Revelation 7:9-10:

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Later, John describes the marriage of the Lord and his Bride, the church:

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."
(Revelation 19:6-7)

God is on the throne. The devil opposes what God does at every turn, yet God's plans will never change. The Father is drawing the Bride of Christ, the church, out of all nations through the work of the Holy Spirit.

2.2 GENESIS 24 AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE TRINITY

Genesis 2 tells a beautiful story which perfectly illustrates the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Some Christians are unaware just how clearly the Hebrew scriptures, or Old Testament, portray every aspect of our tripartite God, but it is all there. *The New Testament did not replace the Old Testament as some have claimed*, but rather the Greek scriptures complete the story of eternal redemption that began with the Hebrew scriptures.

Genesis 24:1-4 begins:

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Abraham can be seen here to represent the Heavenly Father, Isaac to represent the Son of God, and Eliezer to represent the Holy Spirit. Abraham, like the Father, is seeking out a bride for his son, but she cannot be just anyone. He commands his servant, Eliezer, not to take a wife from the Canaanites, a people who worshipped false gods and walked in flagrantly violent and sinful ways. Eliezer is to

take a wife for Isaac from Abraham's own family back in Mesopotamia.

What an unenviable task Eliezer had, finding a godly wife amid an ungodly world! Yet in the same way, the Heavenly Father is diligently seeking out a people who will be fit for His Son. The problem is that we are all Canaanites by birth, whether Jew or Gentile. We are self-willed, stubborn, self-seeking, proud, idol worshippers, rebellious, minding the things of the flesh rather than the spirit, living at enmity with God in their minds. No wonder then that we must be born again, or born of the Spirit, as Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:3: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (As Jesus also stated later in verse 6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.")

When we are born again, we are born into something far greater than we ever dreamed of, we are born into the family of God. As Paul of Tarsus put it:

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named*, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled