

## “Outpouring of the Holy Spirit - OT Creation”

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2; Job 26:13; Isaiah 32:15, Psalm 51:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:17

Graphics: Holy Spirit, outpouring, water flowing

Big Truth: The Holy Spirit was not only poured out into the church at Pentecost, but has been poured out on the world since the beginning. The Holy Spirit brought new life from chaos at Creation. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and strength to judges, warriors, and prophets. The Holy Spirit prepares the way for the Messiah, who saves. The Holy Spirit empowers and fills the church for mission. We will be ready to receive new life, wisdom and strength, preparation for the Messiah, and power and infilling when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

Focus Phrase: The Holy Spirit creates new life from chaos in my life.

### 1. Introduction

- A. You’ll notice that the title of this new sermon series is called **Outpouring**.
- B. By definition, an outpouring is *the act of pouring out*. It’s also defined as *something that streams out rapidly*.
- C. (pitcher, water, and bowl) I’m sure we all have this concept pretty squarely in our minds, but let me do a very simple illustration to solidify it for us. (pour water in the bowl). This is an outpouring of water...rapidly streaming out.
- D. At times, we can experience an outpouring of **emotion**, when tears flow powerfully in response to something good or bad that happens to us.
- E. An outpouring of **love and affection** can occur when we hold a newborn for the first time, or, better yet, a newborn grandchild.
- F. Recently in the news was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that occurred at Asbury University. For almost 3 weeks, there was a non-stop worship service. What began as a normal 11am student chapel service on an ordinary Tuesday, went on 24/7 for many days. It was an act of outpouring...a sudden and rapid outpouring of the presence of the Holy Spirit on a college campus.
- G. In the first chapter of Acts, as we’ve heard over the past few weeks, the disciples and women were waiting for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit...promised by the Father. We’ll get to that in a few weeks, but is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit JUST something that happened in Jerusalem a few weeks after Jesus was raised from the dead?
- H. Pentecost was a powerful new manifestation of the Holy Spirit, for sure. But if we believe in the eternal natures of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, then **what is the role of the Holy Spirit** in other times and places? We know that the Holy Spirit filled the church on Pentecost Day, and that filling empowered the disciples for the mission of Jesus for the church.
- I. But before we get to that, we need to take some time to look at the role of the Holy Spirit in other times and places...especially in the Old Testament. The

Holy Spirit, present from Creation and at work throughout the Old Testament gives us a broader understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of OUR lives as well.

- J. Today, we'll start to Creation. Then, we'll see how the Holy Spirit was at work in the lives of the Judges, Warriors, and Prophets of Israel. In week 3, we'll see how the Holy Spirit was a work to prepare the way for the Messiah.
- K. THEN, we'll get to Pentecost.
- L. This OUTPOURING of the Holy Spirit throughout history changed everything and, in our lives, changes everything.
- M. Today, there's one main point, and here it is: **The Holy Spirit creates new life from the chaos in my life.** (repeat)
- N. Let's pray and then we can dive into our scriptures for today.
- O. PRAY! (Jesus, You are Lord...)**
- P. Let's begin at the beginning. Open with me to the first verse of the first chapter of the first book of the bible as we know it, handed down to us as God's Holy Spirit-inspired Word, for us.
- Q. As we read in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." Let's get into it...

## 2. Scripture

### A. READ Genesis 1:1-2

- i. Now, this is a pretty familiar text. The Creation story begins with a simple, "In the beginning, God created..." God made. God brought about. God brought to life...the heavens and the earth. Basically, this first verse of the first book of the Bible gives us a very broad statement about the power and plan of God: **to create**. God created the heavens and the earth, which in the Jewish language and culture means God created everything there is. This is a summary of what came next, which is a description of the creation story.
- ii. Then, in Genesis 1:2, we start to get a picture of HOW everything was created, starting with the thing that is of most importance to those of us living ON it...the earth.
- iii. "...the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." That's the NRSV translation.
- iv. In the English Standard Version, it says, "And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

- v. This phrase, “the wind from God” or “the Spirit of God” in the Hebrew is **ruah elohim**. *Ruah* is wind, breath, or Spirit...and *elohim* is God.
- vi. Throughout the Bible, from the earliest pages to the end, this term for the Spirit of God is consistent in both Biblical languages, Hebrew and Greek. The Spirit of God is the Spirit is Christ’s Spirit is the Holy Spirit. Now, in different contexts, the term is used in slightly different ways, but they all point to the third person of the Trinity: “The Holy Ghost.”
- vii. In Job 26:13, we read this, “By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.” Wind here is also ruah...the Spirit of God.
- viii. And it’s that Holy Ghost...the Spirit of God...that breath of God...that was hovering over the face of the waters.
- ix. Kyle Claunch writes that, “When Genesis 1:2 reports that the ‘Spirit of God was hovering’ over the darkness and the waters, we are to imagine a bird hovering over a nest where new life is brought forth. By the work of the hovering Spirit, God is going to tame the darkness and the water of the chaotic earth and bring forth life of many kinds.”
- x. The Spirit of God creates something NEW out of chaos. And, like a mother eagle hovering over her newborn chicks in the nest, God creates new life and sees it as precious and filled with hope...a gift of the work of the Spirit.
- xi. If you stop and think about that for a second, what you’ll realize is: that is AMAZING NEWS! In a world that was filled with darkness, formlessness and voidness, the Spirit created something NEW out of the chaos...the heavens and the earth...everything there is! And that same Spirit is at work in our lives today and throughout history, to perfect us and create new life.
- xii. John Owen wrote this of the Spirit of God, the third person of the Trinity: “Whereas the order of operation among the distinct persons depends on the order of their subsistence in the blessed Trinity, in every great work of God, the concluding, completing, perfecting acts are ascribed unto the Holy Ghost. . . . Indeed, without him no part of any work of God is perfect or complete.” (Works of John Owen, 3:94)
- xiii. From chaos, comes order and new life because of the Spirit. In Isaiah 32:14-15, we read, “For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks; until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.” New life from chaos!
- xiv. The Holy Spirit creates new life from chaos in my life.

