

# Old Testament working of the Holy Spirit

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Greek words taken from the LXX

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## Hebrew Definitions:

**H5921** על 'al

### e-sword BDB Definition:

- 1) upon, on the ground of, according to, on account of, on behalf of, concerning, beside, in addition to, together with, beyond, above, over, by, on to, towards, to, against (preposition)
  - 1a) upon, on the ground of, on the basis of, on account of, because of, therefore, on behalf of, for the sake of, for, with, in spite of, notwithstanding, concerning, in the matter of, as regards
  - 1b) above, beyond, over (of excess)
  - 1c) above, over (of elevation or pre-eminence)
  - 1d) upon, to, over to, unto, in addition to, together with, with (of addition)
  - 1e) over (of suspension or extension)
  - 1f) by, adjoining, next, at, over, around (of contiguity or proximity)
  - 1g) down upon, upon, on, from, up upon, up to, towards, over towards, to, against (with verbs of motion)
  - 1h) to (as a dative)
- 2) because that, because, notwithstanding, although (conjunction)

**H413** אל l'e / 'el / 'el

### e-sword BDB Definition:

- 1) to, toward, unto (of motion)
- 2) into (limit is actually entered)
  - 2a) in among
- 3) toward (of direction, not necessarily physical motion)
- 4) against (motion or direction of a hostile character)
- 5) in addition to, to
- 6) concerning, in regard to, in reference to, on account of
- 7) according to (rule or standard)
- 8) at, by, against (of one's presence)
- 9) in between, in within, to within, unto (idea of motion to)

**H7130** קרב qereb

### e-sword BDB Definition:

- 1) midst, among, inner part, middle
  - 1a) inward part
    - 1a1) physical sense
    - 1a2) as seat of thought and emotion
    - 1a3) as faculty of thought and emotion
  - 1b) in the midst, among, from among (of a number of persons)
  - 1c) entrails (of sacrificial animals)

**H3847** לבש / לבש lâbash / lâbêsh

### e-sword BDB Definition:

- 1) to dress, wear, clothe, put on clothing, be clothed
  - 1a) (Qal)
    - 1a1) to put on clothes, be clothed, wear
    - 1a2) to put on, be clothed with (figuratively)
  - 1b) (Pual) to be fully clothed
  - 1c) (Hiphil) to clothe, array with, dress

## Greek Definitions:

**G1909** ἐπι epi

### e-sword Thayer Definition:

- 1) upon, on, at, by, before
- 2) of position, on, at, by, over, against
- 3) to, over, on, at, across, against

**G1722** ἐν en

### e-sword Thayer Definition:

- 1) in, by, with etc.

## Clothed with the Spirit

But the Spirit of the LORD clothed (H3847 שָׁבַלְתָּ אֶת־גִּדְעוֹן אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him. (Judges 6:34) The Greek word “ενδυω” simply means to put on a garment.

And some of the men of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold to David. David went out to meet them and said to them, "If you have come to me in friendship to help me, my heart will be joined to you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, although there is no wrong in my hands, then may the God of our fathers see and rebuke you." Then the Spirit clothed (H3847 שָׁבַלְתָּ, אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) Amasai, chief of the thirty, and he said, "We are yours, O David, and with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you." Then David received them and made them officers of his troops. (1 Chronicles 12:16-18)

Then the Spirit of God clothed (H3847 שָׁבַלְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'" (2 Chronicles 24:20)

## The Spirit of God was “On” men

And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) him, (Numbers 24:2)

Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה), and you [Saul] will prophesy with them and be turned into another man...When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה), and he prophesied among them. And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" ...And the Spirit of God rushed upon (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. (1 Samuel 10:6, 11; 11:6)

Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" (1 Samuel 19:20-24)

And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה) and put it on them (אָבַדְתָּ אֶת־רוּחַ־יְהוָה), and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone...Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among

those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? I would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit **on** them!" (Numbers 11:17, 26-29)

The Spirit of the LORD was upon him (לַעֲלֵם אֶת־אֹתָם), and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. (Judges 3:10)

Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon (לַעֲלֵם אֶת־) Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites. (Judges 11:29)

And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol...Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him (לַעֲלֵם אֶת־אֹתָם), and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done...And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him (לַעֲלֵם אֶת־אֹתָם), and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house...When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him (לַעֲלֵם אֶת־אֹתָם), and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. (Judges 13:24-25; 14:6, 19; 15:14)

The Spirit of God came upon (לַעֲלֵם אֶת־) Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. (2 Chronicles 15:1-2)

And the Spirit of the LORD came upon (אֶת־) Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. (2 Chronicles 20:14-15) The preposition is only implied the Hebrew text.

Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man." And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon (לַעֲלֵם אֶת־) me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind. (Ezekiel 11:4-5)

## Different Hebrew word for “ON”

From the e-sword BDB definition, the Hebrew word “לָ” seems to have more of the meaning of “towards,” as in the direction of, than actually meaning “on.”

