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An EDGE Online Member Comment Regarding When Jesus Was Filled With The Holy Spirit, Have The Churches Taught Us Wrong?, The Disparity Between Jesus And John The Baptist, The Miraculous Conception Of Jesus Christ, Was Mother Mary Filled With The Holy Ghost?, Genesis: God's Creative Spirit In The Beginning, Elizabeth Conceives John The Baptist In Her Old Age And Hides Herself, Joseph Consider Putting Away Mary, God's Unorthodox Methods, John Was Filled With The Spirit While Jesus Was An Actual Creation Of The Spirit, Spirit-Filled Jesus Preaching At Twelve Years Old, No Man Can Say That Jesus Is The Lord But By The Holy Ghost, The Purpose Of Holy Spirit Is To Be A Witness, Teaching Incident In The Temple, Connection Between Holy Ghost And Wisdom, Peter And John Preach Boldly Before Caiaphas And Other Elders Of Israel, Power And Wisdom Of The Holy Spirit, Isaiah's Prophecy Regarding Jesus, Look To God's Word And Don't Rely On Misguided Doctrines Of Men, Gabriel's Message To John's Father Zacharias, When Was John The Baptist Filled With The Holy Ghost?, Why Did Gabriel Tell Mary About Her Cousin Elizabeth?, Elizabeth's Reason For Hiding Herself. Mary's Encounter With Elizabeth, Holy Spirit Residing Inside Mother Mary, Genesis: God's Spoken Word Is A Creative Spirit, God's Spoken Word Can Also Destroy, A Miraculous Spiritual Interaction Occurred Between Mary And Elizabeth, Baby John Leaps And He And His Mother Are Filled With The Holy Spirit

Back in July of 1997, a certain member of my now-defunct "EDGE Online" mailing list made a comment which ultimately motivated me to write this current series. For those of you who may not be familiar with it -- which is probably most of you, being as that was so long ago -- EDGE stood for Endtime Discussion Group Exchange. In addition to being my small Christian mailing list, EDGE Online was also the very first name that I gave to my very first meager effort to create a website. That occurred in May of that same year. If you want to learn more about the early days of Bill's Bible Basics, please check out the article called "The Internet: Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance?". At any rate, this person wrote as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Something that I'd like to share with you is something I learned this past week. Jesus did not have the Holy Spirit in Him until He was baptized by John. Just thought you might find that interesting. If you disagree email me."

----- End Of Quote -----

I have to admit that the above comment is an interesting speculation, and one which, until now -- meaning 1997 -- I had never really looked into before. Like many other people, for years I had just blindly accepted and assumed that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit at the time of His water baptism by John the Baptist, just as the above comment says. But, being the curious and analytical soul that I tend to be, I decided to more deeply research the matter in order to find a more definitive answer regarding this subject. Thus, this series is an examination of what I discovered back in 1997. I hope you are prepared for what might possibly be a shocking revelation for some of you; particularly if you hold to church tradition.

Would it surprise you if I were to suggest that maybe Jesus' baptism wasn't exactly what everyone has been led to believe by organized religion? Hasn't it ever struck you as being rather strange that we are taught that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, yet Jesus, the very Son of God, had to wait about thirty years until His water baptism by John in order to receive the very same Power and Anointing? Doesn't the Gospel of Luke inform us that Jesus was conceived by means of the Holy Ghost?

In fact, taking this a step further, doesn't that very same Gospel likewise inform us that BOTH Mary and Elizabeth were overshadowed or filled with the Holy Ghost? It is as clear as day if you read the Scriptures with an open mind. Let's take a look at Jesus' conception first. We will address the situation regarding Elizabeth a bit later in this series. In the Gospel of Luke we find the following account:

". . . The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35, KJV

I suppose it is a matter of personal interpretation of this cryptic passage, but if the Holy Ghost came upon Mary, and "the power of the Highest" overshadowed her, it sounds to me like it is saying she was filled with the Holy Spirit. This would in fact explain why the Angel Gabriel calls Jesus a "holy thing". Jesus was in fact a creation of God's Spirit within Mary's womb, just as that very same creative Spirit "moved upon the face of the waters" in the beginning in the opening verses of the Book of Genesis, as we see here:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:1-2, KJV

Unlike John the Baptist whose conception and birth was the result of normal human intercourse, Jesus was the result of a miraculous union of flesh and Spirit. Of course, we also know that John's conception was a miracle too, because we are told that Elizabeth was barren and of old age, just as Abraham and Sarah were already old in the Old Testament at the time that Isaac was conceived. Let me share that verse from Luke with you, because it will become very important later on in this discussion:

"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren." Luke 1:36, KJV

If I understand the following verses correctly, it seems that Elizabeth may have been so embarrassed at becoming pregnant at such an old age, that she chose to hide herself during the first five months of her pregnancy:

"And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." Luke 1:24-25, KJV

Personally, I find it quite interesting that two of the most blessed women of all time were scorned by society because of their unorthodox pregnancies; one in her old age, and the other impregnated by questionable means, which the people of that era might view as a case of adultery. Don't forget that until he was instructed by the Angel of the Lord, in order to avoid creating a public scene, even Joseph had thought to secretly put away Mary, his espoused wife, as we see by the following group of verses:

"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:19-21, KJV

However, as I point out in my four-part series entitled "My God is a Shocker!", sometimes it is by way of His unorthodox methods, and by sometimes choosing people who on the surface appear to not be well-equipped for a particular task, that God will reveal His true power, greatness and glory. I am reminded of the following two verses:

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:"

1 Corinthians 1:27-28, KJV

Getting back to the main issue, the point is that John had to be filled with the Holy Spirit, while Jesus was the very essence of or creation of the Holy Spirit to begin with. Another speculative article I wrote regarding this subject is "Holy Ghost: The Spirit of Jesus Christ?" which also explores the possibility of a unique relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You might want to take a look at it if you haven't already done so. You will find it listed at the end of this same series.

