

Questions About Jesus As Proof of Reincarnation

By Pastor Ed Anderson

I believe that reincarnation is real. Prove me wrong. Even Jesus was reincarnated when he appeared to Joshua as a man, then to Abraham, as an angel, and then born of Mary's a baby.

Answer:

That's a very sincere and important question — and I want to commend you for thinking deeply about how God reveals Himself throughout Scripture. What you're describing actually touches on something **real and biblical**, but it's **not reincarnation** — it's called **Christophany**, or **theophany** — appearances of God (or Christ) in human form **before the Incarnation**. Let's look closely and lovingly at why **the Bible does not teach reincarnation**, but instead reveals something much more powerful.

1. What Reincarnation Actually Teaches

Reincarnation is the belief that after death, a person's **soul is reborn** into another body — either human or animal — to live out another life, often based on karma or moral performance.

This is a concept found in **Hinduism, Buddhism, and New Age spirituality**, but **not in the Bible**.

The Bible teaches that:

"It is appointed unto men **once to die**, but after this the judgment."
— **Hebrews 9:27**

That means:

- You and I get **one life**, not many.
- After death comes **resurrection**, not rebirth.
- Our destiny is decided not by endless cycles, but by **our relationship with**

Christ in this one life.

2. Jesus Was Not Reincarnated — He Was Incarnated

Reincarnation means a **soul reappears** in a new body after death.

Incarnation means **God took on flesh** once and for all.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”
— **John 1:14**

Before His birth in Bethlehem, the **Son of God already existed eternally**. He appeared in different forms **before He became human** — but these were **temporary manifestations**, not new lives.

That’s the difference between:

- **Reincarnation** — a change in identity or being.
- **Incarnation / Theophany** — the same eternal Being revealing Himself differently to fulfill His purpose.

3. Jesus’ Appearances Before His Birth Were Real — But Not Rebirths

You’re right that Jesus appeared in the Old Testament, but these were **Christophanies** — pre-incarnate appearances of the Son of God.

Examples:

1. **To Abraham** — as one of the “three visitors” (Genesis 18).
2. **To Joshua** — as “the Captain of the Lord’s host” (Joshua 5:13–15).
3. **To Moses** — as the voice in the burning bush (Exodus 3:2–6).
4. **To Daniel** — as “one like the Son of Man” (Daniel 7:13).

Each time, He appeared for a **purpose**, not as a reincarnated being. He was **the same eternal Son of God** taking temporary form to **reveal God’s presence** and **guide His people**.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” — **Hebrews 13:8**

He didn’t live multiple lives — He has always been **the same eternal Person** acting through history.

4. Reincarnation Contradicts the Gospel

If reincarnation were true:

- Jesus’ **death on the cross** would be unnecessary (you could “work off” your mistakes in another life).
- Salvation would be **earned**, not **given by grace**.

- The **resurrection** would lose meaning, because souls would never really die — just recycle.

But Jesus said:

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

— **John 11:25**

That means eternal life comes **not from returning again and again**, but from being **born again** once through the Spirit (John 3:3–5).

5. The Bible Teaches Resurrection, Not Reincarnation

Reincarnation says: “You live many times until you get it right.”

Resurrection says: “You die once — and Jesus raises you to eternal life by His grace.”

“The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth.”

— **John 5:28–29**

That’s not reincarnation. That’s the **final resurrection** — when Jesus restores life eternally to His children.

6. The Hope of the Gospel Is Far Greater Than Reincarnation

Reincarnation is a cycle with no end.

The Gospel is a promise with **a destination** — life eternal with God.

In reincarnation, your soul never truly rests.

In Christ, your soul **finally comes home**.

“And so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

— **1 Thessalonians 4:17**

Final Thought

Jesus was not reincarnated — He is **the eternal Word**, who stepped into time and human flesh to save us.

Reincarnation looks backward — trying to fix what’s broken through endless lives.

The Gospel looks forward — to resurrection, redemption, and everlasting life with God.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

— **1 Corinthians 15:22**