

CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

Overview

This Bible study session focused on the doctrine of Jesus Christ, specifically examining His presence in the Old Testament, His names and titles, and the fulfillment of prophecy regarding His virgin birth and divine nature. The study emphasized that Jesus existed before His earthly manifestation and that He is fully God and fully man, the second person of the Trinity. The instructor guided participants through Scripture to demonstrate how the Old Testament prophesied Christ's coming and how the New Testament fulfilled these prophecies.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- **Proto-evangelium (Genesis 3:15):** The first gospel promise where God declares that the seed of woman will bruise the serpent's head, prophesying Christ's victory over Satan
- **Theophany and Christophany:** Appearances of God (theophany) and specifically Christ (Christophany) in the Old Testament
- **Virgin Birth:** Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, fulfilling Isaiah 7:14
- **Trinity/Godhead:** God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - equal in divine perfection but with distinct functions
- **Jesus as the Second Adam:** Christ came as a man to redeem humanity from the fall of the first Adam
- **The "I AM" statements:** Jesus' declarations of His divine nature and eternal existence
- **Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification:** The three stages of salvation (past, present, and future)

Important Questions Raised:

- How can we prove Jesus existed in the Old Testament?
- What does it mean that Jesus is both fully God and fully man?
- Why did Jesus need to come as a human to save humanity?
- What is the significance of Jesus' various names and titles?

- How do we explain the Trinity to someone who doesn't understand it?
- What is the difference between water baptism and spiritual salvation?
- Why is it important to have a working knowledge of Scripture to defend our faith?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Jesus Christ is present throughout the Old Testament, appearing as the Angel of the Lord and in various theophanies
- The proto-evangelium in Genesis 3:15 is the first promise of the Messiah and the gospel
- Jesus' virgin birth was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 and fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25
- Jesus has multiple names that reveal His character and divine nature: Jesus (Savior), Christ (Anointed One), Lord (Deity and Authority), Emmanuel (God with us), Son of God, and the Word
- The Trinity consists of three distinct persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who are equal in every divine perfection but have different functions
- Jesus became human to deal with human sin, as humanity fell under Adam and needed redemption through the Second Adam
- Salvation begins with justification (past), continues through sanctification (present), and culminates in glorification (future)
- Water baptism is an outward act of an inward transformation that has already occurred through faith in Christ

Topic 1: Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

The study established that Jesus Christ was present throughout the Old Testament, not just appearing in the New Testament. Genesis 3:15 contains the proto-evangelium, the first gospel promise, where God tells the serpent that the seed of woman will bruise his head while the serpent will bruise His heel. This prophecy foretold both Christ's crucifixion (bruised heel) and His ultimate victory over Satan (bruised head). The instructor emphasized that this promise came immediately after the Fall, showing God's plan for redemption from the beginning.

Jesus appeared in the Old Testament through theophanies and Christophanies - divine appearances before His incarnation. Examples include Jacob wrestling with the Angel of the Lord, who was actually Christ. The word "Elohim" used for God in Genesis 1:1 is plural in Hebrew, indicating the Trinity's presence from creation. The study demonstrated that the Old Testament consistently pointed forward to Christ's coming, with prophets and promises building anticipation for the Messiah throughout Israel's history.

Relevant Q&A

Rico: Where in Genesis can we find Jesus in the Old Testament?

CLC: Genesis 3:15 - the proto-evangelium. God says "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." This is the first mention of the gospel promise.

CLC: What does the word "Elohim" mean in Genesis 1:1?

Reginald/Class: It's plural, meaning more than one but yet one - indicating the Trinity from the beginning of creation.

Topic 2: The Virgin Birth and Jesus' Divine Nature

The session examined the virgin birth as prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 and fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit, and to Joseph that he should not fear to take Mary as his wife because the child was conceived of the Holy Spirit. The study emphasized that Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, as Mary was pregnant before they came together. The Holy Spirit "overshadowed" Mary, similar to how God's presence filled the tabernacle in Exodus 40:34.

The instructor explained that Jesus had to be born of a virgin to be without sin, as all humanity inherited sin from Adam. If Joseph had been the biological father, Jesus would have inherited the sin nature. God sanctified Mary for this purpose, setting her apart as a holy vessel. Joseph's righteousness was demonstrated in his willingness to divorce Mary quietly rather than publicly shame her, and his obedience when the angel revealed God's plan. The virgin birth proved Jesus' divine nature while His human birth through Mary proved His humanity.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Who did Christ manifest when He came in human form?

