

IN THE SHADOWS

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Genesis 1:1,2

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

July 31, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

The Shack ... controversial. I absolutely loved it. Couldn't put it down.
 Unspeakable tragedy ... broken and wounded ... scene of crime, meets God, each person, fresh new way.
 Father is portrayed as a rather large African American woman ... Son is portrayed as a middle eastern man wearing a tool belt, dressed like a laborer... Holy Spirit is portrayed as an Asian woman wearing blue jeans with dirt on the knees, from where she had been kneeling.
 Impossible to describe God ... we gather images that help us get an idea of who God is.
 Blasphemy, brilliant. Brought Trinity to light, God steps out of shadows, catch a glimpse of God.
 God reveals who He is in the first two verses of the Bible, Genesis 1:1,2.

Please open your Bibles to page 1 ... for the next 8 Sunday's on a treasure hunt to find the Spirit in the OT.

Maybe you've known about the Holy Spirit, but have never known the power. Describe the indescribable. By the time I graduated from [seminary], I had many convictions and few questions, especially regarding the Holy Spirit But during a lifetime of pursuing God, I have found that the work of the Holy Spirit continually keeps me off balance. I'm not alone in that. Those in church leadership seem afraid the Spirit is going to do something we can't explain. I've found that disturbs many folks ... but I'll admit it energizes me.

I've come to realize there are dimensions of the Spirit's ministry I have never tapped and places in this study about which I know very little. I'm on a strong learning curve. I have witnessed a dynamic power in his presence that I long to know more of firsthand. I now have questions and a strong interest in many of the things of the Spirit I once felt were settled. To say it plainly, I am *hungry* for more of him. I long to know God more deeply and more intimately.

By the way, I'm learning too. Feel like I'm speaking about someone I know so little of.

Not a newcomer to the God-head ... there since before creation. Eternal and co-equal (not lesser, junior). Least known, focused on and talked about because the Spirit is mysterious ... in the shadows.

Familiar passage, treatments usually focus on creation theories; young earth, Gap theory (millions of years between vs. 1&2), "day age", progressive creationism, intelligent design and theistic evolution.

Not the direction I'm taking us. Instead, I want to focus on what we usually skip right over.

Here, we catch a glimpse of Who God is, reminds us of who He is through His divine names.

Read Genesis 1:1,2

IN THE BEGINNING GOD bereshit bara elohim

3rd word in Bible we meet the main character, the protagonist. Miraculously revealing; this proper name is a genuine plural, **Elohim** ... find out who He is.

1st PLURAL ... that Elohim is God in three persons. TRINITY Not defined; never explained, but revealed again and again. **v. 26 "let us make man in our image."** Plural pronouns, plural name Elohim.

2nd POWERFUL ... Rylie. Not only numerical plural, but also a plural of majesty. Power, nature ... fullness, nothing lacking. Existed before creation, outside of creation. Creates space and time.

3rd LIVES IN Community ... Why the Shack is so intriguing. Everything they do together; would never occur to them to do it alone. Compliment each other. Unique, essential roles; operating in harmony.

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

A. One thing almost all, if not all here today agree on is, however it came to be, God created it.

Ben Stein ... Expelled: No Intelligence Required 2008 DOCU. Sits in a classroom and asks the professor ...

How did life begin in the first place? Could there have been an intelligent designer?

Explain the creation of the cell ... “might have started off on the backs of crystals” ... And where did the crystals come from?

Great debate; Not a scientist, some of you are. Today, not looking for the how, WHO ... GOD CREATED.

In the act of creation ... All three were involved. Each one played a role. They were all there together ... All for one and one for all ... team effort. No one left out, everyone with an essential role.

1st Father. v.1 Primary member associated with creation; **v. 3 “God said, let there be light”**

2nd Son. In the Gospel of John we learn that Jesus was there as well.

John 1:1-3 (NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

3rd Spirit. v. 2 **And the Spirit of God was hovering ... ruah elohim** – the two names together.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD HOVERING ... MOVING. In the shadows, Has always been there, always will be there, even when we fail to recognize ... ever vigilant. Watching over creation.

WHEN HAS THE SPIRIT MOVED? In your life? i.e. High School dropout. W. College changed course of life.

- Sunday mornings? Ill. the day the roof came off (metaphorically speaking). SINGING
- Daily life? Time spent in His presence. Longing to experience a fresh filling. Conversations?
- When you are in TROUBLE, when you have fallen off the ledge, the spirit is hovering, on the move.

Praying in pre-op or in the waiting room.

Ill. Elijah ... no one else (community). You don't care (on the move). I'm done, in the pit. Gentle whisper?

1st **WIND ... we can't see it, but we can feel it.** Flag waves, kite that flies. Sail sailboat ... without wind the boat sits, goes nowhere. Without the Spirit, we go nowhere. Spirit is the power.

Not someone we see, but a power that transforms. Power that animates, gives life.

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV84) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

The Spirit is moving, hovering ... open our sails to catch the wind (FILL US).

The Spirit is moving, hovering ... so we can come alive spiritually.

2nd **BREATH ... the Spirit is the essence of life.** Stop breathing; DEAD. CPR. Without HS we are dead spiritually. The O.T. story we will end with on September 18 “Dry Bones” ... miracle of resurrection.

That's what we all should be looking for ... spiritual life, spiritually alive, filled with the Spirit.

John 3:5-8 (NIV84) ⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The 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.”

If you feel the movement, may cause a shiver. May be a bit shocking.

Divine defibrillator ... heart is stopped it needs to be shocked back to life.

The Holy Spirit is the unseen person who gives us life and enables us to be what God recreated us to be.

Conclusion:

Holy Spirit, mysterious, yet powerful. In the shadows, on the move ... make us come alive.

Prayer ... filled with the life/power of the Holy Spirit. Not just know about the Spirit, but experience the power of the Spirit ... bearing fruit of the Spirit. Inviting Spirit to step out of shadows, enter our lives.