

Chapter Eight

Regeneration and Indwelling in the Old Testament Period

Thirty seven years ago Lewis Sperry Chafer, discussing the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, wrote the following words:

Of the present ministries of the Holy Spirit in relation to the believer -- regeneration, indwelling or anointing, baptizing, sealing, and filling -- nothing indeed is said with respect to these having been experienced by the Old Testament saints, excepting a few well-defined instances where individuals were said to be filled with the Spirit. Old Testament saints were invested with these blessings only theoretically, and without support of the Bible, by those who read New Testament blessings back into the Old Testament.^1

Nine years ago Leon Wood, in the Preface to his landmark work, *The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament*, stated:

Some have doubted that true spiritual renewal existed prior to the founding of the church at Pentecost, and few have believed that the Old Testament could have included such New Testament truths as the "indwelling," "sealing," or "filling" of the Holy Spirit. The question is considered in the following pages, where it is maintained that all these truths were experienced by Old Testament saints. They did not call their experiences by these names, nor could they have defined them, but their existence is witnessed in the lives of true believers.^2

These quotations fairly delineate the issue between two strongly differing points of view concerning the work of the Holy Spirit during the Old Testament period. It should be noted that the differences between these positions go far deeper than the question of the number and kinds of ministries the Holy Spirit carried on during the older dispensation; they concern the very nature of Old Testament salvation itself, with regard both to the accomplishment and the application of salvation during that