Class: God the Father - "When you've seen me, you've seen the Father." He was the exact representation of the Father.

CLC: Before they came together, what does Matthew 1:18 say about Mary?

Class: She was found with child of the Holy Spirit - proving Joseph was not the father.

CLC: Why couldn't Joseph have relations with Mary until after Jesus was born?

Rico: He would have made her filthy. She was sanctified, set apart for God's purpose and couldn't be tainted.

Topic 3: The Names and Titles of Jesus

The study explored the significance of Jesus' various names and titles, each revealing aspects of His character and mission. "Jesus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew "Joshua," meaning "Jehovah saves" or "Savior." This was His personal name given before birth, indicating His mission to save people from their sins. "Christ" means "the Anointed One," equivalent to the Hebrew "Messiah," and was used prominently after His resurrection to emphasize His completed work of salvation.

"Lord" (Greek: Kurios) indicates deity and authority, showing Jesus' divine nature and sovereignty. "Emmanuel" means "God with us," fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy and demonstrating that God came down to dwell with humanity. "Son of God" establishes His deity and eternal existence as the second person of the Trinity. "The Word" (John 1:1) shows that Jesus existed from the beginning and was the agent of creation. The "I AM" statements throughout John's Gospel (bread of life, light of the world, good shepherd, resurrection and life, way/truth/life) declare His divine nature and self-existence, echoing God's name revealed to Moses.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: What does the name "Emmanuel" mean?

Class: God with us - showing that God came down to tabernacle in a body with His creation.

CLC: Why did Jesus tell the Pharisees "Before Abraham was, I AM" in John 8:58?

Obie/Class: Because the Jews emphasized Abraham as their father, but Jesus was declaring that He existed before Abraham and was actually Abraham's God. He was establishing His eternal pre-existence.

CLC: What does "Lord" mean?

Mike/Class: Boss, master, person in charge - He is in control and has authority over everything.

Topic 4: The Trinity and Jesus as the Second Adam

The instructor explained the doctrine of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit are three distinct persons who are equal in every divine perfection but have different functions. This was compared to marriage, where husband and wife are equal but have different roles. The mystery of the Trinity cannot be fully comprehended by human minds, but Scripture clearly reveals this truth throughout both testaments.

The study emphasized that Jesus is the "Second Adam" (Romans 5). Because humanity fell into sin through the first Adam, all people inherited a sinful nature. Jesus came as a man to redeem humanity, but unlike Adam, He lived without sin and perfectly fulfilled God's law. The law was given to show humanity their sinfulness and need for a Savior, acting as a mirror to reveal our fallen condition. No one could keep the law perfectly except Jesus, and through faith in Him, believers are

credited with His righteousness. This explains why salvation must come through Christ alone - He is the only one who satisfied the law's requirements.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: Are the three persons of the Trinity equal?

Class: Yes, they are equal in every divine perfection, but they have different functions.

CLC: Who did mankind fall under?

Obie: Adam - all humanity fell with Adam when he sinned, so everyone connected to Adam is sinful.

CLC: What was the purpose of the law in the Old Testament?

Mike/Class: It's a mirror to show how sinful and messed up we are. Without the law, we wouldn't know how sinful we are. The law shows us our need for Christ.

Topic 5: Salvation and Baptism

The session addressed the doctrine of salvation, explaining the three stages: justification (past), sanctification (present), and glorification (future). When someone accepts Christ, they are immediately justified - declared righteous before God. Sanctification is the ongoing process of being set apart and growing in holiness. Glorification is the future state when believers receive their resurrection bodies and are fully conformed to Christ's image.

Water baptism was explained as an outward act of an inward transformation that has already occurred. The instructor emphasized that baptism does not save anyone - salvation happens in the heart through faith in Christ. A person can "go in as a dry devil and come up as a wet devil" if there's no genuine heart change. Baptism is an act of obedience to God's command and a public declaration of identification with Christ and His body, the church. It symbolizes dying to the old life and being raised to new life in Christ, mirroring Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Relevant Q&A

Sister: I was saved but never baptized in water. My pastor said I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Do I still need water baptism?

CLC: Yes, water baptism is an ordinance God commands. It's an outward act of an inward act that has already taken place. You don't go in the water to be saved - you're already saved before you go in. But we do it out of obedience, and it shows everyone else that you identify with the body of Christ.