Now, if you are an individual who embraces traditional church dogma, and who rejects the possibility of Christ being filled with the Holy Spirit since His conception, or even being the actual incarnation of the Spirit itself, however you prefer to view it, then you are going to have a very difficult time explaining to me how it is that at the tender age of twelve, Jesus was already occupied with His Father's work, apparently WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT -- at least according to your personal understanding -- being as you don't believe Christ received it until His baptism by John some eighteen years later. Well, as I was updating this series, I was reminded of this verse:

"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." 1 Corinthians 12:3, KJV

You see, by even referring to God the Father as His Father, and saying that He must be about His Father's business, the young boy Jesus was indirectly stating that He was, and is, the Lord. The previous verse declares that no one can even do that, "but by the Holy Ghost". Let me likewise remind you that according to Acts 1:8, the whole purpose of receiving the Holy Ghost is to give a person the power to be a witness of their faith, which is EXACTLY what Jesus was doing at the tender age of twelve. Consider the verse:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8, KJV

As you may possibly recall, as the young lad Jesus preached in the temple on that particular day, the doctors of the law -- meaning those who were supposedly well-versed in the Holy Scriptures -- were amazed and astonished by the wisdom in Jesus' words. And then we have Jesus' astonishing response when His parents arrived and chided Him. Consider this set of verses:

"And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they [Joseph and Mary] saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:47-49, KJV

Personally, I find it difficult to believe that at this young

age, Jesus is ALREADY aware of His calling and ministry, and is teaching the doctors of the law in the temple, WITHOUT the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Unless God's Spirit was ALREADY upon Him and in Him, how could the boy Jesus possibly know all these things? How could He state them with such certainty of purpose? In my view, surely it must have been God's Spirit speaking through Him with such authority. If we look only a few verses earlier, we find the following statement:

"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40, KJV

Notice that the word "spirit" is not capitalized. This could mean that it should be understood in a generic sense, such as when you say, "That person has got a lot of spirit." At the same time, it could be a typographical error. Going by the rest of the verse, there are indications that it may actually be referring to THE Spirit. I base this on the fact that it also says that He was "filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him". If we turn to John chapter fourteen where the Lord is discussing with His disciples the promise of the coming baptism of the Holy Ghost, we find the following very interesting verse:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26, KJV

How is it that the Holy Ghost will give them the power to witness? By TEACHING them all things, and by bringing all things to their remembrance. In other words, the Holy Spirit would TEACH them the wisdom of God, because it is the Spirit of Wisdom. If you doubt this unique connection between the anointing of the Holy Spirit and being strong in spirit and filled with wisdom -- as Jesus was described in Luke 2:40 -consider what we find in Acts chapter six concerning the selection of Stephen and others deacons AFTER the day of Pentecost had occurred:

"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." Acts 6:3, KJV Notice that it almost appears as if the phrase "Holy Ghost" and the word "wisdom" are synonymous. At the very least, the verse suggests that wisdom is a byproduct of having received the Holy Spirit. A few short verses later, we are informed that Stephen is "full of faith and power", and is doing great wonders and miracles. The Holy Spirit is so strong upon him that no one can resist him, as we can determine by the following verse which is also found in Acts chapter six:

"And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." Acts 6:10, KJV

Notice again, the very same words, "wisdom" and "spirit" -with a small "s" -- just like the verse describing the child Jesus. Just as this verse is referring to the Holy Spirit, it is my view that so is the verse we examined earlier which describes Jesus' childhood. Both of these verses should have had a capital "S", in my opinion. A few chapters earlier in the Book of Acts, we see how Apostles Peter and John were likewise filled with the power and wisdom of God -- that is, with the Spirit of Wisdom -- when they addressed the high priest, Caiaphas, his relatives and other rulers and elders of Israel. Consider the following verse:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13, KJV

You see, Caiaphas and the other elders were obviously quite aware of the Apostles' backgrounds. They had probably begun keeping track of them the minute that Jesus began to stir up trouble and challenge their authority. And yet here they now stand preaching boldly and fearlessly before the same wicked crowd who had plotted Jesus' murder. So it becomes evident that power -- being strong in spirit -- and wisdom are the results of being filled with the Holy Spirit. If you are not yet convinced of this connection between the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and that they are in fact almost, if not synonymous, here are a few more verses for your personal consideration:

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;" 1 Corinthians 12:8, KJV "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:" Ephesians 1:17, KJV

If you would like to ponder some additional evidence, then consider that in the Old Testament Book of Proverbs, God's Spirit is likewise described as Wisdom, which He possessed since the very beginning of time, even before the physical Creation of the Universe. Here is the verse:

"The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old." Proverbs 8:22, KJV

In fact, if the preponderance of Scriptural evidence I have already provided for you is not sufficient, then consider that in a specific prophecy concerning Jesus which is found in the Book of Isaiah, we read the following lines:

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;" Isaiah 11:1-2, KJV

Notice that those verses specifically say "the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him". So then, based on the description of Jesus' own birth, the very same descriptive terminology being used to describe Jesus' early childhood, and the acts of the Spirit-filled disciples, as well as the additional Scriptures I have provided, I personally have no doubt that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, and NOT when He was about thirty years of age, as many of us have been erroneously taught by organized religion.

As I asked you earlier, as a rational thinking human being, doesn't it strike you as being even the least bit odd that Jesus would be denied the Holy Spirit for ninety per cent of His life, only to have it for the remaining ten per cent of it, while John the Baptist had it for his entire life, even from birth? So, my friends, it is time to chuck some of the false doctrines which some of the churches have taught you. Jesus said if the blind lead the blind, they will both fall into the ditch -- Matthew 15:14. Open your eyes and see the truth according to God's Word. Don't rely upon the false teachers and their traditions, and the misguided doctrines of men. Look to the Word for the truth, as I have done in this series.

At this point, some of you may possibly be wondering, "Well, so what's the big deal? Why is it so important to know when Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit?" Once I share with you the little revelation I received when I updated this series for the first time in 2010, I think you will begin to understand the Wisdom of God, as was to be revealed in the events surrounding the birth of John the Baptist. Let me begin by stating that we must remember that God the Father is very organized in all His ways. He has a set time and purpose for everything that He does, even if we mere humans don't realize it. Let's take a look now at John the Baptist. Before John's birth, Luke informs us that the Angel Gabriel told his father Zacharias the following:

"And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." Luke 1:14-15, KJV

Have you ever wondered about exactly when this prophecy was fulfilled? I am specifically referring to the part that says "and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." Personally, I never did. However, back in 2010 when I conducted the first minor revision to this same series, it all suddenly became rather clear to me. Do you remember the verse I shared earlier regarding the Angel's message to Mary? Here it is again in case you have forgotten it:

"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren." Luke 1:36, KJV

There are two important pieces of information contained in this verse which most Christians probably overlook. First of all, why did the Angel Gabriel inform Mary about her cousin Elizabeth? Although it is not stated directly, obviously, he wanted Mary to go visit her. Perhaps he told her directly to do this, but it just wasn't recorded in Luke's account. The second point is that when Mary became pregnant, Elizabeth was already in her sixth month of pregnancy. As you will no doubt recall, we were told that for whatever her reasons, Elizabeth had hid herself from public view during the first five months of her pregnancy.

Expanding on what I stated earlier in this series, whether it was due to her being embarrassed, or possibly because she simply wanted to surprise everyone, I'm really not sure. The verse is rather cryptic for my personal understanding. In fact, regarding hiding herself, I am not sure if the verse means that she physically hid herself from other people, or if she simply tried to conceal her pregnancy by the clothes that she wore. Even today, some women will do such things.

