

GOD
BECAME
A MAN

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JIM HARWELL



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Contents

	Introduction	11
1	The Names of God	15
2	God Visits Abraham – Gen. 18	20
3	God Wrestles with Jacob – Gen. 32	22
4	God Visits Moses – Exodus 3	25
5	God Visits Moses & Elders of Israel – Exodus 24	31
6	God Shows Moses His Glory & His Goodness – Exodus 33 & 34	34
7	God Visits Joshua – Joshua 5	41
8	God Visits Manoah & Wife – Judges 13	44
9	God Rescues Three Men from the Fiery Furnace – Daniel 3	51
10	A Vision of God on His Throne & of the Son of Man – Daniel 7	55
11	A Vision of God on His Throne – Isaiah 6	58
12	A Vision of God on His Throne – Ezekiel 1	60
13	God Comes to Earth as a Man	62
14	A Vision of Jesus Christ – Revelation 1	66
15	A Vision of God on His Throne – Revelation 4	66

Introduction

The truth and revelation that God came to earth as a man is really beyond human comprehension.

God came to earth as one of us and justified Himself to the world.

In fact, God did something even more sacrificial than coming to the earth Himself. He sent His only begotten Son to die for the world.

God became a man, Jesus Christ.

He came to earth, was born, lived like us, and died for the world.

He rose from the dead, ascended to heaven and lives forevermore. Whosoever believes in the Lord Jesus shall not perish but have everlasting life.

For all eternity, mankind and the entire heavenly host will be in awe of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and of the Father God Almighty and His sacrifice.

I write this in great humility, and in reverence and fear of our great and awesome God.

I can present these truths. But only the Holy Spirit can reveal them.

We see in the Bible that before God came to earth as Jesus Christ, He also came to earth at various times, in dramatic ways, revealing Himself to man and mankind.

God also revealed Himself in visions to man and mankind. Examples include: a vision of Jesus Christ in His glory in Revelation 1; and four visions of God Almighty on His throne, in Daniel 7, Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4.

God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is truly glorious beyond description.

When He reveals Himself to someone, whether in the spirit realm, in a vision, or however He truly reveals Himself, it is glorious, awesome and infinitely more!

The reaction is always the same. Those He visits are in awe of Jehovah God, the only true God, and the glorious splendor of His majesty. They fall on their faces in holy reverence and fear. They are still and silent.

This booklet is an attempt to collect those visits and visions, recorded in the Bible, into one short booklet.

Why a book, when we have the Bible? Jesus said, "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops" (Matthew 10:27).

Holy Spirit, teach us.

Jesus, teach us.

Thank you Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Summary of this book; if you only read one thing, please read this:

God came to earth numerous times throughout history, gloriously visiting and revealing Himself to mankind. He also revealed Himself in visions. These visits and vision are in the Bible.

His final visit and eternal revelation of Himself is when He came to earth as Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

ONE

The Names of God

In His visits and relationship with mankind, God reveals His names.

The first name He reveals is Elohim, in Genesis 1:1.

The next name He reveals is Jehovah, the Lord God. We see it first in Genesis 2:4.

Twelve of the primary names God reveals in the Old Testament are listed at the end of this chapter.

In the Bible, there are more than 1000 names, titles and descriptions of God Almighty.

**“By My Name LORD I was
not known to them”**

“And God spoke to Moses and said to him: ‘I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac,

and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them” (Exodus 6:3).

In Exodus 6:3, we see that God did not reveal Himself as Lord, that is, Jehovah, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He revealed Himself as Elohim to them. Why?

God Almighty is of course perfect and all He does is perfect – and infinitely more. Amen.

Also, God does what is needed. Let’s remember this when we discuss God’s revelation of Jesus Christ.

Jehovah

God’s name Jehovah is connected to covenant relationship.

When translating and recording the Bible, Hebrew scholars added vowels to the Hebrew name of God, YHWH, and the name Jehovah is the result.

Elohim is the name of God connected to His power, creation, and so forth.

Jehovah is the name of God connected to relationship, to God being our Lord and Father. Therefore, when we read in Genesis about God creating man, God reveals Himself as Jehovah.

God did not reveal Himself as Lord Jehovah to Abraham, because there was no bondage involved. There was no need for covenant relationship.

Moses and the children of Israel were in bond

age in Egypt, so God revealed Himself as Lord Jehovah to them, so they could be delivered.

I am the LORD

When God gave Israel the Ten Commandments, He began them with: "I am the LORD your God . . ."

When God gave Israel the law, He would often repeat "I am the LORD" after the laws, such as in Leviticus 18 and 19. Why? Because the only way someone can keep the law is by having a relationship with Him, Jehovah.

It is the same today: the only way we can do what Jesus said to do is by having a relationship with Him.

God Reveals Himself and His Name as Needed

It is significant to know that before God sent Jesus to the earth, God Almighty was not yet known as the Father and the Son.

Since man needed to be saved from sin, at the appointed time, God sent Jesus Christ to die for the world.

In fact, Jesus is the lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8), a truth that is beyond human comprehension.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

When Jesus came to the earth, He revealed that He is both the Son of God and God Almighty. Amen!

When God visited and revealed Himself to man, as recorded in the Old Testament, God is referred to as a "Man," "the Son of God," and the "Angel of the Lord," among other descriptions. These references are to the only true God, before the glorious revelation of God as a Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Lord, the Lord God, the Lord is one. Amen!

Therefore, the revelation of Jesus Christ is the revelation of the only true God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In eternity past, in the now, and in eternity future, God Almighty, revealed as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is one, the only true God! Amen, and amen!

