

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

## **QUESTION #8 – Old Testament Appearances of Christ**

In our study from Jacob in week #6 (“The Wrestling Match”), it was mentioned about the times the Lord appeared to man in the Old Testament. These are “pre-incarnate” appearances (also known as “Theophanies” or “Christophanies”. What are the times that the Lord appeared to man before He became flesh?

The following is a list of times in the Old Testament where God appeared to man...

### **#1 – HAGAR (Sarai’s handmaid) – Genesis 16:7-16**

- v.7 – “the angel of the LORD...”
- v.10 offers some insight as to how we know it was God making an appearance...
  - *“...I will multiply thy seed...”*
- ALSO – v.13 adds to it...
  - *“...And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me...”*

### **#2 – ABRAHAM – Genesis 18:1-23**

- v.1 – *“And the LORD appeared unto him...”*
- v.3 – Abraham is speaking...
  - *“And said, My Lord...”*

### **#3 – ABRAHAM, again, AS HE WAS ABOUT TO OFFER ISAAC AS A BURNT SACRIFICE – Genesis 22:1-19**

- v.11 – makes a reference to *“the angel of the LORD”*.
- v.12 – it is the “angel” talking and he says...
  - *“...seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.”*

#### ✚ #4 – **JACOB and the “WRESTLING MATCH” – Genesis 32:24-30**

- v. 24 – Jacob was wrestling with “a man”.
- v.30 – Jacob said...
  - *“...for I have seen God face to face...”*

#### ✚ #5 – **MOSES and the BURNING BUSH – Exodus 3:1-6**

- Many references here leaving NO DOUBT that this was God making an appearance to man in the Old Testament.
  - v.2 – *“...the angel of the LORD appeared unto him...”*
  - v.4 – *“...God called unto him out of the midst of the bush...”*
  - v.6 – *“...he said, Moreover I am the God of...”*
  - v.6 – *“...And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”*

#### ✚ #6 – **IN THE CLOUD THAT LED THE ISRAELITES THROUGH THE DESERT – Exodus 13:20-22**

- v.21 explains how this was God (the LORD) –
  - *“...the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud...”*
- We also have a *New Testament* that sheds even more light on this:
  - I Corinthians 10:1-4

#### ✚ #7 – **GIDEON – Judges 6:11-24**

##### QUICK BACKGROUND...

- ❖ Because of their rebellion and idolatry (5:8; 6:10), God delivered the children of Israel into the hands of the Midianites for 7 years (v.1)
- ❖ 6:7 – they cried out for deliverance
- ❖ 6:11 – God raises up Gideon

- v.11 – The angel of the LORD appears to Gideon under an oak tree
- v.13, 15 – Gideon refers to the angel...
  - *“...Oh my Lord...”*
- v.14-24 – much ‘back and forth’ addressing and referring to the angel as “the LORD”.

#### **#8 – THE ANGEL THAT APPEARED TO SAMSON’S MOTHER – Judges 13:2-22**

- Manoah was Samson’s father
- Samson’s mother’s name is not recorded in scripture.
- v.3 – the “angel of the LORD” appears to Mrs. Manoah.
- v.6,8 – he is referred to as “a man of God”.
- v.18 – The angel says that his name is *“...a secret...”*
- v.19-20 – The angel makes a “supernatural exit”.
- v.20-21 reveal who this “angel” and “man of God” was...
  - *“...because we have seen God...”*

#### **#9 – ISAIAH – Isaiah 6:1-8**

- There is no doubt that Isaiah saw God (the Lord) here.
  - v.1 – *“...I saw also the Lord...”*
  - v.1-7 – detailed descriptions of what he SAW, what he HEARD, and what he FELT (v.6-7).
  - v.8 – *“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying...”*

#### **POINT TO PONDER...**

We know WHO Isaiah saw (the Lord), but we do not know HOW he saw him...

- ✓ Could have been a dream/vision.
- ✓ Could have been God opening Isaiah’s eyes and giving him a literal glimpse into heaven.

 **#10 – THE FOURTH MAN IN THE FIRE – Daniel 3:23-25**

- There is no record of what may have been said between the three Hebrew children and Jesus.
- There is no reference mentioned anywhere else in scripture to this account.
- All we have is King Nebuchadnezzar's description: "*...the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*"
  - There is only ONE who could be described that way!

 **CLOSING:**

- Some have asked: why doesn't God appear today to people like He did to those Old Testament saints?
  - FIRST, we have a completed Bible – Word of God.
    - I Samuel 3:1
  - SECOND, we have the Holy Ghost.
    - John 16:13