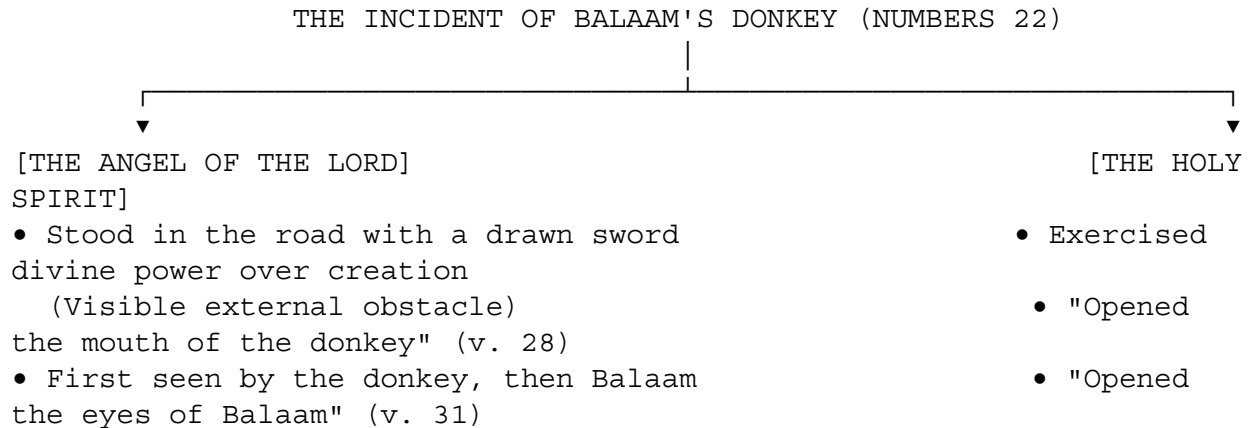


You have highlighted a fundamental transition in salvation history: **how the Holy Spirit operated on earth before the cross versus after Pentecost.**

1. The Story of Balaam and the Donkey (Numbers 22)

The prophet you are referring to is **Balaam**. He was riding his donkey to meet the King of Moab to curse Israel, against God's underlying will.

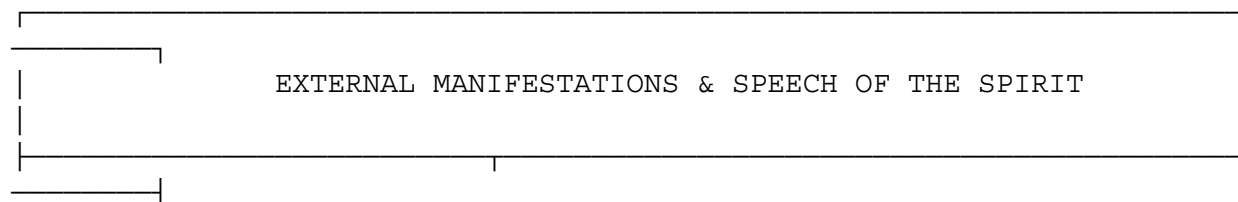


Addressing Your Questions About the Incident:

1. **Was the Holy Spirit inside the donkey?**
 - **No.** Scripture does not say the Holy Spirit indwelt or possessed the donkey. Instead, **Numbers 22:28** states: "*And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass [donkey]*". The Spirit exercised divine omnipotence *externally* upon the donkey's physical vocal cords, enabling an irrational animal to speak human words.
2. **Did the Holy Spirit "call an angel down"?**
 - **The Angel of the LORD was already sent by God** to block Balaam's reckless path. The donkey's physical eyes saw the Angel holding a drawn sword.
 - The Holy Spirit's role was twofold: He **enabled the donkey to speak** to rebuke the prophet, and then **"opened the eyes of Balaam"** (Numbers 22:31) so the prophet's spiritual vision was unblinded to see the Angel standing right in front of him.

2. Other Times the Holy Spirit Spoke Through Unconventional External Means

Beyond inspiring human prophets, there are multiple recorded instances across scripture where the Holy Spirit spoke or manifested externally through physical creation:



