

*Christ In The Old Testament*  
*“Holy Ground”*  
*Exodus 3-4*

**Introduction:**

1. As We Continue To Look For:
  - Christ In The Old Testament:
    - Let's Open Our Bibles Back Up Tonight:
      - To Exodus 3 - Where:
        - We Will Find Another Appearance:
          - Of “The Angel Of The Lord!”
  - This Time:
    - In The Familiar Story:
      - Of Moses And The Burning Bush!
        - And - I'd Like For Us To Read:
          - Exodus 3:1 - 4:18!

2. Throughout This Entire Passage:
  - We Need To Keep This In Mind:
    - That It Is The “Angel Of The Lord” - Who Is:
      - Speaking To Moses:
        - Out Of The Burning Bush!
          - The Whole Time!
  - And - When He First Comes On The Scene:
    - In 3:2 - We See:

**1. *His Initiative:***

- In Appearing To The People Of God!
  - As We've Already Seen:
    - With Hagar & With Abraham:
      - That - Though The Angel Of The Lord May Appears In Different Ways!
    - He Always Appears:
      - In The Way & At The Time:
        - Those People Needed Him To The Most!
  - And This Shows To Us That:
    - Not Only Does:
      - The Angel Of The Lord:
        - Bring A Message From The Lord:
          - In Word!
      - His Very Manifestation:
        - Is A Message:
          - From God To His People!
    - And - That's Why:
  - To Hagar:
    - The Angel Of The Lord:
      - Appeared To Her Eyes - As A Man!
        - But Not Like The Other Men She Knew In Her Life - Who Used Her:
          - For Their Own Pragmatic Reasons!
    - This Man:
      - Was A Man:
        - Who Truly Cared For:
          - Hagar And Her Plight!
      - That's Why She Called Him:
        - “Thou God Seest Me!” (Genesis 16:13)
    - This “Angel Of The Lord” Took:
      - The Initiative:
        - To Meet Hagar:
          - Where She Was!
  - To Abraham:

- The Angel Of The Lord:
  - Appeared - Not Just To His Eyes:
    - But To His Ears - As A Voice From Heaven!
- And - It Was The Voice:
  - That He Needed To Hear:
    - In The Greatest Crisis & Trial:
      - Of His Life:
        - The Sacrifice Of His Beloved Son, Isaac!
    - And - That's Why Abraham Called:
      - The Name Of That Place:
        - "Jehovah-Jireh" - The Lord Sees & Provides!
  - Once Again - The "Angel Of The Lord" Took:
    - The Initiative:
      - To Meet Abraham:
        - When He Needed Him The Most!
        - And In The Same Way:
- To Moses:
  - The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Appeared - Not Just To His Eyes & His Ears:
      - But To All Of His Senses:
        - 3:2 - "In A Flame Of Fire!"
    - Not Just "As" A Flame Of Fire:
      - But "In" A Flame Of Fire!
        - That Burned "Out Of The Midst Of A Bush!"
      - And Moses Would Have Felt The Heat:
        - Of That Fire!
    - Of Course - It Was The Fire:
      - That Got Moses' Attention:
        - And When "The Bush Was Not Consumed" - It Caused Him To Want To:
          - 3:3 - "Turn Aside, And See This Great Sight, Why The Bush Is Not Burnt!"
    - But - I Wonder - If He'd Have Looked Closer:
      - Into The Fire:
        - Would He Have Seen The Form Of One Like The Son Of God:
          - Within The Flame?
      - Well - Just As We're Not Told:
        - If Abraham Saw The Form:
          - Of The Angel Of The Lord:
            - Who Called To Him From Heaven!
      - Neither Are We Told:
        - If Moses Saw The Form:
          - Of The Angel Of The Lord:
            - In The Flame Of Fire!
    - But - In Both Cases:
      - The Angel Of The Lord:
        - Was Present - And - In Both Cases:
          - His Presence Was Unmistakable!
  - But - To Moses As Well - The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Took The Initiative! To Appear To Him:
      - Not Just As A "Consuming Fire!"
        - Which We Know Is A Description Of God Found Elsewhere In Scripture! (Deut. 4:24; Heb. 12:29)
    - But - He Appeared To Moses:
      - As A "Consuming Fire" That Exercises Itself:
        - Through "Controlled Burns!"
          - **IE:** Like The "Controlled Burns" That They Do Sometimes At Beckenholdt Park - To Foster The Growth Of Prairie Grass!
  - The Angel Of The Lord Appeared:

- As A Consuming:
  - But A Controlled Fire!
- The Fire Is The Same!
  - Its Just Controlled:
    - By The Ones Who Set It!
- The Fire In Which:
  - The Angel Of The Lord Appeared To Moses:
    - Was A Consuming Fire!
      - But - It Would Only Consume:
        - What & When & Where He Chose!
    - His Fire Is Fully:
      - Under His Control!
- But - As We've Done In Each Case:
  - When The Angel Of The Lord Appears:
    - We've Asked:
      - Who Is It?
  - Is It "An" Angel Of The Lord?
    - A Created Angel / Messenger:
      - Sent From The Lord? Or:
  - Is It "The" Angel Of The Lord?
    - The Uncreated Messenger:
      - Sent From The Lord - But Who:
        - At The Same Time:
          - Is The Lord?
  - Well - We Can Learn:

## 2. ***His Identity:***

- In This Appearance - Just Like We Were Able To Do:
  - In His Other Appearances!
    - And - I Believe - This Time As Well:
      - The Angel / Messenger Of The Lord:
        - Is Christ Himself!
  - Even As Albert Barnes Comments:
    - "The Words Which Moses Heard Were Those Of God Himself, As All Ancient And Most Modern Divines Have Held, Manifested In The Person Of The Son!"
  - And So - His Identity Can Be:
- Seen In His Calling:
  - Of Moses - In 3:4:
    - "And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses!"
  - The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Was The LORD - And When He Saw Moses:
      - He Knew Moses - And:
        - "Called Unto Him" - By Name!
          - "Moses! Moses!"
  - Moses Was Given His Name:
    - By The Daughter Of Pharaoh:
      - And It Describes How She Found Him!
        - By "Drawing" Him Out Of The Waters Of The Nile River!
    - And - This Angel:
      - Knew The Name & The Beginning:
        - Of Moses' Life!
  - But - He Also Knew About:
    - The Heritage Of Moses - When He Added:
      - In 3:6 - "Moreover he said, I [am] the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God!"
  - It Was Christ Who Knew:

- All There Was To Know:
  - About Moses! But - His Identity Is Also:
- Seen In His Commands:
  - To Moses! He Expresses His Authority:
    - Over Moses - By Commanding Him:
      - In 3:5 - To - “Draw Not Nigh Hither” & To “Put Off Thy Shoes From Off Thy Feet!”
  - This Angel - Didn’t Just Have:
    - Authority *From* The Lord:
      - He Possessed Authority:
        - *As* The Lord!
  - And So - He Had The Same Right:
    - To Command *Moses* - Even As He Had The Right:
      - To Command *Hagar & Abraham!*
  - It Is Christ Who Possesses:
    - “All Power - In Heaven And In Earth!” (Matthew 28:18)
    - But - His Identity Is Also:
- Seen In His Character:
  - Before Moses! In 3:5 - The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Tells Moses That:
      - “For the place whereon thou standest [is] holy ground!”
  - That Is - The Place:
    - Where He Appeared To Moses:
      - Was A Special Place - Set Apart By The Lord!
    - But - What Made It Holy?
      - Not The Dirt! Not The Stones! Not The Bushes!
        - It Was The Presence Of God That Made That Place Holy!
  - And It Is Christ Who Possess:
    - That Same Holy Nature & Character:
      - That Can Transform The Nature:
        - Of All That Comes Into Contact With Him!
    - For He Alone Is “Holy, Harmless, undefiled, Separate From Sinners, And Made Higher Than The Heavens!” (Hebrews 7:26)
- It Was Christ:
  - Who Appeared To Moses:
    - As The “Angel Of The Lord” In That:
      - “Flame Of Fire!”
  - It Was Christ Who:
    - Could Call & Command Moses - And Who:
      - Could Make Even The Ground On Which He Stood:
        - Holy!
  - And - This Is Still:
    - What Christ Can Do For Us!
      - He That Created Us The First Time:
        - Can Recreate Us - Into “New Creatures” - Who Become More & More Holy:
          - Even As He Is Holy!
    - The Presence Of Christ:
      - In The Temples Of Our Bodies:
        - Will Make Us Holy!
  - But - Why Had He Come To Moses?
    - And - Why Did He Appear To Moses:
      - In The Way He Did?
        - What Was His Message?
          - Also See:

### 3. ***His Interest:***

- In His People!
  - In Many Ways - His People - Who Were Slaves In Egypt:
    - Were Like That Thorn-Bush In The Desert!

