**The Outpouring of the Spirit**

The Old Testament prophets frequently associate the coming of Messiah with the outpouring of God’s Spirit. During the advent season, we traditionally look back at Christ’s first advent and forward to His advent. Between these two advents, we live in the age of the Spirit. The prophet Zechariah describes what will happen when the Lord pours out His Spirit on Israel in the last days. The same description applies to what happens when He pours out His Spirit into our hearts.

**When the Lord pours out His Spirit into our hearts –**

**1. We mourn for piercing Jesus**

A. The mourning of the *Jews*

Luke 24:48; Acts 2:36-37; Revelation 1:7

B. The mourning for our *sins*

**2. We plead for God’s mercy[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Because we see that –

A. Our need is very *desperate*

Psalm 28:1-3

B. God’s mercy is very *desirable*

Psalm 28:6-9

**3. We come to the ever-flowing fountain**

A. A fountain for *cleansing*

Zechariah 13:1; Titus 3:4-7

B. A fountain of *living water*

Zechariah 14:8; John 7:37-39

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. **Mourning**. When is it appropriate for us to mourn?

Psalm 30; Matthew 5:4; 2 Corinthians 7:6-11; James 4:8-10

2. **The Outpouring of the Spirit**

What are the results of the outpouring of the Spirit in the following passages?

Isaiah 32:15-18; Joel 2:28-29; Romans 5:1-5

3. **Living Water**

Isaiah 44:3. To what physical element does the Lord liken His Spirit?

Jeremiah 2:10-13; 17:13. Who is the fountain of living water? What are the broken cisterns in this passage? What are some examples of broken cisterns in your life?

John 7:37-39. How does Jesus combine the ideas the two passages above? Have you experienced the thirst-quenching satisfaction of Jesus and the overflow of the Holy Spirit to some extent? (Compare John 4:10-14.)

Ezekiel 47:1-10 Describes a water flowing from “the house.” The house is the temple described in chapters 40-46. [It may be a literal temple in the future, or it may be symbolic of worship in the kingdom of Christ.] What happens when the waters reach the Dead Sea where no fish now live (vv. 8-10)? What is growing on its banks (v. 12)? If the water of the river symbolizes the gracious work of God’s Spirit, what might be the significance of its increasing depth?

Revelation 22:1-2. From where does the river of the water of life flow? What is growing on its banks?

**NOTE:** Old Testament promises of the outpouring of the Spirit often appear to be looking forward to the kingdom Christ will set up at His second coming. However, the New Testament appropriates these images and symbols for the outpouring of the Spirit in our hearts during this dispensation as well.

1. Supplication is an urgent plea for grace and mercy. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)