At any rate, it seems obvious that God the Father had a very specific purpose in informing Mary of her cousin's pregnancy by way of His messenger, the Angel Gabriel. As we all know, they didn't have cars or other rapid forms of transportation in those days. To travel even short distances meant walking, or else riding on a slow animal. To continue, a short while later, we find Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth, who lived in the hill country of Judah. It is what happens when they first meet each other that is just so miraculous:

"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:" Luke 1:41, KJV

Wow! This is really the strangest thing if you pay close attention to what is happening here. Elizabeth hears Mary's verbal salutation, and immediately baby John leaps in her womb. Not only that, but Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Ghost. What is going on here? Well, while I cannot say for certain, if you are willing to consider some of the ideas which I believe I expound upon in the article entitled "The Manipulation of Time and Space", perhaps we can make some sense out of this. I believe that it may have been in that particular article where I compare the Holy Spirit to some type of spiritual energy, much like electricity.

Now, if mother Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit when she conceived baby Jesus, and Jesus was living and growing inside her womb, it seems quite possible, and perhaps even probable, that she continued to carry that same Holy Spirit within her, since Jesus was Himself the very physical creation of that Spirit. Having said that, let's focus for a moment on what Jesus said in John chapter six:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63, KJV

In this verse we have a clear indication that the spoken word is synonymous with spirit. We likewise know from John chapter one and elsewhere, that Jesus is called the Word of God. In addition, we know that by merely speaking the word, by sending forth the Spirit from His mouth, all things were created in the beginning. As you will probably recall, the Book of Genesis is full of ". . . and God said . . ." Here is another verse which supports this very same idea:

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:" 2 Peter 3:5, KJV

We also know that the Scriptures inform us that at a time which has already been predetermined, the Lord again speaks the word, and the same Creation is destroyed, in order to make room for the new, as becomes evident by the following verse which is found in Peter's second Epistle:

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:7, KJV

So then, it should now be rather obvious that there is real spiritual power in the spoken word; even in our words today. Consider then the young Mary upon whom the Holy Spirit had come, who was overshadowed by the power of the Highest, and who now carried the baby Jesus. Given those facts, I must conclude that she must have been very much full of the Holy Spirit when she went to see her cousin Elizabeth. Call it a wild imagination if you will, but it seems to me that when Mary verbally saluted her cousin, something very profound happened in the Spirit. The only way I can think to describe it so that you can understand it, is to say that the Spirit arced from Mary -- via her spoken word, if you will -- to Elizabeth -- and consequently John -- with the Holy Ghost.

Remember, words are invisible. We can no more see them than we can see the Spirit. Yet we can see and feel the effects of both of them in our lives. Let me ask you something. What happens if you are in your living room walking around on the carpet, and you go over to turn on the television set? You get a sudden jolt of static electricity, don't you? And what is your immediate reaction when this happens? You jump back! You leap backwards because of the sudden unexpected shock, right? Now let's take another closer look at the previous scenario, and try to see something new in it that we didn't see before:

"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:" Luke 1:41, KJV

Some Christians may consider me a bit off my rocker, but it sounds to me like there was either a transfer or sharing of spiritual Power or Energy, and Anointing passing or bridging between baby Jesus and baby John, at that very minute that Mary spoke to Elizabeth. I must conclude that it was at that precise moment at which John was filled with the Holy Ghost! That is why it was so important for Mary to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Aside from carrying baby Jesus in her womb, Mary was the vehicle through which God would zap baby John and his mother with the Power of the Holy Ghost; and it would be given to them by Someone who was given the Spirit without measure, as we clearly know by reading the following verse:

"For he [Jesus speaking of Himself] whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." John 3:34, KJV

To reiterate, it is my view that Baby Jesus and Mary were a powerhouse of Spiritual Energy, who upon visiting Elizabeth, in a sense charged John's battery so-to-speak. It all fits perfectly. John didn't have the Holy Spirit for the first five months of his life until Jesus -- who was filled from conception -- gave him a jolt of the Spirit when His mother opened her mouth and saluted Elizabeth. As you will recall, the prophecy said that "he [meaning John ] shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb"; and that is exactly what happened on that day. Baby John was zapped! Let's not forget that the Apostles would not be filled with the Holy Ghost until over thirty years after this event. So perhaps God used this method to light John's spiritual fuse. Can I prove this beyond a shadow of a doubt? Of course not; but I think it is a very interesting speculation.

While I am really taking a leap of faith here -- and you do not have to accept this next statement if you don't want to -- who knows, maybe it was even the Lord speaking through mother Mary, using her words as the vehicle to accomplish the transfer of Power! Another possibility is that maybe it was just the proximity of their bodies acting as spiritual electrodes, which really activated the discharge of Energy or Spirit. However, I'm more inclined to believe that it had to do with the actual words which were spoken by Mary. Now, we could be tempted to think, "Well, what if Mary had never made that trip? Would John not have received the Holy Spirit at that particular point in his life?" I think that is a moot issue, simply because being as He lives in the Eternal Now, God already knew the future. He knew ahead of time that Mary would make the right decision to obey, and thus go to visit her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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WAS JESUS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM BIRTH? : PT 2

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Philistines Afflicted With Emerods After Stealing The Ark Of The Covenant, Negative Effects Of Nuclear Radiation, Was The Ark A Power Reservoir?, Possible Electrical Properties Of The Ark, King David And The Death Of Uzzah, Special Garments Of The High Priest, Elisha Receives Double The Anointing Of The Prophet Elijah, Spirit Energy And Electricity, The Visible Is A Reflection Of The Invisible, "Raiders Of The Lost Ark" And "Cocoon" Movies, Jesus's Bright Appearance In Revelation And On The Mount Of Transfiguration, God the Father Is Spirit And Light, Father Of Lights And Children Of Light, Face Of Moses Shines After Being Directly Exposed To The Lord, The Heavenly City Is Lit By The Light Of God The Father And Jesus, Power Of Words: God's Words Create While The Devil's Words Destroy, The Devil Is The Father Of Lies, Revelation's Unholy Trinity, Daily War Of Words Versus God's Still Small Voice, "Spirit Of God Descending Like A Dove", "Lighting Upon Him", Doves And Tongues Of Fire, Describing The Supernatural In Human Terms, "Heavens Opened", Shekinah Glory, Bright Cloud On The Mount Of Transfiguration, Apostle Luke's Narration Of Baptism Event

Continuing our discussion from part one, this entire concept regarding Spirit and Energy goes right along with a number of other things I have heard concerning the Ark of the Covenant, which housed the tablets on which were inscribed the Lord's Commandments, Aaron's rod, some manna and other things. For example, the Scriptures inform us that when the enemies of the children of Israel foolish stole the Ark of the Covenant from them after defeating them in battle, those same enemies -- meaning the Philistines -- were slain by some invisible force which caused them to become afflicted with hemorrhoids or tumors of some kind. The Bible refers to it as "emerods". You will find this story in 1 Samuel chapters four through six, if you wish to read it.

