BIBLE TOPICS · CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Christophanies

Jesus Christ Before Bethlehem · The Angel of the LORD

Before Abraham
The eternal Son

Angel of the LORD
Called God, worshipped

Twelve Visits
Genesis to Daniel

Born at Bethlehem
The Word made flesh

WHO HE IS

The Angel of the LORD Is the Son of God

Scripture gives six clear signs that the Angel of the LORD is not a created angel but God the Son.

CALLED GOD

He Is Called God

Hagar named the One who spoke to her.

"Thou God seest me"

GENESIS 16:13

SPEAKS AS GOD

He Speaks as God

From the bush He named Himself.

"I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham"

EXODUS 3:6

WORSHIPPED

He Receives Worship

Angels refuse worship. He accepted it.

"And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship"

JOSHUA 5:14

GOD'S NAME

He Bears God's Name

God put His own name in this Angel.

"for My name is in Him."

EXODUS 23:21

DISTINCT

He Prays to the Father

He is God, yet distinct from the Father.

"O LORD of hosts, how long wilt Thou not have mercy on Jerusalem"

ZECHARIAH 1:12

REDEEMER

He Redeems

Jacob called Him his Redeemer.

"The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads"

GENESIS 48:16

KEY VERSE

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

John 8:58 (KJV)

The Christophanies Chart

BIBLE TOPICS · CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Christophanies

Appearances of Christ before Bethlehem

Twelve visits of the Son of God, from Genesis to Daniel

In the Days of the Patriarchs

1 Hagar in the Wilderness
Thou God seest me
GENESIS 16:13

2 Abraham at Mamre
The LORD appeared unto him
GENESIS 18:1

3 Abraham on Mount Moriah
By Myself have I sworn, saith the LORD
GENESIS 22:16

4 Jacob at Peniel
I have seen God face to face
GENESIS 32:30

In the Days of Moses and Joshua

5 Moses at the Burning Bush
In a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush
EXODUS 3:2

6 The Angel Before Israel
My name is in Him
EXODUS 23:21

7 Balaam on the Road
His sword drawn in His hand
NUMBERS 22:31

8 Joshua at Jericho
As captain of the host of the LORD
JOSHUA 5:14

In the Days of the Judges and Prophets

9 Israel at Bochim
I will never break My covenant with you
JUDGES 2:1

10 Gideon at Ophrah
The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man
JUDGES 6:12

11 Samson's Parents
We have seen God
JUDGES 13:22

12 The Fourth Man in the Fire
Like the Son of God
DANIEL 3:25

KEY VERSE

"Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Before Abraham was, I am."

JOHN 8:58 (KJV)

BibleStudyForAll.com · Scripture quotations from the King James Version

The Patriarchs, Moses and Joshua

GENESIS

Appearances to the Patriarchs

In Genesis the Son of God came to a servant girl, to Abraham, and to Jacob.

HAGAR

The God Who Sees

He found a runaway servant by a well.

"And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness"

GENESIS 16:7

ISHMAEL

The God Who Hears

He heard a dying boy and opened Hagar's eyes to a well.

"and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven"

GENESIS 21:17

ABRAHAM

A Guest at Mamre

The LORD ate with Abraham and promised Isaac.

"Is any thing too hard for the LORD?"

GENESIS 18:14

ABRAHAM

The Judge of All the Earth

Abraham pleaded with Him for Sodom.

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

GENESIS 18:25

MORIAH

The Voice from Heaven

He stopped the knife and provided a ram.

"for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me."

GENESIS 22:12

JACOB

Wrestling till Dawn

He gave Jacob a new name, Israel.

"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day."

GENESIS 32:24

EXODUS TO JOSHUA

Appearances to Moses and Joshua

The Angel of the LORD called Moses, led Israel out of Egypt, and met Joshua at the gates of Canaan.

THE BUSH

Fire That Did Not Burn

He called Moses at Horeb.

"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush"

EXODUS 3:2

I AM

The Name of God

The name Jesus took for Himself.

