

CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

Overview

This Bible study session focused on the doctrine of God the Son, specifically examining Jesus Christ's presence and activity throughout the Old Testament prior to His incarnation. The study explored how Christ appeared to various Old Testament figures, the prophecies concerning His coming, and how these prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament. The session emphasized the continuity of God's redemptive plan from Genesis through the New Testament, demonstrating that Jesus was actively involved in human history long before His birth in Bethlehem.

Key Concepts or Theories:

Theophany: Pre-incarnate manifestations of Christ in the Old Testament, often appearing as the Angel of the Lord

Pre-incarnate Christ: Jesus existing and actively ministering before His human birth

The Abrahamic Covenant: God's promise to Abraham that extends to believers through Christ

Imputation: Christ's righteousness credited to believers' accounts

Substitutionary Atonement: Christ taking on the penalty and wrath for human sin

The Law as Mirror: The Mosaic Law revealing human sinfulness and need for a Savior

Engrafting: Gentile believers being adopted into God's family through faith in Christ

Important Questions Raised:

How was Jesus active in the Old Testament before His incarnation?

What is the relationship between the Old Testament prophecies and their New Testament fulfillment?

How do believers today benefit from the Abrahamic covenant?

Why did God give the Law if salvation comes through Christ?

What does it mean that Christ "bore" our sins rather than "became" sin?

How does understanding Christ's pre-existence strengthen our faith?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Jesus Christ was actively present and ministering throughout the Old Testament as the Angel of the Lord
- The pre-incarnate Christ appeared to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, and Isaiah among others
- Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah were fulfilled with precise accuracy in Jesus Christ
- Believers are engrafted into the Abrahamic covenant through faith in Christ, receiving all covenant benefits
- The Mosaic Law served as a mirror to show humanity their sinfulness and need for a Savior
- Christ fulfilled the Law perfectly, and believers are justified through Him rather than through keeping the Law
- Isaiah 53 prophetically described Christ's suffering, rejection, and substitutionary death centuries before it occurred
- Christ bore the sins of humanity and took upon Himself the wrath of God as our substitute
- The seed promise in Genesis 3:15 was the first gospel prophecy, pointing to Christ's victory over Satan
- Understanding Christ's deity and pre-existence is essential to proper Christian doctrine

Topic 1: Christ's Pre-Incarnate Appearances in the Old Testament

Jesus Christ was not merely a New Testament figure who suddenly appeared in the book of Matthew. Throughout the Old Testament, He manifested Himself in various forms, often as the Angel of the Lord, demonstrating His active involvement in human history and His care for His people. These appearances, known as theophanies, reveal that Christ has always been present and working to accomplish God's redemptive plan.

Christ appeared to Abraham as the divine captain, confirming the covenant God had made with him. He manifested to Moses at the burning bush and later allowed Moses to see His glory, though Moses could only view God's "back" or shadow because the full Shekinah glory would have consumed him in his mortal state. Christ appeared to Joshua as the captain of the Lord's host before the battle of Jericho, and to Isaiah in the temple, where Isaiah saw the train of His robe filling the temple, representing God's glory.

These manifestations demonstrate that Christ cared deeply for the Old Testament saints and was personally involved in guiding, protecting, and revealing God's will to them. The Angel of the Lord, the Angel of His Presence, and the Angel of the Covenant are all titles identifying the pre-incarnate

Christ. He made covenants with the patriarchs, delivered Israel from Egypt, and spoke through the prophets, showing consistent divine activity throughout Israel's history.

The significance of these appearances cannot be overstated. They prove that Jesus is not a created being but the eternal God who existed before the foundation of the world. His involvement in Old Testament events establishes continuity between the Old and New Testaments and demonstrates that God's plan of redemption through Christ was in motion from the very beginning.

Relevant Q&A

Collean: Why does God manifest Himself in different ways throughout the Old Testament?

CLC: God manifested Himself in ways that people could comprehend without being consumed by His full glory. He turned down His Shekinah glory so humans in their mortal state could encounter Him and live.

CLC: Who was the rock in the wilderness that provided water for Israel?

Multiple participants: Jesus was the rock.

CLC: Exactly. Jesus was active throughout the Old Testament, and when we look carefully, we see Christ all through it.

Topic 2: The Abrahamic Covenant and Believers Today

The Abrahamic covenant, established in Genesis, was not merely a promise to the physical descendants of Abraham but extends to all believers through Jesus Christ. God promised Abraham that through his seed all nations would be blessed, and that seed is ultimately Christ. This covenant demonstrates God's strategic plan to bring salvation to all people, not just the Jewish nation.

