

*A Theology of the Spirit in the Former Prophets:
A Pentecostal Perspective (CPT Press, 2018)*

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EU Book Club – Kendrick Library

April 10, 2024

INSPIRATION

Two things inspired this project very specifically though my imagination and love of these books had been captured as a young child whose father nightly read to us from Scripture including these books (which were definitively among my favorites). Edgar R. Lee wrote an article “Baptism in the Holy Spirit: Old Testament Promise,” *Enrichment* (2009). On a sidebar to the article was two books recommended for further reading that I bought and read immediately as a rural pastor in Minnesota working on my Master of Divinity at a Canadian. The two books were Wilf Hildebrandt *An Old Testament Theology of the Spirit of God* and Stanley Horton *What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit*.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

1. A History of Interpretation – many gaps in the literature engaging the S/spirit in the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings) – Proposed two quests for the Spirit: historical (History of Religions approach and redemptive-history approach) and theological (disjunctive between the testaments)
2. Toward a Pentecostal Hermeneutic of the Former Prophets – a primarily literary and theological hearing of the passages with attunement toward and from Pentecostal belief and practice – many interpretive possibilities, but not endless or unbounded, communal and experiential, Spirit-Word-Community approach (ala, Archer, Yong, etc), narratological, Christological
3. A History of Effects...in early Pentecostal Literature.... (*Wirkungsgeschichte*) covering 1906-1920 North American Pentecostal periodicals, seven major categories for their theological framing/uses of these texts:
 - a. Baptism in the Holy Spirit (primarily Elijah/Elisha)
 - b. The ever-present power of the Spirit to heal, deliver, save, provide, etc
 - c. Prayer as primary to the experience of the Spirit
 - d. The Spirit may be lost due to unfaithfulness (Samson, Saul)
 - e. Apologetic function in defense of experiences of Pentecostals
 - f. Divine love (as Gideon “clothed”)
 - g. Christological, bears witness to Jesus and is the Spirit of the Christ
4. The Liberating Spirit of Judges (Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson)
5. Strings of the Spirit: When Prophets Play the Lyre – Saul and David texts in 1-2 Samuel
6. Discerning the Spirit (1 Kings 22) – Micaiah and the “deceiving Spirit”
7. The Double Portion Spirit: Sign of the True Son (2 Kings 2-9, 13) – Elisha as true son of Elijah, now father in Israel, in the midst of the other “sons of the prophets”
8. Toward a Constructive Pentecostal Theology of the Spirit in the Former Prophets – seven categories proposed:
 - a. The Spirit Abides Within
 - b. The Spirit of Purity
 - c. Spirit Baptism

- d. When the Spirit Comes in Power
 - e. Attuned to the Voice of the Spirit
 - f. Anointing by the Spirit
 - g. The Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ
9. Contributions and Suggestions for Future Research