

The Spirit in the OT 6. THE ESCHATOLOGICAL SPIRIT

- The Old Testament vision of a glorious future: The Reign of God
- Vocabulary: The day of the Lord / In those days / In that day / In the last days
- Usually two sides of the coin: Salvation / vindication of God's people and destruction of their enemies.
- A key element is the presence of God in the midst of God's People.

Note: "Presence of God" and "Spirit of God" are often synonymous:

E.g. Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come

Eschatology

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

2 and many nations shall come and say:

Righteousness and
peace

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Disarmament

3 He shall judge between many peoples,

and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

Food production

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more;

4 but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig
trees,

'Enough'

and no one shall make them afraid;

for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

5 For all the peoples walk,

each in the name of its god,

but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God

'Live and let live'

for ever and ever.

The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 36:24-29

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Joel 2

Then afterwards

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Isaiah 32

For the palace will be forsaken,
the populous city deserted;
the hill and the watch-tower
will become dens for ever,
the joy of wild asses,
a pasture for flocks;

¹⁵ 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.
16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
17 The effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever.
18 My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places.

Isaiah 44

But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!
2 Thus says the LORD who made you,
who formed you in the womb and will help you:
Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,
and my blessing on your offspring.
4 They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,
like willows by flowing streams.
5 This one will say, 'I am the LORD's',
another will be called by the name of Jacob,
yet another will write on the hand, 'The LORD's',
and adopt the name of Israel.

Ezekiel 39

28 Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God because I sent them into exile among the nations, and then gathered them into their own land. I will leave none of them behind; 29 and I will never again hide my face from them, when I pour out my spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord GOD.

"The Spirit is the experienced, empowering return of God's own personal presence in and among us, who enables us to live as a radically eschatological people in the present world while we await the consummation." This inbetween time is a period characterized by power of the Spirit to participate in Christ's ongoing reconciliatory mission. (Gordon Fee, *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*)