The covenant included promises that God would bless those who blessed Abraham's descendants and curse those who cursed them. This principle has been evident throughout history, including America's support of Israel through provisions like the Iron Dome missile defense system. Nations that have blessed Israel have themselves been blessed, demonstrating the ongoing relevance of this ancient covenant.

However, the most significant aspect of the Abrahamic covenant is how believers today are included in its promises. Through faith in Christ, Gentile believers are grafted into the family of God and become Abraham's spiritual offspring. Galatians 3:29 explicitly states that if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. This means believers inherit all the covenant blessings promised to Abraham.

This adoption into God's family is complete and legal. Just as an adopted child has full legal rights equal to biological children, believers grafted into God's family have complete access to all covenant benefits. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile in Christ; all are one in Him. This

understanding counters false teachings that suggest only ethnic Jews can claim covenant promises or that Gentile believers are somehow second-class citizens in God's kingdom.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: How do we benefit from the Abrahamic covenant if we're not physical descendants of Abraham?

Stacia: We were adopted into the family.

CLC: Exactly. We've been engrafted into the Kingdom of God through Christ, and we have all the benefits that everybody else in this family has.

Stacia: As someone who was adopted, legally I have all the same rights as my mom's biological daughter. The law sees no difference.

CLC: That's a perfect example. Just like legal adoption gives full rights, our spiritual adoption gives us complete access to all covenant promises.

Topic 3: The Purpose and Fulfillment of the Law

The Mosaic Law served a crucial purpose in God's redemptive plan, though it was never intended as a means of salvation. The Law functioned as a mirror, revealing humanity's sinfulness and inability to meet God's perfect standard. Through hundreds of commandments, God demonstrated that humans could not achieve righteousness through their own efforts, creating a desperate need for a Savior.

The Law showed people their true condition before a holy God. When confronted with God's perfect standard, people realized they were "men of unclean lips" dwelling among "people of unclean lips," as Isaiah confessed when he encountered God's glory. The Law was meant to drive people to recognize their need for divine intervention and grace.

Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law completely. He kept every commandment perfectly, achieving the righteousness that the Law demanded but that no human could accomplish. When Christ fulfilled the Law, He became the righteousness that believers need. Those who are in Christ are credited with His perfect obedience; His righteousness is imputed to their account.

This means believers are no longer under the Law as a means of salvation. Attempting to keep the Law for salvation is futile because breaking one part means breaking all of it. However, this does not mean the Law is irrelevant. It still reveals God's character and moral standards, but believers keep it out of love and gratitude rather than as a requirement for salvation. The Law was a guardian until Christ came, but now that faith has come, believers are justified by faith in Christ rather than by works of the Law.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Why did God give us the Law? What do we need a Law for?

Stacia: So we would recognize our sins.

CLC: Exactly. The Law was a mirror. It showed us all our imperfections and sin, and when Christ came, people were glad to grab hold of Him because they knew they didn't measure up to God's standard.

CLC: If you try to keep the Law and put yourself back under it, what happens if you break one part?

Multiple participants: You broke all of it.

CLC: That's right. That's why Christ came to fulfill the Law. We ride on what He did.

Topic 4: Isaiah 53 and Christ's Substitutionary Atonement

Isaiah 53 provides one of the most detailed and powerful prophecies of Christ's suffering and death, written approximately 700 years before Jesus was born. This passage describes with remarkable precision the rejection, suffering, and substitutionary death that Christ would endure. The fulfillment of these prophecies demonstrates the divine inspiration of Scripture and the predetermined nature of God's redemptive plan.

The prophecy begins by noting that few would believe the message and that the Messiah would have no physical beauty or majesty that would attract people to Him. Jesus indeed came as a humble carpenter from Nazareth, a town so insignificant that people questioned whether anything good could come from there. He was despised and rejected by His own people, exactly as Isaiah predicted.

The heart of Isaiah 53 describes Christ's substitutionary atonement. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. The chastisement that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. This language clearly indicates that Christ took upon Himself the punishment that humanity deserved.

Importantly, Christ did not become sin, as He remained impeccable and without sin. Rather, sin was laid upon Him. He bore the weight of humanity's sin and experienced the wrath of God that should have fallen on sinners. Even God the Father turned away during those moments when Christ carried the sins of the world. Christ's substitutionary death means He died in our place, taking the penalty we deserved so that we could receive the righteousness we did not deserve. His righteousness was imputed to our account while our sin was placed on Him.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Was Christ's execution deserved?

Collean: No, it was totally undeserved.

CLC: Exactly. They had no respect for Him, making His grave with the wicked. But if all this came to pass exactly as prophesied, how can anyone say the Bible isn't true?

Collean: The verse says He "bore" our sins. What's the significance of that word?

CLC: "Bore" means to bear weight, to hold up. He wasn't a sinner; He bore it. He took on our mess, our penalty.

