

Monday
Christ in the Old Testament

The word “theophany” refers to an Old Testament appearance of Christ. There are two good indications of a theophany. The first is the words “the angel of the LORD,” not to be confused with “an angel of the LORD.” The second is the reaction of the person. Only God is to be worshipped, not angels.

1. Read Genesis 18:1-15 – The Lord appeared to Abraham. According to verse 2, how did He reveal Himself?
2. What was Abraham’s reaction to the three men?
3. According to verses 3-5, what did Abraham want to do for the men?
4. What promise was given to Abraham in verse 10?
5. According to verse 11, what was unique about that promise?
6. According to verse 12, what was Sarah’s reaction to the promise?
7. The Lord heard Sarah, and He responded to Abraham. He asked why Sarah laughed. What question did He ask in verse 14 and what promise did He repeat?
8. What did Sarah do in verse 15 when she was confronted with her sin?

The Lord gave a promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son, and this wasn’t the first time they heard it. In this theophany Christ said in verse 10, “I will certainly return unto thee...” He did, and Isaac was born one year later. Christ has promised that He will return. Though He hasn’t yet, He will. You can count on it. Be ready...He might come today!

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Christ appeared to Abraham again. The first time it was to bring good news that he would have a son. Look why He came this time.

1. Read Genesis 22:1-18 – What did God ask Abraham to do in verses 1-2?
2. Was Abraham obedient?
3. Abraham somehow had faith that he would return with his son. What do you think was going through Abraham’s mind in verse 6?
4. Isaac was wondering where the sacrifice. What was Abraham’s response?
5. Abraham and Isaac got to the mountain, they built an altar, and Abraham put his son on the altar. Just as Abraham raised his hand to kill his son, whom did he hear in verse 11?
6. What did the Lord say to Abraham in verse 12?
7. How happy to think Abraham was to hear that voice?
8. According to verses 15-18, Lord now knew that Abraham was completely obedient to God, no matter how hard the task was. What difficult task has God asked from you?
9. God reinforced His promises to Abraham. What were they?

Sometimes the things that God asks us to do are difficult, really difficult! Even in hard tasks, God will always provide what is necessary to obey.

Wednesday Christ in the Old Testament

Christ appeared to Abraham a few times, but He also appeared to many other people. Today, we will study Christ's Old Testament appearance to Joshua.

1. Read Joshua 5:13-15 – This is very early in Joshua's leadership over the people of Israel. Moses had died recently. Just a couple weeks earlier, they crossed the Jordan River. They have not conquered any cities yet. What is the first city that they must defeat?
2. Jericho was the most heavily fortified city of its day. The Israelites have not had any formal combat training. They just came out of the wilderness after wandering for forty years. From a logical standpoint, they are not prepared for battle. Who appeared to Joshua in verse 14?
3. According to verse 13, what did the man have in his hand ready to use?
4. What was Joshua's reaction when he found out he was talking to the captain of the LORD's host?
5. What did the man tell Joshua to do?
6. Why do you think the ground was holy?
7. Why do you think Christ came to Joshua just before their first battle was to take place?
8. God wanted Joshua to know that he wasn't alone in his battle. What promise did Christ give to us in Matthew 28:20?

We have not been left alone to fight for ourselves. Jesus was with Joshua in the biggest battle of his life, and He will be with us in every battle we face.

Thursday Christ in the Old Testament

Jesus wasn't active only in New Testament times. He has been active all through the Bible. Another example of His appearances in the Old Testament is His appearance to Gideon.

1. Read Judges 6:11-24 – Israel was in bondage to the Midianites at this time. Gideon was hiding from the Midianites while he was threshing his wheat. What did the angel call Gideon in verse 12?
2. Did Gideon act like a mighty man of valor in verse 13?
3. Gideon didn't think he had what it takes to lead a nation to victory. What did the Lord promise in verse 16?
4. After that promise was made, for what did Gideon ask in verse 17?
5. What did Gideon go and get for the Lord in verses 18-19?
6. According to verse 20, what did the Lord tell Gideon to do with his gift?
7. What did the angel do then in verse 21?
8. Then Gideon figured out that he had just seen the angel of the Lord. He was afraid because he had seen the face of God. What did the Lord say to him next in verse 23?
9. Gideon built an altar there and called it "The Lord Is Peace." Why do you think he called it that?

