

Genesis 18 (The pre-incarnate Christ appears); Christ 101 (40)

Several, even many, times in our Bible studies we have encountered the pre-incarnate Christ (Jesus) also known as a "theophany" and I have described Him as such. But I have not gone in to a detailed explanation of this, so for those who are listening that might be confused about this I will explain (Of course I ask those who fully understand this to bear with me.): In the Old Testament, "LORD" (all capitals) means Jehovah, or YaWeH. And Overwhelmingly it refers to God the Son, of the God Head. The God head (Trinity) is comprised of three Persons in One God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This "Elohim" (Plural God) has no beginning and has no end. ^(And co-equal)

In the Book of John we learned a lot about God the Son. First we learned that He created everything that has ever been created:

John 1:1-3 New King James Version

The Eternal Word

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

God the Son was there from the beginning. He is known as "the Word", meaning that He speaks all things God to us. And all things God to us is the Words of Jesus and the Bible in its entirety. (It is the person of the Holy Spirit within us that convinces us that every word in the Bible is God's truth). John 1:1-4 also tells us that God the Son created all things in heaven and on earth. This includes you

and I. (Genesis 1:26: "Let us make man in Our image, (41) according to Our likeness. - "Our likeness" means a perfect, loving,

relationship of love between the Father and the Son, A complete Harmonious existence with each other.) It is God the Son who created us: Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations" and Psalms 139:13+14: "For You formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother's womb; I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made," (Side note: Since God made us, He surely equipped us for us to be able to do the ministry that we were created to do for His glory)

Now there came a time when God's chosen people told God that they would do everything that God required them to do to be perfect in God's eyes. So He gave them the Law, the 10 commandments, and shortly thereafter He further defined 613 Levitical laws. Of course these laws could never be kept by sin filled man, so the people failed miserably and even turned to other "gods" (false gods) to achieve peace in their minds that they were good enough for God. (This is known as religion). Instead of confessing that they were sinners who could not keep the law in its entirety and admitting to God that they fell short they stubbornly pressed forward.

So God the Father and God the Son agreed that there could only be one way in that mankind could be redeemed. That would be that God the Son would lay off His robe of Omnipotence (being all powerful), Omniscience (knowing all this) and Omnipresence (being everywhere at all times) and take on the form of a man by being born in to this world by the virgin Mary. This happened when the Holy

Spirit "overshadowed" Mary and she became pregnant. (42)
God the Son would be born in a manger without wealth

• Or prestige. Still fully God (walking this earth seeking His Father's will and speaking for God) but also fully man (being able to sin - but choosing not to, and of course enduring all things that are common to man; pain, suffering, loss, fear, heartache, rejection, humiliation, slander, false imprisonment, tiredness, being falsely accused, born false witness against and of course temptation). Jesus would be confronted with every possible suffering known to man and have to endure it in His fully fleshly body. Without relief, EXCEPT that of a relationship with His Father which just so happened to be all that He (and us) needed:

John 1:14 New King James Version

The Word Becomes Flesh

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Around 33 A.D. (Anno Domini - after He was born) He had endured all things without having sinned even once. So now He would be able to take on the punishment for any, and all, who would accept Him taking their place. For all who would call Him LORD, He would exchange His perfectly sinless life and take on their sin filled lives and the punishment that would have come. That is why He is called the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:



John 1:29-30 New King James Version

The Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'

Also, the Bible is very clear that no one has ever seen God and lived (God the Father). Moses had to hide his face in the cleft of the rock as God passed by. And the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus, replies if you've seen Me you have seen the Father. This is because Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. And all those that saw Him in the Old Testament saw Him before He was born of a woman!

Colossians 1:13-16 New King James Version

God the Father

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

* i Greek: "eikon"; exact likeness

Genesis 18:1-5 Abraham saw three individuals standing in his near vicinity. He noticed that they had an aura about them that demanded respect. He actually "bowed himself to the ground" and reverentially feared one of them. We know this because of the use of "Your sight, Your servant." Abraham

is so intrigued by their presence that he pleads with them to stay and fellowship with him. (44)

• Genesis 18:6-10 Abraham's intuition was spot on. The three asked him where his wife Sarah was. Abraham said, "in the tent" then He (theophany) said that He would return in 9 months (the time of life) and then bless Sarah with the birth of a child.

Genesis 18:11: The Scripture makes clear that Abraham was past the age of possibility in fathering a child and that Sarah was far past the age of being able to have children (exactly the odds that God prefers. God loves to act when it is absolutely impossible for something to happen!).

Genesis 18:12: Sarah was not laughing at God but rather at the impossibility of the situation.

Genesis 18:13-14 Key verse: "Is anything too hard for the LORD?"

I mean think about it; God creates earth, ^{the} heavens, all living creatures and all the elements that exist in the universe and then He takes a hand full of dirt, breaths on it and Adam is formed! I sometimes also respond like Sarah.

Genesis 18:15 Our human nature says, "no, I didn't" but we can't fool God, God knows what we are about to do or say long before we even do or say it!

Genesis 18:16-19 The two angelic hosts, the LORD, and Abraham set their sights on Sodom and Gomorrah. During the journey the LORD is about to tell him the fate of these cities when He says something beautiful! He says, "I have known him", past tense, for something that has not yet happened! That Abraham will

command his children and his household... the way of the Lord. In the Scriptures to say, "I have known..." is an expression of intimate, personal bond like a marriage. And this

does not only pertain to Abraham but also to us. (45)
God knows us, possibly more intimately, because we chose
to know Him through Jesus.

Genesis 18:20-21 God reveals that the injustice and filth
that is happening in Sodom and Gomorrah has come to His
knowledge and that He is going to "check it out" for Himself.
Of course a few centuries later the Israelites too will cry out
because of the injustice being done to them. This does not mean that
God does not know what's going on, or that He waits till enough
people cry out. Absolutely not. God is sovereign and always takes
action at His perfect time.

Genesis 18:22-23 Abraham knows what the LORD is going to do
as soon as He sees Sodom and Gomorrah so he tries to intercede. He
asks the LORD if He would destroy "the righteous with the
wicked"? Abraham knows for a fact, from the historical
account of Noah's Ark, that God always, always, always enables
the righteous an escape, a shelter, from His wrath. This truth
extends from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21. We are told
that there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus,
that we (believers) are not appointed to God's wrath, that no weapon
formed against us shall prosper, that He will never leave us
nor forsake us, that He has gone ahead and is preparing a place
for us, that we will not taste death and that being absent
from the world is to be present with the Lord, that we will
forever be with Him, be like Him, and see Him as He is. (This
means we will know Him as He already knows us).

Genesis 18:24-33 Armed with this knowledge Abraham starts his
bargaining with God: Will you destroy it if 50 righteous in Sodom
and Gomorrah? No. 45? No. 40? No. 30? No. 20? No. 10? (Even Abraham
is ashamed of the number 10! Again God answers, "No". (Quora states: 50,000 people)