While it may seem a bit crazy, it makes me wonder if the Ark of the Covenant radiated some kind of energy which, if one was not properly protected from it, could possibly result in these afflictions. I am reminded of how a strong overdose of radiation can cause cancer and other maladies in our current day. You may recall that during the early days of testing -and in the case of the US military, actually using -- atomic bombs, the affects of ionizing radiation were not yet fully understood. As a result, some people who were exposed to the radiation -- such as the Japanese -- eventually developed an array of maladies, including leukemia, cancer of the stomach, lung, liver and breasts, brain tumors, heart failure, stroke, asthma, bronchitis, and other things. Sadly, with regards to the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, it has been reported that children are still being born with some of their limbs missing, and with even more horrendous genetic mutations.

But concerning the Ark of the Covenant, I have heard theories

which suggest that if we take into consideration the actual shape and types of materials which were used to construct the Ark -- such as a lot of gold for example, which, as you may know, is an excellent conductor -- it may have acted like a large battery or power reservoir of some sort. Or perhaps in some way it just drew Spiritual Energy from the Other Side; meaning from the Spirit Realm. After all, we do know that the Lord did in fact appear to Moses, as He sat on the Mercy Seat between the wings of the two cherubim. What we also know -because the Scriptures plainly tell us so -- is that when the wrong people touched the Ark, they would die. This becomes evident by the following group of verses which are found in 1 Samuel chapter six:

"And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims. And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God. And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day. And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me? So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite." 2 Samuel 6:2-10, KJV

But exactly how did Uzzah die? Is it possible that the Lord allowed a spark of Invisible Energy, or Spirit, to arc over and electrocute him? Good question. All we know for certain is that Uzzah died right there on the spot. But regardless of exactly how Uzzah died, it is clear that the incident freaked out King David; so much so that he refused to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. It would be interesting to conduct a study of the garments which were worn by Aaron the high priest and his successors. Is it possible that the priestly garments served to protect them in some way from the High Voltage of the Most High? Again, an interesting question without a clear answer.

Another example I have shared in other articles concerns the transfer of Power between the Prophet Elijah and his servant Elisha, which is discussed in the second chapter of 2 Kings. Somehow, just by gaining possession of the Prophet's mantle, Elisha acquired a greater anointing that Elijah. Following are the key verses which provide us with an account of that amazing event:

"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the around before him." 2 Kings 2:9-15, KJV

I am convinced that there is some kind of link between what the Bible refers to as Spirit, and what we today call energy and electricity. There is something there; I am just not sure what it is. Please remember what the Apostle Paul said in his Epistle to the Romans:

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" Romans 1:20, KJV So basically, Paul is saying that the visible is a type of reflection of the invisible, and is proof of God's existence. If there is one thing of which I am certain, it is that there are a lot of things in the Bible which we have barely begun to grasp. The connection between Spirit, energy, light and electricity is certainly one of them. While the mechanics of the Spiritual Universe are beyond our human comprehension, I can't help but wonder if man isn't beginning to tinker with their most basic elements in his exploration of physics and other related disciplines. This is a topic which I discuss in a few other articles, such as "Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?", which you will find listed at the end of this same series.

Occasionally, we come across certain movies in which it seems that someone has discovered some bit of truth which they are trying share with us in a science fiction or fantasy-like setting. I think "Raiders of the Lost Ark" may have had some of this. The brilliant, glowing nature of the Antarians in the two "Cocoon" movies also made me pause to wonder. If we equate Spirit with some form of energy, as I have done, and consider that brilliant light itself is also a by-product of released energy -- or Spirit? -- then the description we find of Jesus in His glorified body in the Book of Revelation -in which He has eyes like fire and feet like polished brass -- certainly seems to bare a slight similarity to what we see in the "Cocoon" movies. Consider the following set of verses:

"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength." Revelation 1:13-16, KJV

Wow! Just look at that! It says "and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength." That, my friends, is very bright! In fact, let us also not forget how Jesus' appearance changed while He was talking to Moses and Elijah on what has become known as the Mount of Transfiguration. Consider the following intriguing verses: "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." Matthew 17:1-2, KJV

"And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering." Luke 9:28-29, KJV

Think of the brightness of the Sun. Think of the brightness of a nuclear explosion. Then think of these descriptions of Jesus in His spiritual body in the Bible. Is the similarity just a coincidence? Is this why we can no more look at the Sun, or at a nuclear explosion, with our bare eyes, than we can look at God and live? You might want to read my article "The Seeing God Face-to-Face Dilemma".

Then, of course, there are the following interesting verses as well, which tell us that God is pure light. Why is that? Because He is Spirit. He is some form of energy -- just as Jesus told the Samaritan woman in John chapter four -- and Spirit, or radiated energy, produces light:

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5, KJV

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17, KJV

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. GOD IS A SPIRIT: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24, KJV

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire." Daniel 7:9, KJV Please notice that we are not only told that God is light; we are also told that He is "the Father of lights". Exactly what does that mean? Well, in my view, there are two ways in which we can understand that phrase. First, it could simply mean He is the brightest, most brilliant of them all, just as the Sun is likewise the brightest celestial object in our immediate neighborhood. Another way to look at the verse is that it may also mean that He is OUR Father, because we are in fact the Children of Light, who shine as lights in this evil world. Thus, God is the Father of lights. This is a subject which I discuss more at length in the article entitled "The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?". But for now, consider the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them." John 12:36, KJV

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children . . . For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Ephesians 5:1, 8, 11, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" Philippians 2:15, KJV

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, KJV

Last of all, I am also reminded of Moses' appearance after he descended from Horeb -- or Mount Sinai -- after having spent forty days with the Lord. Consider the following very interesting group of verses. It seems as if Moses actually absorbed the Lord's light and energy during those forty days and nights that he spent on the summit of that mountain. We are told that his face glowed so much, that people could not even bare to look at him directly, and were afraid to come near him. Consider these verses:

"And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him." Exodus 34:29-35, KJV

One common denominator which all of these Scriptural examples share is that they involve contact with the Divine Spirit -or energy -- and brilliant light. In every single case. That obviously must mean something. Exactly what, I am not sure. Something else which I also mention in my article entitled "This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future", is that the brightness of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, is so extreme, that in the closing chapters of the Book of Revelation, John informs us that the Heavenly City -- that is, New Jerusalem -- has no need of the Sun or of the Moon, because the City will be entirely lit by the glory of the Father and the Son, as we see by these verses:

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Revelation 21:23, KJV

"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle,

neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever . . . I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Revelation 22:5, 16, KJV