D'Juan: He took sin on, but He didn't become sin.

CLC: Exactly, brother. He's impeccable. Sin was laid on Him, but He remained without sin.

Topic 5: The Seed Promise and Christ's Lineage

The promise of a coming Savior began in Genesis 3:15, immediately after the Fall. God told the serpent that He would put enmity between the serpent and the woman, and between the serpent's offspring and the woman's offspring. Significantly, God spoke of the woman's seed rather than the man's seed, pointing forward to the virgin birth where Christ would be conceived by the Holy Spirit rather than through natural human generation.

This seed promise continued through specific lineages. The seed passed through Abel, Seth, and Noah, then through Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and specifically through the tribe of Judah. God was strategic in preserving and identifying the line through which the Messiah would come. Each generation received confirmation of the promise, ensuring that hope in the coming Redeemer remained alive.

The tribe of Judah held special significance. Judah's tribe led Israel's march through the wilderness and was the largest tribe. Genesis 49:10 prophesied that the scepter would not depart from Judah, pointing to a future ruler. Revelation 5:5 identifies Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah who has conquered and is worthy to open the scroll. This connection between Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment demonstrates the Bible's internal consistency.

The genealogy in Matthew 1 traces Jesus' legal lineage through Joseph back to Abraham and David, establishing His rightful claim to the throne of David. Notably, while the genealogy primarily lists men, Mary's name appears, highlighting the unique nature of Christ's birth. No other women are mentioned in the genealogical line, emphasizing that the seed came through the woman as God had promised in Genesis 3:15.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Why did God say the seed would come from the woman rather than the man?

CLC: Because God wasn't going to use a man's seed. He was going to use the woman as a house to house His seed. This points to the virgin birth and shows that Joseph was not Jesus' biological

father.

CLC: What tribe did Jesus come from?

Multiple participants: Judah.

CLC: Right. And Judah's tribe always went first in the wilderness march. Jesus, from Judah's line, is our conquering King.

Topic 6: Modern Application and False Doctrines

Understanding Christ's deity, pre-existence, and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies is essential for defending against false doctrines prevalent today. Many groups deny Christ's divinity, claiming He was merely human or that He was created rather than eternal. Some teach that Mary was sinless or that believers should pray to her. Others attempt to place believers back under the Mosaic Law or deny the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice.

The study emphasized the importance of being equipped to give answers to those who question or distort biblical truth. In online debates and discussions, many people promote false doctrines with confidence, and without solid biblical knowledge, believers can be confused or led astray. Knowing Scripture and understanding systematic theology enables believers to identify errors and provide biblical corrections.

The doctrine of Christ's impeccability is crucial. He could not become sin because He is God, but sin was laid upon Him. Understanding this distinction prevents confusion about Christ's nature. Similarly, recognizing that Mary was a vessel chosen by God but not sinless herself prevents the error of Marian worship. The Holy Spirit came upon Mary; she did nothing to merit or accomplish the incarnation.

The Bible proves itself through fulfilled prophecy. When Isaiah wrote detailed descriptions of Christ's suffering 700 years before it occurred, and when those prophecies were fulfilled precisely, it demonstrates divine inspiration. Believers can confidently point to these fulfillments as evidence of Scripture's reliability. The consistency between Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment shows that God's plan has been in motion from the beginning and that He keeps His promises.

Relevant Q&A

Reginald: Courtney's Catholic school teaches that everyone except Mary and Jesus suffered from original sin. Is this biblical?

CLC: That's completely false doctrine. Mary needed a Savior just like everyone else. Luke 1:35 shows that the Holy Spirit came upon Mary; she didn't do anything herself. People worship Mary, but she played the role God assigned her as a vessel.

CLC: Why couldn't they find Moses' bones or grave?

CLC: Because people would worship these figures. Even the Israelites wanted to hold onto Abraham and Moses, putting them before Christ. God prevented this idolatry by hiding their remains.

Sister: God is so strategic in showing us how terrible our choices are so we'll run to Him.

CLC: Yes, and even the Law was grace, showing us ourselves. It was still God's grace showing up because it revealed our need for Christ.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

Continue reading and studying the doctrine book, focusing on the sections covering God the Son

Review the scriptures discussed, particularly Isaiah 53, Genesis 3:15, and Galatians 3, to deepen understanding of Christ's work

Prepare to discuss Christ's names and their indication of His eternal being in the next session, starting around page 43

Be ready to share the gospel with someone this week, using the knowledge gained about Christ's substitutionary atonement

Study the genealogy in Matthew 1 to understand Christ's legal lineage and the significance of the seed promise

Pray for those mentioned in the prayer requests, including the Miller family, Corey, Mrs. Schofield, Tyasia, Cherise Turner, and Destiny

Supplemental Resources

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