CLC: Why do we need salvation? Why does man need Christ?

Class discussion: Because of the Fall - Adam sinned and all humanity fell with him into a sinful state. We need Christ because we cannot save ourselves or keep God's law perfectly.

Topic 6: Defending the Faith and Evangelism

The instructor emphasized the importance of having a "working knowledge" of Scripture to defend the faith and share the gospel effectively. He challenged participants to be able to articulate their beliefs and provide biblical evidence when questioned. The study modeled how to respond to common objections, such as proving Jesus existed before His birth, demonstrating His deity, and explaining the virgin birth.

The session included practical application, with the instructor role-playing as a skeptic and having participants defend their beliefs using Scripture. He stressed that Christians should be prepared to give answers, not just say "let me get back to you" or "ask my pastor." The church announced plans for an evangelism training program starting March 2nd to equip all members - not just leaders - to share their faith and lead people to Christ. The vision was for "each one bring one," with members actively inviting people to church and sharing the gospel in their communities.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: If someone says Jesus wasn't in the Old Testament, where could you take them?

Rico/Reginald: Genesis 3:15 - the proto-evangelium, the first gospel promise about the seed of woman bruising the serpent's head.

CLC: If someone says they don't believe Jesus is God, how would you prove it from Scripture?

Brittany (guided): Start with John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Then go to verse 14 - "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" - proving the Word is Jesus. Then show Genesis 1:1 where "Elohim" (plural) created, connecting back to show Jesus was there from the beginning.

Topic 7: Church Vision and Youth Ministry

The instructor shared his vision for reaching young people and growing the church. Sister Brittany reported that multiple middle school students (6th-8th grade) from her school were asking to attend church, describing them as being at a "ripe age where their hearts are open" and eager to learn. The church planned to use their van to pick up students, with volunteers rotating driving responsibilities monthly to avoid burdening one person.

The pastor announced plans to meet with all the church's children to assess their understanding of salvation and determine who is genuinely saved versus who may have been baptized without true understanding. He emphasized that children must reach an "age of accountability" - which varies for

each child - and be able to articulate their faith before baptism. Several people, including adults who were baptized as children, expressed desire to be re-baptized now that they have a deeper understanding. Baptisms were scheduled for the following Sunday for Tyasia, Lakenya, Brittany, and DJ, demonstrating the fruit of the teaching ministry.

Relevant Q&A

Sister Brittany: I have 5-6 middle school students ready to come to church. Can we arrange transportation?

CLC: Yes, we'll use the church van. Tony, Deacon Cain, and others can rotate driving once a month so it's not a burden on one person. Let us know by Friday which Sunday you want to bring them.

CLC: Why do you want to meet with all the children at church?

CLC: I want to find out who's saved, what they know about Christ, and their understanding. I'll ask questions like "Why do we need salvation?" to see if they can articulate their faith. Children must reach an age of accountability and truly understand before being baptized.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- All members should practice articulating their faith and be prepared to defend biblical truths about Jesus Christ using Scripture
- Parents should bring their children to church for the pastor's meeting to assess their understanding of salvation
- Those planning to be baptized (Tyasia, Lakenya, Brittany, DJ) should contact Sister Cain for baptism preparation details and appropriate attire (white clothing)
- Sister Brittany to coordinate with transportation volunteers (Tony, Deacon Cain) by Friday to arrange van pickup for students wanting to attend church
- All members encouraged to participate in the evangelism training program starting March 2nd
- Church leadership (Deacons Obie, Cain, and Reginald) to meet with the pastor next Thursday for a deacons' meeting to discuss church direction, eldership, and ministry plans
- Members should adopt the "each one bring one" vision - actively working to invite at least one person to church
- Continue studying the names and attributes of Jesus Christ in preparation for the next session on "God the Son: His Past" (to be covered in two weeks, after the women's ministry session)

Supplemental Resources

- Document shared in chat by Reginald: List of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus with corresponding New Testament fulfillments
- Document shared in chat by Reginald: List of 25+ names of Jesus (note: "I AM" was initially thought missing but was confirmed to be included as "Bread of Life, I AM")
- Reference to Pastor Thurman's teaching method of providing "backdrop" or context before reading Scripture
- Study materials on pages 40-45 of the course book covering "The Promise and Prophecy of the Manifestation of Christ"