I think it is also important to mention that there is also an evil side to this whole concept of equating verbal words with spiritual energy. In the case of God the Father and Jesus Christ, it is primarily a positive creative force; although God can also use His words to expose sin, chastise and even destroy, if need be. I am reminded of the two-edged sword we find in the following verse:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12, KJV

I discuss this concept more fully in the article "Beholding the Evil and the Good". However, in the case of the Devil, his spoken word is a purely negative and destructive force. Consider, for example, when Satan made his first utterance to Eve in Genesis chapter three. The purpose of his words was to destroy and to tear down the creation of God; and he has been working at it ever since. It is no wonder then that Jesus told the unbelieving Jews that the Devil is the father of lies, as we can determine by the following verse. Notice that Jesus says that the Devil has been doing this "from the beginning":

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44, KJV

Just as positive energy -- or Spirit -- flows from the mouths of God's children, we are also told that the opposite is true with regards to the Devil's children. Negative energy -- lies and deceptions -- flow from their mouths. We see an excellent symbolic picture of this concept in the "unholy trinity" that is found in the Book of Revelation. Consider the following two verses:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:13-14, KJV

If you would like to see an excellent example of this war of words, and the negative spiritual warfare that's being waged right now in our very day, just turn on your television set, or your radio, or your computer. The airwaves, cell phone towers, telephone lines, fiber optics and coaxial cables are constantly carrying loads of this negative propaganda right into your home, courtesy of the Prince of the Power of the Air. From politicians to merchants trying to sell something, whether it is an idea, or a position, or some product, our lives are constantly being bombarded every single day. All of this daily, nonstop confusion can easily block out the still, small voice of God. Consider how the Prophet Elijah experienced God's Voice:

"And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." 1 Kings 19:12, KJV

While we have taken a slight detour from our main topic of discussion, let's return now to the original theme of this series. That is, the baptism of Jesus Christ. In my quest to conduct thorough research regarding the subject, I continued looking through the four Gospels for additional clues. In so doing, I found the following accounts which seem to likewise suggest that perhaps Jesus did not have to wait until His baptism by John the Baptist in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:" Matthew 3:16, KJV

Notice that Matthew doesn't specifically say that it is the Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit. He just calls it "the Spirit of God". Could Matthew possibly be referring to an Angelic Being which came to minister to Jesus? As I have mentioned on previous occasions, depending on a translator's personal preference, just changing the word "the" to the word "a" can make a very big difference in meaning, and how we understand a particular verse. For example, "the Spirit" and "a spirit" can mean two very different things, can't they?

Now, at this point, some of my readers who possess very keen observation skills might point out the obvious fact that in Matthew 3:16 it clearly says "lighting upon him". This point might lead some people to ask "So, are you suggesting that an Angel lighted upon -- or landed upon -- Jesus?" Patience, my dear friends. I have got my bases covered. Just continue reading and I'll drop another "Scriptural bomb" momentarily.

As I pointed out in part one, there are indications that in some places, perhaps a capital "S" should have been used in place of a small "s". Could the exact opposite also apply as in the previous verse? In other words, in all the verses in which we find the actual Holy Ghost mentioned, a capital "S" should be used. Whereas in all other verses, when referring to lesser Angels or spirits, a small "s" should be used.

I have also always wondered why the writers of the Gospels compared the Spirit to a dove. Was it because it was white? Or because it was a being with wings? Or because it gently came down upon Jesus from up in the sky? Or because it was something else which had wings and flew? Now, while a lot of Christian paintings tend to draw a literal dove above Jesus, just as they also paint literal tongues of fire above the Apostles' heads in paintings which depict the Pentecost, I tend to believe that these words were chosen simply because they are the closest terms which the early writers could find to describe something totally unexplainable which they had never seen or experienced before.

In other words, the writers are making a comparison by using something with which they are each familiar. The phrase "like a dove" is what is known as a simile. It is when you compare one thing to something else. So perhaps the writers are not saying that what they saw was actually a dove. Rather, it was something which they only knew how to describe as being like a dove. They were describing something totally supernatural in meager human terms. Something pure white with wings. In describing the very same scene regarding Jesus' baptism by John, the Gospel of Mark uses almost the same exact words as Matthew. Please consider the following verse: "And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:"

Mark 1:10, KJV

I find the description of the heavens opening interesting as well. Does this verse simply mean that the clouds parted and something white, and possibly with wings, appeared, and then came down to settle upon Jesus? What exactly did they see? Or is it possible that some kind of interdimensional bridge or vortex opened up as I describe in "The Manipulation of Time and Space"? Did this interdimensional opening result in the formation of some type of luminescent cloud, which a number of people refer to as the "Shekinah Glory"? I discuss this subject more at length in articles such as "Have You Been Slain in the Spirit?". But just to pique your curiosity, let me share the following verses with you. Please notice that the verses say that the "cloud" was bright, and that Peter, James and John entered into the "cloud". This was NOT an ordinary cloud:

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, A BRIGHT CLOUD OVERSHADOWED THEM: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead."

Matthew 17:1-9, KJV

"And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared AS THEY ENTERED INTO THE CLOUD. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen." Luke 9:28-36, KJV

Turning our attention again to Jesus' water baptism by John the Baptist, and the "dove", the writer Luke describes this very same event in the following manner:

"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." Luke 3:22, KJV

Please notice that Luke is the only writer to specifically state that it is the Holy Ghost. I will be addressing this particular issue in part three of this series. Notice Luke's use of the words "bodily shape". This is a clear indication that something very real, and very visible, was in the sky which they could all see. Whether or not it was actually physical is hard to say. Personally, I am not convinced that it was. I think it was something spiritual. But whatever it was, they were able to make out a shape, which they compared to a white dove. It is then that Luke goes on to describe the voice which came down from heaven -- or from the sky -just as Matthew and Mark had done.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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Apostle John's Account Of Jesus' Baptism By John The Baptist, Something Visible Descended From The Sky, Questionable Phrase "Lighting Upon Him", Erchomai Means To Come, Katabaino Means To Go Down Come Down Or Descend, No Evidence That Something Entered Jesus' Body At Jordan River, Epi Means On Upon At By And Over, "Angels Of God Ascending And Descending Upon The Son Of Man", Aggelos Means Angels Or Messengers, Angels Were At Jesus' Beck And Call, An Angel Helps Jesus At Gethsemane, Jesus Had Guardian Angels, Jacob's Ladder, Prophet Elisha And The Chariots Of Fire, Only Luke Uses The Phrase "Holy Ghost", Bible Translations Influenced By Personal Bias And Doctrinal Stances Of The Translator, Be Careful With Lexicons, Articles And Capitalization Affect How We Understand A Verse, Jesus Is Tempted In The Wilderness By Satan, Devil Knows And Can Quote From The Word Of God, Why The Events At The Jordan River May Have Occurred, Angels Ministered To Jesus' Needs, Angels Are Spirits + Angels Are Holy = Angels Are Holy Spirits, Did Luke Really Mean An Angel?, Recap Of Key Points, Avoid Contentious Debate, Jesus Was Filled With The Holy Spirit Without Measure, Miracles Of Physical Healing, God's Promise of Eternal Life

