

Christophanies In Genesis – 1/19/2023

Review:

All OT appearances of God or the Lord are Christophanies

Definition: In a Christophany the Lord appeared in one location in an actual visible definite way. They are not permanent or lasting, but temporary to that moment of history. Christophanies are not an incarnation but a presentation. He appeared as a human but did not become human. He temporarily took the form but not the nature of a man or an angel.

Two categories of Christophanies: related but distinct

Human Christophanies: emphasize His identification with us

Angelic Christophanies: emphasize His Heavenly distinction from us

Key repeated OT phrase: The Angel of the Lord

Identifies a special “Angel” among all the angels

This One is not actually an angel by nature at all

Similar to angels: heavenly / glorious / powerful / special messenger

Called an angel because he appears in a more glorious angelic form

The Angel of the Lord is divine in nature and is the Lord

Christophanies in Genesis

Genesis 2:7 - the Lord forms Adam

The first Christophany in history and in Scripture

In Genesis 1 God created the Universe with His Word

Here He personally appears to create Adam with His hands and breath

Formed the man of dust from the ground (potter forming clay - Isaiah 29:16)

Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (puff or blow with force)

Presentation: the Lord as Potter

Purpose: reveals correspondence between the Lord and His image

Genesis 3:8-24 - Walking in the Garden

3:8 - They heard the sound of the Lord walking in the Garden / cool of day

Presentation: The Lord as Friend

Purpose: The Lord’s commitment to fellowship with Adam and Eve

3:9-20 - The Lord’s conversation with Adam, Eve, and the serpent

Presentation: The Lord as Judge

Purpose: The Lord holding all accountable for their transgressions

3:21 - The Lord made garments of skins & clothed Adam & Eve

Presentation: The Lord as Tailor

Purpose: The Lord’s provision of covering for fallen man

3:22-24 - The Lord sent / drove / placed

Presentation: The Lord as Guardian

Purpose: The Lord establishing new boundaries for fallen man

Genesis 4:3-16 - The Lord marks Cain

Cain brought to the Lord

The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering / for Cain He had no regard

The Lord said to Cain

The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground

The Lord put a mark on Cain

Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD

Presentation: The Lord as Protector

Purpose: The Lord (Covenant Name) remains present even after the Fall

Genesis 7:15-16 - Closing the Ark

The Lord (Covenant Name Yahweh) shut him (not them) in

Two possibilities: the Lord outside / the Lord inside (both)

He shut the single entry point to the Ark

Presentation: The Lord as both Judge and Savior

Purpose: Demonstrates the sovereignty of the Lord in salvation

Displays His Covenant care & protection for the saved

Shows His determination to judge those outside

Genesis 11:1-9 - Tower of Babel

The LORD came down to see the city and the tower

Come, let us go down and there confuse their language

So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth

Presentation: The Lord as Sovereign

Purpose: Reveals He is the Lord over history

The Lord opposes the fallen & natural schemes of mankind

Genesis 12:7 - The Lord appears to Abram

Then the LORD (Covenant Name) appeared to Abram

(Appeared: Literal = to see with the eyes)

So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him

Presentation: The Lord as Guide

Purpose: The Lord makes Himself known to His Covenant choice

Genesis 15:1-18 - The Lord establishes a Covenant with Abram

The Word of the Lord came to him

He brought him outside and said...

Bring Me a heifer...

A smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces

(Connect Pillar of fire & cloud + Shekinah on Sinai)

Presentation: Covenant Partner

Purpose: The Lord enters a personal Covenant