- xv. That's what the Spirit did at the beginning and that's what the Spirit of God does every time there's chaos. The Spirit wants to create something new so that chaos is gone and new life bursts forth.
- xvi. When Jesus was in the grave, after dying on the cross, there was a sense of chaos and doom - for the disciples and for the world. Darkness fell over the land and there were earthquakes and other crazy things that happened. Yet, the Spirit was at work! Jesus rose from the dead - burst forth in new life - and the chaos of death was defeated forever!

### 3. Application

- A. Do you expect that same Spirit power to work in your life? Do you expect that from the chaos in your life, God's Spirit - the ruah elohim - is at work creating something new? I'm here today to tell you that the Spirit is at work in you!
- B. Is your prayer like what we sing in one of our new praise songs, "As the Spirit was moving over the water, Spirit come move over us!"
- C. Turn with me in your bible to Psalm 140:27-30. This is a picture of what God's Spirit is up to in your life. The psalmist, is speaking these words to God. "These all (meaning all creation) look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground."
- D. So, not only was the Spirit at work creating YOU in the womb, but the Spirit is at work every moment of your life...creating new life...pouring out the creative work of the Spirit of God into your life.
- E. In the Methodist Wesleyan understanding of God's grace being poured out by the Holy Spirit, that happens in your life even before you know the Spirit is at work. That's called prevenient grace...the grace the goes before.
- F. That Spirit of God is at work in powerful ways when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior - when you repent of your sin and turn to face a holy and loving God who wants to give you everlasting life in His presence.
- G. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the Apostle Paul said it like this, "So if anyone is in Christ, there (or that person) is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! (or everything has been made new)"
- H. Church, when Jesus is central to your life, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, NEW CREATION HAPPENS...YOU are made NEW. God creates new things, new desires, new hopes, new dreams, new perspectives, new ideas, new pathways, and new awareness of the Spirit.

- I. The Holy Spirit creates new life from chaos in your life.
- J. Now, you may not think that you have any chaos in your life, from which God wants to create new life.
- K. Oh but you'd be wrong. We are sinful creatures who, even AFTER we submit our lives to Christ and his teachings, have this broken flesh nature that REALLY wants to sin...to plunge me into chaos...to walk away from God...to satisfy the desires of the flesh and not the Spirit.
- L. If you're honest, you are pretty sure you need some new creation...and not just once, but every day...every moment.
- M. King David wrote this prayer in Psalm 51:10-12, which captures the full weight of our need for new creation, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."
- N. The Spirit at work in you is a spirit of new creation...a spirit of new life.
- O. Are you ready to tell God what area or areas of your life, right now, are in chaos? Are you filled with anxiety over something over which you have no control? Are you depressed? Is your schedule out of control? Your finances? A relationship is in chaos? Your outlook has no hope? Maybe your body and mind are not what they used to be and that's causing chaos.
- P. Have you been living in chaos for so long that it just seems normal? Losing sleep because your brain and heart are trying to do the work of creation that's only meant for the Holy Spirit?
- Q. Are you ready for the Good News? The Good News is that when you abide with Jesus, Jesus sees all your chaos! And the Holy Spirit is already at work in it. This may seem strange, but it's good to be in a state of being formless and void in those areas of your life. Why? BECAUSE the Holy Spirit takes that lump of clay that is your chaos and does his primary and best work taking THOSE areas of chaos and creating NEW LIFE...NEW CREATION...NEW YOU in CHRIST! Every day in every way!
- R. And when the Spirit - who was powerful enough to create the HEAVENS and the EARTH mind you - is at work in YOU (who is one small part of the universe), don't you think that God wants to make you new every day?
- S. As you allow the creating power of the Holy Spirit to be poured out into your life...
  - i. You are made new from the hurts of yesterday.
  - ii. You are made new from your mistakes.
  - iii. You are made new from the overbooked schedule.

- iv. You are made new from the ways you failed.
- v. Every day, YOU ARE MADE NEW. Praise God!

#### 4. Conclusion

- A. **The Holy Spirit creates new life from chaos in my life.**
- B. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life creates. It creates new life and new relationships and new mission to serve the Lord. More prayer. More scripture reading. More love!
- C. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our church creates. It creates new vision for the mission and new people to love. Like water gushing from the ground or a torrent of rain...an outpouring brings fervor for Christ!
- D. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the world creates. It creates new believers and new converts to the Kingdom of God.
- E. It's up to you to say YES to the work of the Holy Spirit to create today. It's easy for us to stay stuck in the muck and the mire of the formless chaos. You and I sometimes spend way too much time there because we think that we know the way out.
- F. Today, the ruah elohim is ready for a fresh outpouring on you, on me, on our church, on our world, and on this universe.
- G. I'm ready for new creation. Are you?
- H. Let's pray...