Continuing our discussion from part two, in the Gospel of John, John the Baptist bears the following record of this very same miraculous event when Jesus went to the Jordan River to be baptized by him:

"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." John 1:32-33, KJV

John the Baptist adds more information by stating that the

Spirit abode upon, or remained on, Jesus. There are lots of Christians who will point to these verses and say that they are a clear reference to the actual indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' body. However, if, as most Christians are inclined to believe, the Holy Spirit is an invisible force, power, energy or however you wish to refer to it, how is it then that they physically saw it? As we have seen through a variety of verses, those people who are bearing testimony of the incident, report a variety of visible or audible signs. These include actually seeing the Spirit descend, seeing the heavens parting, and hearing a voice. All of these things came from above. As I noted in part two, whether or not what happened was physical in nature is difficult to say; but it was at least very visible to the observers. There should be no doubt that something descended from the sky on that miraculous day.

So, the questions which remain are the following. Do these verses that are found in the four Gospels actually mean that this is the very first time that Jesus is receiving, or at least making contact with, the Holy Spirit? In fact, can we even be totally certain that they are stating that Jesus is receiving the Holy Spirit at this point in time, since only one writer makes this distinction? Based on what I've shared with you thus far in this series, I still remain unconvinced that this is the case. In part two I mentioned that I still had another "Scriptural bomb" to drop on you. You might say that it is my ace in the hole.

The fact of the matter is that there's simply no need to even guess what happened on that day; because if we dig a little deeper into the Scriptures, and look at some of the original Koine Greek which is used in the aforementioned verses, we can arrive at a very clear conclusion. So let's conduct some Biblical archeological work. The first thing I discovered is that there is an unusual translation in Matthew 3:16. Let me share that verse with you again in order to refresh your memory:

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:" Matthew 3:16, KJV

Please notice that Matthew writes "and lighting upon him". I was curious to know if that was the proper translation for

that part of the sentence. So, utilizing Strong's Numbers, I looked it up in Thayer's Greek English Lexicon. What I found is that the phrase "lighting upon" is translated from the Koine Greek word "erchomai". To my great surprise, this Koine Greek word is NEVER translated as "lighting upon" -- except in this one verse -- in the entire New Testament of the KJV Bible. What "erchomai" actual means is to come, and to come from one place to another. It is used in reference to people arriving and returning. This is a very important point, as you will see in a moment. In fact, of the 643 times that it is found in the New Testament, "erchomai" is translated as "come". It has NOTHING to do with "lighting upon". What?!

Now let's take another closer look at Mark 1:10. Again, let me share that verse with you to refresh your memory:

"And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:" Mark 1:10, KJV

In this verse from the Gospel of Mark, the phrase "descending upon" is translated from the Koine Greek word "katabaino". In looking at Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, I discovered that this ancient word means to go down, come down or to descend. In fact, part of the lexicon's definition even states that "katabaino" is used in reference to celestial beings coming down to earth! Oh my gosh! Are you starting to understand the true picture yet? If not, let us continue. Lastly, let's take another closer look at Luke 3:22. Again, that verse states as follows:

"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." Luke 3:22, KJV

As occurs with Mark 1:10, in Luke's account, we discover that the word "descended" is once again translated from the Koine Greek word "katabaino"; so there is really no need to explain the word again. The first point I wish to make here is that neither "erchomai" nor "katabaino" means to "light upon" or "descending upon". They simply mean to come, or to come down. In other words, as I've already stated a few times, something came down from the sky and came to Jesus. There is nothing in any of those three verses which clearly states that something actually entered into Jesus, as in Jesus receiving the Holy Ghost.

It is also important to point out that in all of the verses I have shared with you from the four Gospels where the word "on" or "upon" is used, it is translated from the Koine Greek word "epi". This word also means at, by and over. So rather than say "abode upon" or remaining on", I believe we could also say "abode by" or "remaining by". In other words, something descended from Heaven, and remained by the Lord. So how are we supposed to understand all of these verses?

Well, as I said a moment ago, there is no need for guessing here, because by comparing Scripture with Scripture, we can arrive at a very clear answer. In fact, Jesus Himself gives us the answer that we are looking for. Believe it or not, He in fact provides us with the correct answer in the very first chapter of the Gospel of John, when He states the following:

". . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." John 1:51, KJV

Whoah! What?! That's right! There is the answer right out of the Lord's own mouth! And in case you are wondering, yes, the phrase "descending upon" is ALSO translated from the Koine Greek word "katabaino", meaning to go down, come down or to descend. Jesus plainly stated that the Angels of Heaven would be at His beck and call. They would ascend and descend from Heaven, in order to assist Him during His mission on Earth. In that verse, the word "angels" is translated from the Koine Greek word "aggelos", which is always translated as "angels" or "messengers". So you might say that Jesus had His very own communication hotline to Heaven, and Angelic Messengers who could carry messages to and from the Father.

Regarding the Angels of Heaven being at His beck and call, again, Jesus clearly confirms this point for us when He says the following in the twenty-sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, when He and His Apostles are accosted by Judas and the band of soldiers who were sent by the high priest, in order to arrest Him:

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" Matthew 26:53, KJV Another clear example which I have mentioned before concerns when the Lord was praying desperately and undergoing what was probably His heaviest trial in the Garden of Gethsemane, just prior to the aforementioned scene when He was taken prisoner. Consider what we are told in the Gospel of Luke:

"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:41-44, KJV

Clearly then, Jesus was never alone during His mission on the Earth. He had His special elite team of Guardian Angels who could ascend to and descend from Heaven, and even remain with Him, and protect Him, as He fulfilled His Father's Will. If you are well-versed in the Scriptures, then you may already know that these verses which are found in the four Gospels are not the first time that we find Angels travelling to and from the Earth. In particular, I'm reminded of the following incident which is found in the Book of Genesis, which sounds very similar to what the Lord spoke of, and what may be what John the Baptist personally experienced, on that day at the Jordan River:

"And he [Jacob] dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it." Genesis 28:12, KJV

After carefully researching, examining and analyzing all of the aforementioned information, I have become convinced that what happened that day at the Jordan River may not have been what we have all been taught by organized religion. And why would it even be necessary if Jesus had been filled with the Holy Spirit from His very creation and birth?