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon (לָ אֶת־) David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went

to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. (1 Samuel 16:13-14)

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me (ἐπ' ἐμὲ)." ... Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on (ἐπὶ) Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. (2 Kings 2:9, 15)

## Filled by The Spirit or with a Spirit

You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled (ἐνέπλησα) with a spirit of wisdom (πνεύματος αἰσθήσεως), that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood. (Exodus 28:3)

and I have filled (ἐνέπλησα) him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, (Exodus 31:3)

and he has filled (ἐνέπλησεν) him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, (Exodus 35:31)

## The Spirit of God was possibly "In" men

But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD (ἐμπλήσω ἰσχὺν ἐν πνεύματι κυρίου), and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin. (Micah 3:8 KJV) Greek Could be translated, "full of strength in the Spirit of God."

Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst (ἐν μέσσοις) of them his Holy Spirit, (Isaiah 63:11) This could also be translated "within them."

And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered (ἦλθεν ἐπ' ἐμὲ πνεῦμα) into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. (Ezekiel 2:2) Note: the Septuagint reads, "Spirit came upon me."

So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in (ἐν) whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. (Numbers 27:18) The Greek could be potentially be translated, "a man with whom is the Spirit of God." The preposition is only implied the Hebrew text.

## Comments Made by Pagans

And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in (ἐν) whom is the Spirit of God?" (Genesis 41:38) The preposition is only implied the Hebrew text.

At last Daniel came in before me--he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and **in (ἐν ἐαυτῷ)** whom is the spirit of the holy gods--and I told him the dream, saying, "O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is **in you (ἐν σοὶ)** and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation... This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is **in you (ἐν σοὶ)**." (Daniel 4:8-9, 18) **The preposition is only implied the Hebrew text.**

There is a man in your kingdom **in (ἐν) whom** is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father--your father the king--made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers,... I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is **in you (ἐν σοὶ)**, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. (Daniel 5:11,14) **The preposition is only implied the Hebrew text.**

## Prophecies of the New Covenant

"And I will pour out **on (ἐπὶ)** the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10)

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit **on (ἐπὶ)** all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even **on (ἐπὶ)** the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. (Joel 2:28-29)

Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And **I will put my Spirit within you (δώσω τὸ πνεῦμά μου εἰς ὑμᾶς)**, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD." (Ezekiel 37:12-14) **The Greek reads more literally, "I will give My Spirit unto you." I am not sure about the Hebrew translation for the words "within you."**

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a **new spirit I will put within you (πνεῦμα καινὸν δώσω ἐν ὑμῖν)**. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put my Spirit within you (H7130 כִּי, τὸ πνεῦμά μου δώσω ἐν ὑμῖν)**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. (Ezekiel 36:24-29) **The Greek "ἐν ὑμῖν" could also be translated in the midst of you, but seems unlikely here.**

Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within (H7130 קרב, ἐν αὐτοῖς) them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 11:17-21) This could also read, "a new spirit in the mist of them."

"And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon (על ἐπὶ) you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore." (Isaiah 59:21)

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon (על ἐπὶ) your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. (Isaiah 44:3)

For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks; until the Spirit is poured upon (על) us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest... (Isaiah 32:14-15)

And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon (על) the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 39:29)

## Prophecies about Jesus

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon (על ἐπ') me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon (על ἐπ') him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. (Isaiah 42:1-4)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon (על ἐπ') him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. (Isaiah 11:1-4)

## Workings of the Spirit

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The **Spirit of the LORD speaks by me**; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth. (2 Samuel 23:1-4)

And as soon as I have gone from you, the **Spirit of the LORD will carry you** [Elijah] I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. (1 Kings 18:12)

Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies, you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. You gave your good **Spirit to instruct** them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. (Nehemiah 9:18-20)

Many years you bore with them and **warned them** by your **Spirit through your prophets**. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. (Nehemiah 9:30)

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let **your good Spirit lead me** on level ground! (Psalms 143:10)

## Offending the Spirit

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and **take not your Holy Spirit from me**. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. (Psalms 51:9-13)

But they rebelled and **grieved his Holy Spirit**; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. (Isaiah 63:10) **The Septuagint uses a different word here for grieve than in the NT, but is still interesting nevertheless.**

## Qualities of the Spirit

(The context is speaking of all creatures in creation) These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you **send forth your Spirit, they are created**, and you renew the face of the ground. (Psalms 104:27-30)

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. **Where shall I go from your Spirit?** Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! (Psalms 139:5-8)

Who has measured the Spirit **of the LORD**, or what man shows him his counsel? (Isaiah 40:13)

## **Interesting verse about other spirits**

Now therefore behold, the LORD has put **a lying spirit in the mouth** of these your prophets. The LORD has declared disaster concerning you." (2 Chronicles 18:22)

And Joshua the son of Nun was **full of the spirit of wisdom**, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. (Deuteronomy 34:9)

Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was **in him** (**περισσὸν ἐν αὐτῷ**). And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. (Daniel 6:3) The Greek literally says, **"an abounding spirit was in him."** **The preposition is only implied the Hebrew text.**

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out **my spirit** to you; I will make my words known to you. (Proverbs 1:20-23)

## **Interesting verses about the spirits of men**

I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.' But it is the **spirit in man**, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right...The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 32:7-9, 33:4)

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that **ruleth his spirit** than he that taketh a city. (Proverbs 16:32)

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and **make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!** Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live." (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. **Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?** So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him... and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and **the spirit returns to God who gave it.** Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 3:20-22; 12:7-8) **(the faith of Solomon)**