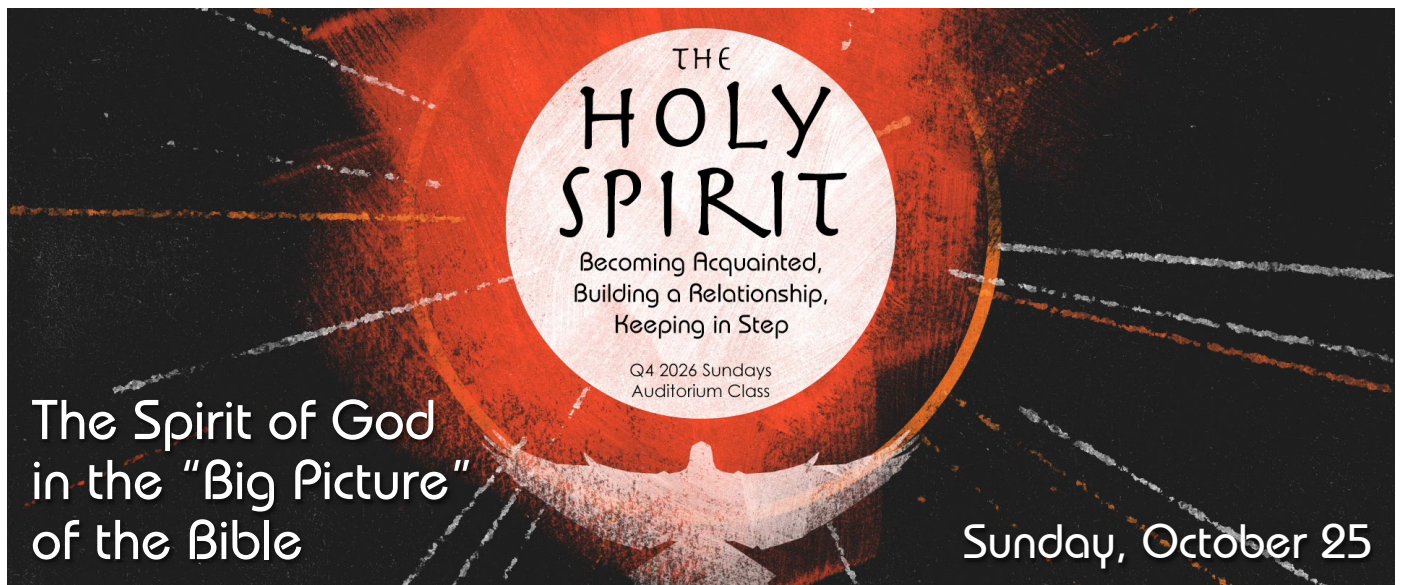




How would you summarize the “big picture” of the Bible? There are lots of ways to do that, but one of them is the **return** to what was lost and the **restoration** of what was broken. Take a moment to think about that.

◆ What was lost and broken in the earliest pages of the Bible?

◆ How did it happen?

When God foretold what he was going to do to make the return and restoration of his image-bearers possible, he described it in terms of:

◆ **New creation**

- ~ “I _____ light and create darkness...” (Isa 45:7)
- ~ “For behold, I _____ new heavens and a new earth...” (65:17)
- ~ “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great _____...” (9:2)
- ~ “...everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and _____.” (43:5-7)
- ~ “For as the _____ heavens and the _____ earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.” (66:22)

◆ **Another exodus**

- ~ “A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the _____ a highway for our God.’ ... And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed...” (40:3-5)
- ~ “I will open rivers on the bare heights, and _____ in the midst of the valleys.” (41:18)
- ~ “...I give water in the _____...” (43:18-21)
- ~ “The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall _____ the salvation of our God.” (52:3-10)

◆ **Return from exile**

- ~ "And the ransomed of the LORD shall _____ and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads..." (Isa 35:10)
- ~ "...they shall _____ gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (51:11)

◆ **Resurrection**

- ~ "Your dead shall live; their bodies shall _____." (Isa 26:19)
- ~ "Son of man, can these bones _____?" (Ezek 37:1-14)

Each of those threads involves the Spirit...

- ◆ Creation: "The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." (Gen 1:1-2)
- ◆ Exodus: "...the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest." (Isa 63:11-14)
- ◆ Return from exile: "I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land ... And I will put my Spirit within you..." (Ezek 36:24-27)
- ◆ Resurrection: "I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live..." (Ezek 37:14)

...and when God foretold what he was going to do to make the return and restoration of his image-bearers possible, he emphasized that it would encompass "_____ the nations" (Isa 2:2-4; 11:10; 25:6-9; 42:1, 6; 56:8; 66:18).

Notice how all four threads converge in what is available to all through the gospel:

- ◆ New creation: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____." (2 Cor 5:17)
- ◆ Exodus: "...you who were once _____ of sin..." (Rom 6:17)
- ◆ Return from exile: "...to gather into one the children of God who are _____ abroad." (John 11:49-53)
- ◆ Resurrection: "...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in _____ of life." (Rom 6:4)

As this study unfolds, we will see that the accomplishment of each one of these in our lives—the return of what was lost and the restoration of what was broken—continues to involve the Spirit of God.

Notes: