

Christophanies In Genesis – Part 3 – 2/2/2023

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 or angel but did not become human or angel. He temporarily took the form but not the nature of a man or an angel.

Christophanies in Genesis: Continued

Genesis 19:23-25 - Yahweh on earth and Yahweh in Heaven

The LORD rained on Sodom ... sulfur & fire from the LORD out of heaven

There are two Lord's (Yahweh) involved in this judgment

The Lord on earth (Christophany) and the Lord in Heaven (Father)

Presentation: The Lord as the One Who executes Judgment

Purpose: The Lord brings severe judgment upon significant sin (Jude 1:7)

Genesis 21:12-19 - The Angel of God speaks from Heaven

The Angel of God called to Hagar from Heaven

Notice the difference from Hagar's previous encounter (16:7-9)

Then it was the Angel of the Lord / Now it is the Angel of God

Then she was in Covenant / Now she & Ishmael are outside Covenant

Presentation: The Lord as provider of the nations

Purpose: The Lord hears the prayer of the destitute (Psalm 102:17)

Genesis 22:10-18 - The Angel of the Lord on Moriah

The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven

“you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

The Lord provided a ram as substitute sacrifice

The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven

“because you have obeyed my voice.”

The Lord swears blessing, multiplication, victory & extended blessing

Presentation: The Lord as saving Provider

Purpose: The Lord provides a substitute sacrifice for Abraham

Genesis 24:7, 40 - The Lord sends His Angel

The Lord... will send His angel before you

The Lord... will send his angel with you and prosper your way

John Gill: this angel may be either understood of a created angel, such being frequently made use of in the affairs of Providence, directing and succeeding men, or of the uncreated Angel, the Son of God, since the servant attributes his direction and success wholly to the Lord.

Presentation: The Lord Who goes before and with His servants

Purpose: The Lord insures Covenant continuity

Genesis 26:1-5 - The Lord directs Isaac steps

The Lord appeared to Isaac

In famine, the Lord anticipated Isaac's next decision

Do not go down to Egypt... sojourn in this land

The Lord rehearses Covenant promises given to Abraham

Presentation: The Lord as Sustainer in famine

Purpose: The Lord assures Isaac He watches over him like He did Abraham

Genesis 26:24-25 - The Lord appears to Isaac a second time

The LORD appeared to Isaac in Beersheba (well of an oath)

I am the God of Abraham your father

Fear not for I am with you (recent trial of the wells of water)

I will bless you and multiply your offspring

Presentation: The Lord as reassurer of His people

Purpose: The Lord builds faith into the heart of Isaac

Genesis 28:10-17 - Jacob's ladder

"Behold, the LORD stood above it"

The Lord gives Jacob promises of Covenant continuity

Presentation: The Lord as the bridge between Heaven and Earth

Purpose: The Lord awakens a heavenly perspective in Jacob's heart