Rather than being filled with the Holy Spirit on that day, as I already pointed out in part two, I lean more towards the belief that what may have really happened, is that upon being baptized by John the Baptist, the heavens opened -meaning perhaps that some kind of an interdimensional vortex opened -- and one or more Angels descended to the Earth, to remain or abide by Jesus, or at His side -- again, the Greek word "epi" can also mean "by" or "at" -- as His guardian(s) and protector(s). I think that's possibly what John may have seen that day. Perhaps God the Father temporarily opened his eyes so that John could see those things, just as Elisha the Prophet prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant, so that he could see the Lord's Army in these verses:

"And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" 2 Kings 6:16-17, KJV

Because of this new understanding I have gained through a careful study of the Scriptures, and the underlying Koine Greek words which are used in them, in my mind, I now see a very different picture than that which has been portrayed by organized religion for literally centuries. Thus, instead of envisioning a white dove gently settling on Jesus as He is being baptized by John the Baptist, what I now imagine is one or more great Angels either hovering just above Jesus, or perhaps even one mighty Angel standing just behind Jesus -- maybe even with his hands touching the Lord's shoulders -- with his majestic wings outspread, as if protecting Jesus from any potential harm. I am reminded of this verse:

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Psalm 91:4, KJV

Now some of my readers might insist "But Bill, in Luke 3:22 it clearly says 'the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove'. Isn't that clear proof that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit that day upon being baptized by John? Aren't you twisting the meaning of the Scriptures by saying otherwise? Aren't you ignoring what is plainly stated in that verse?" Not necessarily so, my friends; and I will now explain to you why I say this by sharing another "Scriptural bomb" with you.

As I explained at the conclusion of part two, Luke is the only one to use the phrase "Holy Ghost" in describing this amazing event. In contrast, Matthew, Mark and John all say "the Spirit". To refresh your memory, following is a list of all four verses for the sake of comparison: Mat. 3:16 - "the Spirit of God descending like a dove" Mark 1:10 - "the Spirit like a dove descending" Luke 3:22 - "the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove" John 1:32 - "the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove"

Please remember what I shared with you in part two regarding Bible translations. How a word or phrase is translated into our English language is based solely on the discretion and personal preference of the person who is translating the text from its original language. This in turn is directly affected by that person's ecclesiastical affiliation and theological leanings. In other words, what particular doctrinal stances they adhere to. As I have mentioned before, that is why even when using tools such as Hebrew and Greek lexicons, we must be careful; because if there is one thing which has become clear to me over the years, personal biases do tend to creep into some of the provided definitions. In other words, if a translator believes a certain way, they may tweak a certain definition so that it fits what they personally believe.

In this particular case, if the translator is convinced that Jesus was filled with the Holy Ghost during the event which we have been discussing in this series, then he is going to translate the verse in such a way so that it reflects his personal doctrinal belief. For the record, in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John, the word "Spirit" is translated from the Koine Greek word "pneuma". When using Strong's Numbers, we discover that the word "holy" -- or "hagios" in the Koine Greek language -- is not even present in any of those three verses. It is only in Luke's account that "hagios pneuma" -or Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit -- is used.

So, we must wonder why the other three Gospels omit the word "holy" from their account. Are they in error, or is Luke in error? Is it possible that the word "hagios" -- or "holy" -was inserted into the Koine Greek text of Luke's Gospel at some later point in time by someone who desired to promote the doctrine of Christ being filled with the Holy Spirit during this amazing event? I honestly don't know, but the fact that the Koine Greek word "hagios" is only found in Luke's manuscript strikes me as being a bit odd.

To complicate this matter even further, in the process of translating a Bible manuscript from its original language, a translator often adds an article -- such as "a" or "the" --

before a noun. But which one does he choose, and why does he choose that particular one? Is this too at least partially decided and based on personal doctrinal leanings? Thus, as a result, and as I briefly mentioned in part two, just changing the word "the" to the word "a" can make a very big difference in meaning and how we understand a verse. In similar fashion, whether or not a particular word is capitalized can also have a direct effect on how we understand a verse. In short, all of the following do not necessarily mean the same thing:

the Spirit the spirit a spirit

But let's assume for the sake of argument that Luke's version of the Gospel is the correct one, and that in the original Koine Greek language text it really does say "hagios pneuma" -- or Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit -- and not simply "pneuma", as the other three Gospels state. Does this in fact solidly confirm for us that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit on that day? Not necessarily so. We will be delving even deeper into this topic in a moment. But first, let us examine and the whys and wherefores of this amazing event which occurred along the banks of the Jordan River.

Now, obviously, I don't know if I am 100% correct about all of this. Furthermore, you are not obligated to believe one single word of it if you don't want to. But assuming for a moment that I am correct, the question which arises in my mind is this: Why did this event happen at this particular time in Jesus' life? Again, I believe that the Scriptures hold the answer, and a very clear one at that. All we have to do is consider what happened next. In a word, it was at that point in His life that Jesus began His earthly mission in earnest. It was likewise at that moment that He began to confront the Devil and his earthly minions head on. This fact becomes rather evident by the following verses, which describe exactly what happened following His water baptism:

"And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him." Mark 1:12-13, KJV

"Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."

Matthew 4:11, KJV

"And he [the Devil] brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Luke 4:9-11, KJV

"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Matthew 4:5-6, KJV

As those verses state, that sly Devil was quoting directly from the Scriptures in order to try to tempt Jesus to sin against His Father. It isn't much different from Satan also tempting Eve in the Book of Genesis with his wicked taunt "Hath God said?", which was immediately followed by the lie that they would become as gods if they ate of the forbidden fruit. In similar fashion, the Devil is twisting the truth by basically saying "Don't worry, Jesus. You can jump from the pinnacle of the temple. Nothing will happen to you." He was actually quoting the following verses:

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler . . . For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." Psalm 91:4, 11-12, KJV

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Psalm 34:7, KJV

So I believe that God the Father may have allowed one or more Angels to descend from Heaven on that day at the banks of the Jordan River, in order to offer His beloved Son some needed assistance as He took on the Devil during those forty days that He wandered in the wilderness area of the Jordan River valley. As the previous verses make clear, once Satan was done tempting Jesus and testing His mettle, those same Angels came to serve Him and attend to His needs. That is precisely what the word "minister" actually means in the original Koine Greek language where Matthew and Mark write that the Angels "ministered unto him". You may recall that the Apostle Paul also briefly commented regarding the topic of ministering Angels when he wrote the following:

"And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire . . . But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Hebrews 1:6, 13-14, KJV

Now, there is something important in those verses which goes right back to the inclusion of the phrase "hagios pneuma" in Luke's Gospel. Please notice that Paul says that Angels are "ministering spirits". To focus even more sharply on what I am trying to get across to you, Paul says that Angels are in fact SPIRITS. They are "pneuma", which is the same word that we see being used in the account of Jesus being baptized by John. But that's not all. Consider what Jesus said regarding His Return in the Gospels as well:

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:" Matthew 25:31, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38, KJV

"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9:26, KJV

Do you notice anything particularly interesting in those three verses which relates to our current discussion? How about the phrase "holy angels"? That phrase is derived from the Koine Greek words "hagios aggelos". As you will recall from previous paragraphs, "hagios" means "holy", while the word "aggelos" means "angels". But the point I want you to see here is that Jesus clearly says that Angels are HOLY. So the Apostle Paul informs us that Angels are SPIRITS, and Jesus informs us that Angels are HOLY. In other words, my friends, Angels are HOLY SPIRITS. They are "hagios pneuma", which is exactly the same phrase that the writer Luke uses in his account of Jesus being baptized by John.