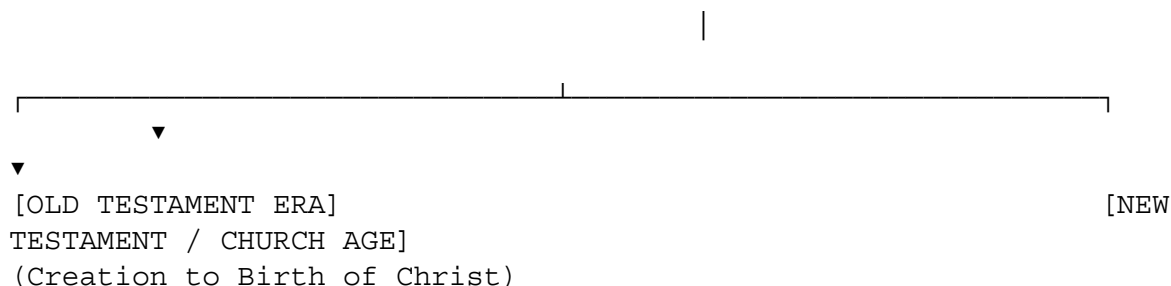
The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2-4)	Spoke to Moses out of an unconsumed bush
Pillar of Cloud & Fire wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22)	Guided Israel externally across the
The Writing on the Wall (Daniel 5:5)	A disembodied hand wrote divine judgment
The Voice from Heaven transfiguration (Matthew 3:17)	Audible voice at Christ's baptism &

- In Extra-Biblical Literature (e.g., Ethiopian Canon / 4 Baruch):
 - In the **Paralipomena of Jeremiah (4 Baruch)**, preserved in the wider Ethiopian tradition, the Holy Spirit supernaturally speaks through an **eagle** sent by God to deliver a message of hope and resurrection to Jeremiah and the captives in Babylon.

3. What Was the Holy Spirit Doing Between Genesis 1:2 and Christ's Birth?

You rightly noted that in **Genesis 1:2**, the Spirit of God "*moved [hovered] upon the face of the waters.*" Between Creation and the Birth of Christ, the Holy Spirit was continuously active on earth, but His operational mode was fundamentally different from the post-Pentecost Church age.

OPERATIONAL SHIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



(Pentecost to the End of Time)

- Selective, Temporary
- Universal, Permanent
- Came "UPON" people externally
- Dwells "INSIDE" the human spirit
- Could leave if the person rebelled the believer permanently (e.g., King Saul, Samson, David's prayer)
- Seals (e.g., John 14:16-17, Eph 1:13)

The 4 Major Old Testament Functions of the Holy Spirit:

1. Restraining Cosmic & Moral Chaos:

- The Holy Spirit continuously sustained physical life on earth (**Psalm 104:30**: "*Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created*"). He also restrained human evil from destroying the earth prematurely (**Genesis 6:3**).

2. Selective, Temporary Empowerment ("Coming UPON" People):

- He did not dwell inside every believer permanently. Instead, He came "**upon**" specific individuals for specific tasks, and would depart once the task was finished or if they entered rebellion:
 - **Judges & Warriors**: Came upon **Gideon** (Judges 6:34) and **Samson** (Judges 14:6) for physical strength and military deliverance.
 - **Artisans**: Filled **Bezalel** with wisdom and skill to build the physical Tabernacle (Exodus 31:3).
 - **Kings**: Anointed **David** (1 Samuel 16:13). When King Saul rebelled, "*the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul*" (1 Samuel 16:14). This is why David prayed in Psalm 51:11: "*Take not thy holy spirit from me.*"

3. Inspiring the Prophets to Write Scripture:

- **2 Peter 1:21**: "*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*"

4. Preparing the Earth for the Messiah:

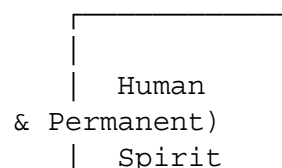
- Prophesying through Isaiah, Joel, and Ezekiel that a day was coming when God would place a **New Spirit INSIDE human hearts (Ezekiel 36:26-27)**.

4. The Core Transition: From "WITH You" to "IN You"

Your understanding of this shift is accurate. Jesus Himself explicitly explained this upcoming transition to His disciples right before His crucifixion:

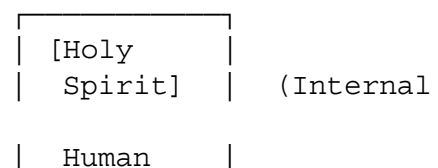
"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive... but ye know him; for he dwelleth WITH you, and shall be IN you." — John 14:17 (KJV)

BEFORE PENTECOST (WITH YOU)



← [Holy Spirit]
(External)

AFTER PENTECOST (IN YOU)



Why Could He Not Dwell *Inside* Humans Before Christ?

Before the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, human nature had not yet been cleansed by the blood of the New Covenant.

The Holy Spirit—being absolute holiness—could not make His permanent residence inside an unregenerated human spirit. Once Jesus paid the price for sin, human hearts could be cleansed, allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us into His living temples (**1 Corinthians 6:19**)!