

## CONCLUSION

At the outset of this study the concern of this thesis was asserted to be the Holy Spirit's ministry of regeneration during the Old Testament period. The regenerating ministry of the Holy Spirit in relation to individuals was defined as that action by which the Spirit imparts spiritual life to those who are spiritually dead.

First, we surveyed a number of historical views bearing on the question. We observed that John Calvin, the Puritan writers in general, some of the Old Testament theologians, Abraham Kuyper, various non-dispensational writers (with the exception of Rene Pache), the earlier dispensational writers, and some recent dispensational writers all affirm the reality of regeneration in the Old Testament period. Among some Old Testament theologians (notably Oehler) regeneration is denied to Old Testament believers. Among dispensational writers, Lewis Sperry Chafer appears to take a somewhat negative position, Clarence Larkin and Charles Caldwell Ryrie appear to lean toward a negative stance, and John F. Walvoord is noncommittal, on the question of the regeneration of Old Testament believers. But even here, the tide seems to be slowly turning to the older, affirmative view on the question.

Second, we examined the exegetical data peculiarly relevant to the question. Of the 372 instances of  $\square \cdot \square$  in the Old Testament, it would appear to be the case that 82 of them (some would augment, others diminish this figure) refer to the Holy Spirit; and of these 82, it would further appear that 68 refer to the Holy Spirit's ministries to or in persons.