

Jesus In The Old Testament

I. Introduction: Some studies of the Scriptures are challenging (**II Peter 3:16**). This study is meant to be an enjoyable challenge.

A. We shall see that Jesus SURELY was involved in the O.T., but we shall also see that knowing when is not always so easy or clear! Don't get stuck on terms...

1. I.E. There are three different persons in Heaven (**Matthew 28:19** and **I John 5:7**). All three are called "God" (**Ephesians 1:2-3**, **Romans 9:1-5**, and **Acts 5:1-4**). Thus, when studying through the Scriptures about "God"; we have to know whether we are reading of the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.

2. I.E. The word "Lord" doesn't even clearly, if alone in a context, tell us of which person of God we are talking about. For the word "Lord" could apply to the Father (**Matthew 11:25**), the Son (**I Corinthians 1:8-9**), and possibly even the Holy Spirit (**Acts 8:39**). So, we have to be cautious in saying whether or not "Lord" means Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. "Lord" is such a broad term that it is even used in reference to men in authority (**I Peter 3:6**).

B. We read that God spoke during the Law of Moses by the prophets and now through Christ (**Hebrews 1:1-2**).

1. We know that Jesus came in the flesh and established His law (**John 1:14-17**).

2. We know that the words of Christ will judge us (**John 12:48**).

3. We know that the Holy Spirit enabled the Apostles to continue teaching the words of Christ after Jesus ascended into Heaven (**John 14:26**, **John 16:13**, and **I Corinthians 2:9-16**).

4. Thus, we know that from the 1st century forward, all things come from Jesus our Lord (**Matthew 28:18**).

C. Having said that... Jesus did NOT inactively wait in Heaven until the first century (**John 1:1-5**).

1. Jesus came in the flesh in the first century for a reason (**Matthew 1:18-25**, **Romans 8:3**, and **I Peter 3:18**).

2. However, Jesus existence and work did not just suddenly begin in the first century (**Colossians 1:12-17**).

II. Body: We Can Surely See Jesus In The Old Testament (**I Corinthians 10:1-11**) And He May Be In Scriptures Not Often Thought Of To Be Speaking Of Him.

A. Note what Paul was referring to that confirms Christ' activity in the Old Testament:

1. That followed [accompanied] them (**Exodus 13:21-22**).
 2. They tempted Him and were destroyed of the serpents (**Numbers 21:4-9**).
- B. Is this Jesus (**Genesis 12:7** and **Genesis 17:1-3**)?
1. It wasn't the Father (**I John 4:12**). *Remember this from here forward!
 2. There was also a difference when the Lord appeared and angels (**Genesis 18:1-2**; cf. **Genesis 18:22**; **Genesis 19:1**)
- C. Is this Jesus (**Genesis 32:24-32**)?
1. Earlier... **Genesis 28:12-19**
 2. We read this later... **Genesis 35:6-15**
 3. And then... **Genesis 48:3**
 4. However, another context, uses the word "angel" (**Hosea 12:3-4**).
 5. Having said that, could Jesus be referred to as an "angel"??? The word does mean "messenger" (Strong's # 4397). Consider this next point...
- D. Is this Jesus (**Exodus 3:11-14**)?
1. Jesus inferred such (**John 8:58**).
 2. Yet, as the point above concerning Jacob, the context says "the angel of the Lord" and "God" (**Exodus 3:1-4**).
 3. The word of God says an angel elsewhere, but that angel claimed to be God (**Acts 7:30-35**).
 4. Could an angel, in the sense that most think of them (**I Peter 3:22**)...
 - a. ...Really have claimed to have been God (**Hebrews 1:8-14**)?
 - b. ... Have accepted reverence (**Revelation 22:6-10**)?
- E. Is this Jesus (**Exodus 24:9-12**)?
1. It couldn't have been the Father (**John 1:18**)?
 2. Yet, it could have been Christ in that looking upon Him was in a figure such as looking upon the Father (**John 14:6-9**).
- F. Here is a "fun one" (**Exodus 33:11-23**).
1. The context APPEARS to say two different things (vs. **11**; vs. **23**).

2. Yet, we should consider that “face to face” is not literal and means in person, while the reason Moses could not REALLY look on the Lord [whom was not in the form of a man] is explained later (**I Timothy 6:13-16**; cf. **Acts 9:1-8** and **I Corinthians 15:8**).

3. More clarification... **Numbers 12:1-15**

4. Don't get stuck in wonder how Jesus can appear in one form, another, etc. It can be instantly done (**Matthew 17:1-5**).

G. Is this Jesus (**Isaiah 44:6** and **Isaiah 48:12**)?

1. Sure has the language that applies to Jesus (**Revelation 1:5-18**).

2. The fact is, sometimes, it looks like it is and could be and that is where some of these texts have to remain. We can make a statement such as, “like the Son of God” where such is warranted (i.e. **Daniel 3:14-25**).

III. Conclusion: While some texts are unclear, one thing is not, Jesus was active since before the world (**I Corinthians 8:6**) and is even today (**Romans 8:34**).