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM"

EXODUS 3:14

THE RED SEA

The Angel Before the Camp

He moved between Israel and Pharaoh's army.

"And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them"

EXODUS 14:19

THE WILDERNESS

Sent to Keep Them

God's own name was in Him.

"Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way"

EXODUS 23:20

BALAAM

Standing in the Way

He stopped a prophet hired to curse Israel.

"but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak."

NUMBERS 22:35

JOSHUA

Captain of the Host

Holy ground outside Jericho.

"Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy."

JOSHUA 5:15

Judges, Prophets and the New Testament

JUDGES TO DANIEL

Appearances in the Days of the Judges and Prophets

The Son of God kept coming to His people in hard times: in the days of the judges, in the fiery furnace, and in the prophets' visions.

BOCHIM

The Covenant Keeper

He reminded Israel who had saved them.

"I made you to go up out of Egypt"

JUDGES 2:1

GIDEON

A Mighty Man of Valour

He called a fearful farmer to save Israel.

"Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?"

JUDGES 6:14

MANOAH

His Name Is Wonderful

He promised Samson and rose in the altar's flame.

"Why askest thou thus after My name, seeing it is secret?"

JUDGES 13:18

THE FURNACE

Four Men in the Fire

He walked with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

"Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt"

DANIEL 3:25

ISAIAH

High and Lifted Up

John says Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus.

"I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up"

ISAIAH 6:1

ZECHARIAH

The Defender of His People

He rebuked Satan and cleansed the high priest.

"The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan"

ZECHARIAH 3:2

In the margin of the King James Version, "secret" in Judges 13:18 is given as "Wonderful," the same word Isaiah uses for the coming Child: "His name shall be called Wonderful" (Isaiah 9:6).

THE NEW TESTAMENT

What the New Testament Says

Jesus and the apostles tell us plainly that the Son of God was present and active in Old Testament times.

In the Old Testament	In the New Testament
The LORD appeared to Abraham at Mamre GENESIS 18:1	**"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad."** JOHN 8:56
God named Himself I AM THAT I AM at the bush EXODUS 3:14	**"Before Abraham was, I am."** JOHN 8:58
Isaiah saw the Lord on His throne ISAIAH 6:1	**"These things said Esaias, when he saw His glory, and spake of Him."** JOHN 12:41
Israel drank water from the rock EXODUS 17:6	**"for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."** 1 CORINTHIANS 10:4
Jacob saw God face to face GENESIS 32:30	**"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son … He hath declared Him."** JOHN 1:18

> *"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself."*
>
> Luke 24:27 (KJV)

What the Christophanies Teach Us

FOR TODAY

What the Christophanies Teach Us Today

The Lord who met His people in the Old Testament is the same Lord Jesus who meets us now.

1

He Sees You

No one is too small or too far away.

"Have I also here looked after Him that seeth me?"

GENESIS 16:13

2

He Comes Near

God does not stay far off; the Son comes to His people.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"

JOHN 1:14

3

He Changes Lives

Jacob the schemer became Israel.

"Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel"

GENESIS 32:28

4

He Is Holy

Moses and Joshua took off their shoes.

"for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

EXODUS 3:5

5

He Is with You in the Fire

Trials do not mean He has left.

"when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned"

ISAIAH 43:2

6

He Never Changes

The same Lord, then and now.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

HEBREWS 13:8

KEY THEMES

Six Truths the Christophanies Teach

Every appearance of the Son of God in the Old Testament points to these six truths about Him.

1

He Is Eternal

The Son existed long before His birth.

"whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

MICAH 5:2

2

He Is God

Those who saw Him knew they had seen God.

"for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

GENESIS 32:30

3

He Reveals the Father

God is made known through the Son.

"the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."

JOHN 1:18

4

He Keeps His Promises

He swore by Himself to bless Abraham.

"By Myself have I sworn, saith the LORD"

GENESIS 22:16

5

He Is with His People

He walked with His servants in the fire.

"and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

DANIEL 3:25

6

He Leads the Battle

The LORD's host follows its Captain.

"but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come."

JOSHUA 5:14