- But - God Was With Them!
- And - He Was Even:
  - ***In*** The Fire Of Oppression:
    - That They Faced - Day In & Day Out - From The Egyptians!
- But - Because Of His Presence With Them:
  - The Fire Would Not:
    - Consume Them Or Destroy Them!
    - But Instead - Would ***Refine*** Them & ***Define*** Them As:
      - The People Of God!
- Christ Came To Moses - Because:
  - Christ Was Interested In:
    - The Plight Of His People!
    - In 3:7 - He Says:
- “I Have Seen!”
  - “I Have Surely Seen The Affliction Of My People!” (3:7)
    - The All-Seeing Eye Of Christ:
      - Was Never Lifted From His People:
        - Even Though They Had Been In Egypt For 400 Years:
          - With Little Hope Since The Time Of Joseph!
    - He Also Says:
  - “I Have Heard!”
    - “And Have Heard Their Cry By Reason Of Their Taskmasters!” (3:7)
      - The All-Hearing Ears Of Christ:
        - Listened To Their Cries!
          - Even When Those Cries Were Not Lifted Up To Him!
    - He Had Chosen Them:
      - To Be His People:
        - And He Cared For Them - And:
          - Remained Interested In Them!
      - He Then Says:
    - “I Have Known!”
      - “For I Know Their Sorrows!” (3:7)
        - Christ - Who Is Omniscient - And All-Knowing:
          - Knew All About:
            - Their Poverty, Their Persecution, And Their Pain!
      - But - It Was Now Time:
        - For Him To Act!
          - So - He Says:
    - “I Will Deliver!”
      - 3:8 - “And I Am Come Down To Deliver Them Out Of The Hand Of The Egyptians, And To Bring Them Up Out Of That Land Unto A Good Land And A Large, Unto A Land Flowing With Milk And Honey!”
        - Christ Came Down:
          - To Bring Them Up!
        - This Is Why He Came:
          - To Moses - As The Angel Of The Lord!
            - And - This Was His Message!
    - And - This Was Just The Beginning:
      - Of Christ’s Ministry Of Deliverance!
        - He Came Down - Then:
          - To Bring Physical Deliverance:
            - From Their Slavery To Man!
        - But - When Was Born Into This World:
          - He Came Down:
            - To Bring Spiritual Deliverance:
              - From Our Slavery To Sin!
          - He Came Down:
            - So That - He Might:
              - Bring Us Up - Even As David Tells Us:

- “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock!” (Psalm 40:2)
- And Now - His Care & Interest Remains Upon:
  - “Whosoever Believeth In Him!”
- So Now - He Still:
  - Sees - With His All-Seeing Eyes!
  - Hears - With His All-Hearing Ears! And:
  - Knows - With His All-Knowing Mind!
- And He Still Appears To Us & With Us:
  - “In A Flame Of Fire!”
    - Not To Consume Or Destroy Us!
    - But To Refine & Define Us More & More As “A Holy People Unto The Lord!” (Deut. 7:6)
- And His Message Is What We Find In:
  - Isaiah 43:2-3 - “When thou passest through the waters, I [will be] with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee / For I [am] the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour!”
- But - He’s Still Not Done With Us!
  - Even As He Was Still Not Done:
    - With Moses! Because - For Most Of The Passage - We See:

#### 4. ***His Indulgence:***

- With Moses - And - With Us!
  - Though Christ Called Moses:
    - To Serve Him - Moses Was Not Ready!
    - But - Offered Objection After Objection:
      - To Call & Use Someone Else!
  - But - Christ Was Patient & Indulgent:
    - To Moses - By The Promise Of:
- His Presence!
  - In 3:11 - Moses Objected To:
    - God Choosing Him To Serve Him!
    - He Asked - “Who Am I, That I Should Go Unto Pharaoh?”
  - But - To That Objection:
    - God Offered His Presence!
    - In 3:12 - “Certainly I will be with thee!”
  - The Lord Also Promised:
- His Power!
  - As The Great I Am!
    - To Deliver Him & His People:
      - From Their Persecutors! (3:14)
    - 3:20 - “And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go!”
    - The Lord Also Promised:
- His Provision!
  - To Help Him In His Service:
    - To The Lord!
  - In 4:1 - Moses Objected About:
    - The People He Had Called Him To Serve!
  - But - To That Objection:
    - The Lord Provided All He Would Need:
      - To Do All That The Lord:
        - Had Called Him To Do!
    - In 4:12 - Christ Himself Says To Moses:
      - “Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say!”
- And The Fire That Christ Appeared To Moses In:
  - Would Have Been An Object Lesson:

- Of His Promises!
- Like His Presence In The Fire:
  - Whatever Fire Moses Would Go Through:
    - The Lord Would Be With Him!
- Like His Power By The Fire:
  - The Lord Would Empower Moses:
    - To Accomplish His Work Of Deliverance!
- Like His Provision Of The Fire:
  - The Lord Would Provide Whatever Moses Needed:
    - To Live & Serve Him!
      - Even His Light & Heat!
- What Patience Christ Has With His People!
  - But - What Presumption Sometimes:
    - We Have Toward Him!
      - Remember - Christ Is A Still A “Consuming Fire!”
        - But With A Controlled Burn!
    - All The While - Moses Was Talking The Angel Of The Lord:
      - In A Flame Of Fire!
  - And - At One Point:
    - In 4:14 - The Flame & Fury Of The Lord:
      - Was About To Strike!
        - “And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses!”
  - But - That Fire:
    - Was Not There To Destroy Moses!
      - But To Refine & Define Him:
        - As God’s Servant!

**Conclusion:**

1. And This Still Is The Nature Of Christ:
  - To Us!
    - His Interest & Care:
      - In Us - And:
    - His Indulgence & Patience:
      - With Us:
  - Ought To Cause Us To:
    - Yield & Submit To Him - Every Day!
      - Because - Of What We Find In:
        - Hebrews 12:28-29 - “Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: / For our God [is] a consuming fire!”

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