CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

Overview

This Bible study session focused on understanding the nature and attributes of God, with particular emphasis on the Trinity, God's omnipotence, and the role of angels. The group explored various scriptural references to understand God's character as spirit, light, and love. The discussion included detailed examination of how Jesus Christ manifested God to humanity and the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- God as spirit, light, and love - fundamental aspects of His nature
- The Trinity - understanding the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Hypostatic union - Christ being 100% God and 100% man simultaneously
- God's omnipotence and omniscience as demonstrated through scripture
- The hierarchy and roles of angels (seraphim, cherubim, archangels)
- God's predetermined timing for significant events

Important Questions Raised:

- How could Jesus not know the time of His return if He is God?
- What is the significance of angels covering their faces and feet with wings?
- How do we understand God's grief and other emotions?
- What is the relationship between God's invisible nature and Christ's manifestation?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- God is spirit by nature, not an exalted man, and is invisible to human eyes in His essence
- Jesus Christ is the perfect image and manifestation of God, making the invisible God known

- The Trinity consists of three persons in one Godhead, each with distinct roles but united in essence
- God has emotions (grieves, hates, provides, cares) but experiences them differently than humans
- Angels are powerful beings created by God with different ranks and purposes
- God's predetermined timing governs key events including Christ's first coming and eventual return

Topic 1: The Nature of God

The study began by examining God's nature through His names in scripture. The group discussed how "Elohim" is plural, indicating the Trinity was present at creation. They explored God as spirit (John 4:24), noting that God the Father does not have a human body, though Jesus took human form. The discussion emphasized that God is invisible (Colossians 1:15) and no one has seen God directly (John 1:18). Moses was only allowed to see God's "hind part" or afterglow because seeing God's full glory would have consumed him. The group noted that in heaven, believers with glorified bodies will be able to withstand seeing God more fully (Revelation 22:3-5). God's nature as light (representing truth, holiness, and purity) was contrasted with darkness (representing error and unrighteousness). The study also covered God's nature as love, emphasizing His unconditional love throughout scripture.

Relevant Q&A

Corey: Why did Moses put a veil over his face?

Chrissy: So the people wouldn't be sad and discouraged when he lost the glory.

Mike: Can you explain how Jesus doesn't know when He'll return if He knows everything?

CLC: His humanity didn't know. The Father predetermined the time before Jesus' humanity was born. Jesus had both divine and human natures.

Topic 2: God as a Person with Attributes

The group discussed how God has emotions and personal attributes. They examined scriptures showing that God grieves (Ephesians 4:30, Genesis 6:6), hates (Proverbs 6:16-19), provides (Matthew 7:7-11), and cares (1 Peter 5:6-7). These attributes indicate God is a person with a personality, not merely a force or power. The study emphasized that God created humans with free will and in His image. The group also explored God's omnipotence through various scriptural examples, noting that while angels have tremendous power (one angel destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah), God's power far exceeds theirs. They discussed how Jesus prayed to the Father in John

17, asking to be restored to the glory He had before coming to earth, demonstrating both His pre-existence and His care for believers.

Relevant Q&A

Rico: For me, God's grief seems more like disappointment rather than a mind change.

CLC: Yes, God has feelings. He grieved and sorrowed, but we shouldn't equate His emotions with ours.

Corey: Why did God allow the pillar of cloud to turn into a pillar of fire at night?

Irene: To guide them by night and reassure them of God's presence.

Colleen: It also provided warmth in the cold desert nights.

Topic 3: Jesus Christ as God's Manifestation

The study examined how Jesus Christ revealed the invisible God to humanity. The group discussed the hypostatic union - Christ being 100% God and 100% man simultaneously. They noted that Jesus had to be fully God for His sacrifice to have infinite worth, and fully human to be a substitute for humanity. The transfiguration was highlighted as a moment when Jesus revealed His divine glory to the disciples. The group explored how Jesus veiled His divine nature while on earth but occasionally revealed glimpses of His glory. They discussed John 1:14 ("the Word became flesh") and how Jesus made the Father known. The study emphasized that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding for believers as their advocate.

Relevant Q&A

CLC: When did Jesus show his divine side while on Earth?

Mike: At the Transfiguration.

CLC: Yes, He opened His cloak and they saw the Shekinah glory.

Corey: What makes Jesus the firstborn of all creation?

CLC: He's the second Adam. The first Adam caused our fall, but the second Adam redeemed us. He was the first one born from the dead.

Topic 4: Angels and Their Roles

The final portion of the study focused on angels, their hierarchy, and their roles. The group discussed the different types of angels mentioned in scripture, including seraphim (with six wings -

two covering their faces in reverence, two covering their feet on holy ground, and two for flying) and cherubim. They noted that Michael the Archangel is the chief angel who fought against Satan. The study highlighted the tremendous power of angels, with examples such as one angel destroying Sodom and Gomorrah and another smiting 185,000 Assyrians. The group emphasized that while angels are mighty, they are not almighty - their power is delegated by God. They also discussed how angels serve as protectors for believers and how they fought spiritual battles, as when Gabriel needed Michael's help to deliver a message to Daniel.

Relevant Q&A

Colleen: Weren't cherubim the ones that guarded the garden from Adam?

CLC: Yes, they were cherubim in Genesis, different from the seraphim in Isaiah.

Corey: Why did the seraphim cover their eyes with wings?

CLC: Out of reverence for God. They didn't look directly at God.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Continue reading and studying the current lesson on God the Father
- Prepare for next week's lesson on God the Son
- Consider highlighting and referencing the material in this book for future discussions or questions about God's nature

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Genesis 32 - Jacob wrestling with God
- Isaiah 6 - Description of seraphim with six wings
- Revelation 1:15, 19:6 - Descriptions of God's voice like many waters
- Daniel's account of Gabriel and Michael the Archangel
- Revelation 20 - Angel binding Satan
- Philippians 2:5 - Christ's humility and exaltation

The group was encouraged to continue studying these topics independently to deepen their understanding of God's nature and attributes.