

# CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

## Overview

This meeting was a Bible study session focused on understanding the concept of Jesus Christ's presence throughout the Old Testament. The group explored the theological concept of Christophanies (pre-incarnate appearances of Christ) and Theophanies (visible manifestations of God). Led by Pastor CLC, participants examined various Old Testament passages where the "Angel of the Lord" appeared, identifying these as manifestations of Christ before his human incarnation in the New Testament.

## Key Concepts or Theories:

- Proto-evangelium: The first mention of the gospel in Genesis 3:15
- Christophanies: Pre-incarnate appearances of Christ in the Old Testament
- Theophanies: Visible manifestations of deity
- Kenosis: Christ's self-emptying when becoming human while remaining fully God
- The Angel of the Lord as a manifestation of Christ in the Old Testament

## Important Questions Raised:

- How do we know that angels cannot create anything?
- Why would God manifest Himself to multiple generations (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob)?
- What is the significance of God establishing covenants with multiple generations?
- How does understanding Christ's presence in the Old Testament enhance our understanding of the complete biblical narrative?

## Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Jesus Christ has existed eternally as part of the Godhead, not just appearing in the New Testament

- The "Angel of the Lord" in many Old Testament passages was actually a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ
- Christ was 100% God and 100% man (the kenosis concept) - He emptied Himself of the expression of deity but not the possession of deity
- God established His covenant through multiple generations, appearing to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- The church (believers) was chosen by God before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)
- Jesus is represented symbolically throughout the Old Testament (e.g., as the rock in the wilderness)

## Topic 1: Christ's Eternal Nature and Pre-Incarnate Appearances

The study began with establishing that Jesus Christ has always existed as part of the Godhead, co-eternal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. The group discussed John 1:1-2, which states "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," and John 1:14 which reveals that "the Word became flesh." They examined how Jesus was present at creation, referencing Genesis 1:1 where "Elohim" (God in plural form) created the heavens and earth, and Genesis 1:26 where God says "Let us make man in our image," indicating the plurality of the Godhead.

The study emphasized that Jesus didn't suddenly appear in the New Testament but was active throughout the Old Testament in what theologians call "Christophanies" - pre-incarnate appearances of Christ. These appearances included the "Angel of the Lord" who spoke to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. The group noted that all Christophanies are Theophanies (visible manifestations of deity), but not all Theophanies are Christophanies.

### Relevant Q&A

Courtney: How do we know that angels can't create anything?

CLC: Because the Bible doesn't show where they could create anything. They are created beings, and they cannot procreate. The Bible says that, they don't procreate.

## Topic 2: Old Testament Manifestations of Christ

The group examined specific instances where Christ appeared in the Old Testament, including to Abraham (Genesis 18:1-10), where one of three visitors was identified as the Lord. They discussed how God confirmed His covenant with Abraham through the Angel of the Lord (Genesis 22:15-16). The study continued with appearances to Isaac (Genesis 26:2-5), where God reaffirmed the

Abrahamic covenant, and to Jacob, who wrestled with God and had his name changed to Israel (Genesis 32:24-32).

The discussion highlighted how Moses encountered the Angel of the Lord in the burning bush (Exodus 3:2-14), where God identified Himself as "I AM." The group noted that these appearances were strategic, designed to establish God's presence, covenant, and plan through multiple generations. They also examined how the rock in the wilderness (Exodus 17:6) represented Christ, as confirmed in 1 Corinthians 10:4: "and the rock was Christ."

## Relevant Q&A

Roger: So Abraham knew that was Jesus. Did he know that?

CLC: Yeah, he knew it was God, but he didn't know... it was 3 angels. They called angels, but one was the angel of the Lord. One was the Angel of the Lord.

## Topic 3: The Kenosis and Christ's Divine Nature

A significant portion of the study focused on Philippians 2:6-8, exploring the concept of kenosis - how Christ "emptied himself" when becoming human. The pastor explained that Jesus did not empty something from Himself, but rather emptied Himself from something - specifically, He emptied Himself of the expression of His divine glory but not His possession of deity.

The group discussed how Jesus remained 100% God while becoming 100% man. The pastor used the analogy of pouring liquid from one container to another - the substance remains the same though the form changes. Similarly, Jesus remained fully God while taking human form. They noted that at the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus briefly revealed His divine glory to the disciples, showing that He possessed it all along but had veiled it during His earthly ministry.

## Relevant Q&A

Obie: Hey Patrick, read that again.

CLC: He stripped himself of his expression of deity. But not his possession of deity.

## Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Continue with lesson 6 next week, picking up at point 5
- Read and study the scriptures covered in the lesson
- Be prepared for potential cancellation of Sunday service due to forecasted storm (announcement to be made Saturday)

## Supplemental Resources and Readings

- "The Great Truths of the Bible" by Dr. Alan B. Stringfellow - the book being used for the Bible study
- Genesis 3:15 - The proto-evangelium (first mention of the gospel)
- Philippians 2:6-8 - Christ emptying himself
- John 1:1-14 - The Word becoming flesh
- Genesis 18:1-10, 22:11-12, 26:2-5, 32:24-32 - Appearances of the Angel of the Lord
- Exodus 3:2-14 - The burning bush encounter
- 1 Corinthians 10:4 - Christ as the rock in the wilderness