

Immersed In The Spirit 3013

I. Introduction

- A. 1 Pet. 1:9–12—The Old Testament prophets spoke about experiences that were not fulfilled in themselves, but in Christ.
 - 1. They looked *forward* to the preaching of the gospel; the angels desire to look *down* to it.
 - 2. This preaching is accompanied by the real, personal presence of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Acts 2:1–4—On the day of Pentecost, three successive phases:
 - 1. Immersion (from above)
 - 2. Infilling
 - 3. Outflow
- C. 1 Cor. 10:1–2, 6, 11—In the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt, there were three pattern experiences:
 - 1. Faith in the blood of the lamb (compare 1 Cor. 5:7b)
 - 2. Baptism in the cloud (= the Holy Spirit). The cloud is a picture of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.
 - 3. Baptism in the sea (= water)
- D. Ex. 13:20–22—The cloud provided shade by day, light and warmth by night.
- E. Ex. 14:19–20, 24—Every Israelite entered into, passed through, and came out of the cloud. The “angel of God,” himself the Lord, was personally present in the cloud. It was darkness to the Egyptians, light to Israel.
- F. Ex. 33:7–11—In the cloud the Lord came down and had personal fellowship with Moses.
- G. Ex. 40:34–38—The visible movements of the cloud determined the movements of Israel by day and night.
- H. Lev. 16:2—The Lord appeared in the cloud over the mercy seat.
- I. Num. 9:15–23—It is important to learn to “move with the cloud,” and to relax when the cloud remains stationary.
- J. Num. 10:33–34—It was the presence of the ark in the midst of Israel that was acknowledged by the cloud overshadowing it.
- K. Ps. 78:22—God’s total provision for Israel is summed up by the word “salvation.”
- L. Ps. 78:14—The presence of the cloud was part of this total “salvation” (compare Ps. 105:39)
- M. Is. 4:1–6—A prophetic preview of the close of the present age: desolating wars, followed by divine intervention, restoring peace, fruitfulness, prosperity. When God’s people are fully restored to His favor, the cloud returns. Like a “marriage canopy,” it overshadows the union of the Lord with His people.