Gideon was faced with a big task that he was not capable of doing. He was understandably scared about it, but Christ gave him the peace that he needed. The command that Jesus gave to His disciples more than any other is "Fear not." He gives the same command and peace to you and me!

Friday **Christ in the Old Testament**

Jesus showed Himself again shortly after He showed Himself to Gideon, this time to Samson's parents.

1. Read Judges 13:1-25 – Manoah and his wife were unable to have children. One day the angel of the Lord came to Manoah's wife. What instructions did he have for her in verses 4-5?
2. According to verse 5, what was God's special plan for Samson?
3. She told her husband what the Lord had told her. Manoah wanted to see the angel for himself. What did he do in verse 8?
4. God answered Manoah's prayer. He repeated the same instructions to Manoah as he did the first time to Manoah's wife. What did Manoah want to do for the Lord in verse 15?
5. The angel told Manoah that if he offered a sacrifice, it was to be sacrificed to the Lord, not the image of an angel. He offered his sacrifice, and the Lord did something miraculous on the altar. As the sacrifice was being given, what did the angel do in verse 20?
6. Manoah finally realized that he had seen the Lord. According to verse 22, why was he afraid?
7. According to verse 23, was the sacrifice received by God?
8. Did they ever have a child?

God blessed Samson from the time he was a child. The Spirit of God moved in his life at times. From before his birth, God had a special plan for Samson's life. His life wasn't an accident. Yours isn't either. God has a special plan for your life. You might not do what Samson did, but your ministry is important to those your life.

Saturday **Christ in the Old Testament**

Christ remained active all throughout the Old Testament. He appeared another time in Daniel 3 to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

1. Read Daniel 3:1-25 – What did Nebuchadnezzar build?
2. What did he command the people to do in verse 5?
3. What would happen to anyone who didn't?
4. According to verse 12, what did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego not do?
5. King Nebuchadnezzar was willing to give them a second chance. How did they respond to the king in verses 16-18?
6. Nebuchadnezzar was upset about their response. What did he order to be done?
7. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were thrown into the fire tied up. How many people did the king see in the fire?
8. Were the people tied up?
9. Were they hurt by the fire?
10. King Nebuchadnezzar said, "...the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." He was not a son of the gods. Read verses 28-29 – Based on Nebuchadnezzar's announcement, how can we be sure that it really was Jesus, not a son of the gods?

Even in a life-threatening situation, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego remained faithful to God, and God in turn remained faithful to them. You always have a friend in the fire with you.

Sunday

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Christ appeared to many people in the Old Testament. He is active in people's lives. He is not so high and mighty that He can't or won't involve Himself in our lives. Go back to Genesis and see how Christ was involved in Hagar's life.

1. Read Genesis 16:1-16 – Abraham and Sarah, still called Abram and Sarai at this point, were unable to have children. What was Sarai's idea to have a child?
2. According to verse 4, how did Hagar view Sarai after Hagar conceived a child with Abram?
3. Sarai was upset and told Abram about it. What did Abram tell Sarai to do with Hagar in verse 6?
4. Sarai treated Hagar so poorly that fled to the wilderness. Who found her there in verse 7?
5. According to verse 9, what did the Lord tell Hagar to do?
6. What promise did the Lord give to Hagar in verse 10?
7. What name of God did Hagar use in verse 13?
8. What did Hagar name her son? His name was a reminder to her and her son forever. It means "God will hear."
9. Have you ever been mistreated by someone? How did that make you feel?

If you are mistreated by someone, God hears it and knows your pain. He will take care of the situation. Just as Hagar was to be obedient to Sarai, you must treat the person who mistreated you with respect. It is never right to do wrong!