So, if Luke's actual intention in using the phrase "hagios pneuma" was for his readers to understand that a holy spirit -- or an Angel -- descended from the sky -- or from heaven, being as both words are translated from the same Koine Greek word "ouranos" -- then this puts Luke much more in agreement with the other three Gospel writers who omitted the Koine Greek word "hagios", and who simply wrote "the Spirit", and NOT "Holy Ghost".

Furthermore, let me remind you again that the KJV translators could just as easily have translated the word "pneuma" as "a spirit" -- implying an Angel -- instead of as "the Spirit". However, if their personal understanding and their doctrinal stance was that Jesus Christ received the Holy Spirit at that particular moment, as opposed to everything I shared with you earlier in this series, then it makes perfect sense that they would translate the word "pneuma" as "the Spirit", with an uppercase "S". Doing so would enforce their doctrinal belief.

At this point, let me reiterate one of the main ideas I wish to emphasize in this series. Taking into consideration all of the amazing information which I have uncovered, it seems more and more to me that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit at the very moment of His conception. As we have seen, there was a very good reason for it to happen at that particular time, as I have already pointed out. That reason was that baby John needed to be zapped with the Holy Spirit, in fulfillment of the Angel Gabriel's prophecy regarding John being filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb.

Furthermore, if Jesus is "the beginning of the creation of God" -- Revelation 3:14 -- as well as "the only begotten of the Father" -- John 1:14 -- and "the firstfruits of them that slept" -- 1 Corinthians 15:20 -- then it seems to me that He would also be the first individual to be endowed with, filled with, anointed with or created by the Holy Spirit. After all, as I said at the beginning of this series, Jesus was a direct result of the union of flesh and Spirit in Mary's womb. Jesus was in essence a physical manifestation of the Spirit of God. Thus, as I have already made clear, it makes no sense to me whatsoever that Jesus would have to wait, and would need to be filled with the Holy Spirit some thirty years later when He was baptized by John the Baptist. Based upon the Biblical evidence, I can only conclude then that the baptism by John the Baptist has been misunderstood, either due to intentional manipulation by organized religion at some point in history, or possibly due to a slightly inaccurate translation of a few words. It could also be simply due to our lack of a proper understanding of what is really being stated in the four Gospels.

While I have gone into considerable detail to explain my own position and current understanding regarding this matter, I would also like to mention that I do not believe that it is a major issue which should result in contentious debate. The most important point to consider here is that Jesus was in fact filled with the Spirit of God -- regardless of when it actually occurred. Furthermore, not only was He filled with the Spirit, but He was filled with it without measure. Just like the River of Life, the Spirit which flowed from Jesus, which the Gospels refer to as "virtue", was endless. For this reason, so many people were wonderfully healed just through His spoken word, or by a mere touch of His garment, or by a touch of the Master's hands.

Furthermore, let us not lose sight of the fact that even more important than a physical healing of our temporary bodies, it is the words Jesus spoke which give all of us hope of Eternal Life. That is, if we believe in them. As we read in the Gospel of John:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16, KJV

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14, KJV

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed . . . And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst . . . I am that bread of life . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you . . . It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:27, 35, 48, 53, 63, KJV

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly . . . And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:10, 28, KJV

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:1-3, KJV

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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WAS JESUS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM BIRTH? : PT 4

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God's Promise Of The Holy Spirit, Invitation To Receive Holy Spirit, Ask In Prayer Believing That Your Request Has Been Heard, Closing Remarks, BBB Articles Suggested Reading List Continuing our discussion from part three, in this series we have spoken a lot about the Holy Spirit. Before concluding this series, let me remind you that Jesus promised to send the Comforter -- that is, the Holy Spirit -- to those who believe. This precious promise remains true today, just as it was true when it was first made two thousand years ago. God's very own Holy Spirit can indeed dwell in our beings. It is in fact through the assistance of the Holy Ghost that we can not only much better understand God's Word -- because it acts as a teacher -- but through the power of the Spirit we also receive the anointing and the boldness to proclaim the Words of Truth to a spiritually destitute world. Allow me share a few verses with you:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 14:16-17, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26, KJV

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" John 15:26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." John 16:13, KJV

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:4-8, KJV

As I said, this is not just a promise of the past as certain rigid religionists like to claim. God's promises are just as much for us today as they were for the Disciples of centuries ago. God's Spirit is alive and moving. So if your spiritual life is seeming kind of dry, if you feel like you have lost the fire that you once possessed, and if there is a desire in your heart to share the Word of God with others, but you just can't seem to muster up the will and the courage to really do it, perhaps it is because you are lacking that Power that God so desires to give you. Have you ever been baptized with God's Holy Spirit? If you are not sure, it is yours for the asking. For as Jesus clearly said in the Gospel of Luke:

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13, KJV

It's as simple as that. You don't need to belong to a church or religious organization to do it. You don't even need to be dunked in water. All you have to do is ask in faith, and believe that you have been granted your petition. It is an action of faith. Consider the following group of verses:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" Matthew 7:7, KJV

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22, KJV

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." 1 John 5:14-15, KJV To effectively preach the Gospel, we need the spiritual help that God offers to us. So please, if you're not certain that you have this precious gift, or if you haven't yet asked for the anointing of the Holy Spirit, please do so today. Trust me when I say that God won't let you down. He promised. Once you do, I guarantee you that the holy hounds of Heaven will be on your tail to faithfully preach the Gospel!

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. I trust that you have enjoyed it, learned something from it, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thank you so very much! May God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: God's Promise of the Spirit Are You Saved and Sealed and Healed and Filled? Beholding the Evil and the Good Fifty Days Which Changed the World Have You Been Slain in the Spirit? Holy Ghost: The Spirit of Jesus Christ? My God is a Shocker! Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge? The Children of Light: Are You One of Us? The Internet: Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance? The Manipulation of Time and Space The Seeing God Face-to-Face Dilemma This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future Under the Cloud: UFOs and the Holy Bible

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