As with all divine truths, when the Holy Spirit reveals this revelation to us, it will transform us radically and totally.

12 Names of God

Elohim – The Creator, the Mighty One – Genesis 1:1

Jehovah Elohim – Father – Genesis 2:4

El Shaddai – Nourisher, Provider, Supplier;
Genesis 17:1

Adonai – my Lord; He owns my life and soul;
He reveals all to me; He makes me an interces-
sor; Genesis 15:1-2

Jehovah Jireh – Provider; Gen 22:14; God pro-
vided salvation

Jehovah Rapha – my Healer; healing is the re-
sult of seeing Jesus- Exodus 15:26

Jehovah Nissi – my Victory; Ex. 17:15; see Je-
sus;

Jehovah Mikkadesh –my Holiness; my Sancti-
fier; Lev. 20:7-8

Jehovah Shalom – my peace; Judges 6:24

Jehovah Rohi – my Shepherd; Psalm 23:1; He
leads me in paths of . . . righteousness

Jehovah Tsidkenu – my Righteousness; Jer.
23:6; His righteousness brings His glory

Jehovah Shamah – the Lord is there; the Glory
of the Lord is there- Ezekiel 48:3

TWO

God Visits Abraham

Genesis 18

“Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, ‘My LORD, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant’” (Genesis 18:1-5).

Abraham's response is the normal reaction to a visit from God Almighty: man bows down in awe and reverence, just as Abraham did in this visit.

The general consensus is that the "three men" were the Lord God and two angels.

God had spoken and/or appeared to Abraham several times before: in Genesis 12, 13, 15, and 17. Abraham, the father of faith, of course knew the Lord and His voice.

Some of God's appearances to Abraham include:

1. God calling him (Genesis 12:1–3)
2. Abraham parting ways with Lot (Genesis 13:14–17)
3. God making a covenant with him (Genesis 15)
4. God restating His covenant (Genesis 17)

THREE

God Wrestles with Jacob Genesis 32

“Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, ‘Let Me go, for the day breaks.’

But he said, ‘I will not let You go unless You bless me!’

So He said to him, ‘What is your name?’

He said, ‘Jacob.’

And He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.’

Then Jacob asked, saying, ‘Tell me Your name, I pray.’

And He said, 'Why is it that you ask about My name?' And He blessed him there.

So Jacob called the name of the place Penuel: 'For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.' Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank" (Genesis 32:24-32).

We see that God is referred to as a "Man" in the famous story of Jacob wrestling with God.

God indeed appeared on earth as a Man, before coming to earth as Jesus Christ.

This story has eternal significance on many levels, as do all events in the Bible.

One of the meanings (not mentioned much) is that God spiritually wrestles with man.

God tests, tries and proves man, to see what is in man's heart, his innermost being. God searches the hearts and minds of man. There are numerous scriptures about this truth, such as Deuteronomy 8:2:

"And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not" (Deuteronomy 8:2).

God Hides Himself

An aspect of God “wrestling” with man is that God hides Himself.

There are numerous scriptures about this truth, such as in Isaiah: “Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!” (Isaiah 45:15)

God hides to test and try man, to see what is in his heart, how that person will respond.

As a person goes deeper with the Holy Spirit, God will withdraw His presence, hiding Himself. If a person continues on seeking God, there is “death” to the “old nature,” which is one of the keys to finding and experiencing Him and His glorious presence. God Almighty knows what is best for us, amen!

FOUR

God Visits Moses Exodus 3

Key portion:

“And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed” (Exodus 3:2)

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great

sight, why the bush does not burn." So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, 'Moses, Moses!'

And he said, 'Here I am.'

Then He said, 'Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.' Moreover He said, 'I am the God of your 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" (Exodus 3:1-5).

And the Lord said: 'I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.'

But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?'

So He said, 'I will certainly be with you. And

this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.'

Then Moses said to God, 'Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?'

And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Moreover God said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations'' (Exodus 3:1-15).

This glorious visitation should leave us in awe of our great and awesome God.

God Almighty revealed to Moses His plan for deliverance of the children of Israel and His glorious name: I AM WHO I AM... I AM.

I AM WHO I AM

As with all of God's words, His revelation of His name has eternal significance and importance beyond what we can comprehend with our finite minds.

The Hebrew words for "I AM WHO I AM" are ehyeh 'ăšer 'ehyeh, which could be translated as

“I will be what I will be,” “I am that I am,” and “Let it be who let it be,” among others. The Hebrew language does not have a present tense of the verb “to be.”

The Burning Bush

“And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed” (Exodus 3:2).

The Angel of the Lord is indeed the Lord God Almighty. Amen!

What a glorious sight to behold: God Almighty appearing in a flame of fire! Glory to God!

Fire

Fire is one of the numerous, glorious foundations of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

We see fire as a type and symbol of the Holy Spirit, both in the natural and spirit realms.

In the natural, there are of course many, many examples of God commanding His people to utilize fire during sacrifices. One example is the burnt offering, when the people would sacrifice an animal and burn the animal with fire.

The patriarchs did the same. At the appointed time, they sacrificed animals and burned them with fire, offering a burnt offering (Noah: Gene-

sis 8:20; Abraham: Genesis 22:13; Moses and the Israelites: Leviticus 1).

The sacrifices of course speak of, foreshadow, and are a type of Jesus and His sacrifice and the shedding of His blood on the cross. The fire speaks of, foreshadows and symbolizes the Holy Spirit. Amen!

God is a Consuming Fire

We learn in the Bible that God is a consuming fire: "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God" (Deuteronomy 4:24; also 9:3).

John the Baptist said that Jesus "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

Jesus said: "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49)

In Genesis, after Adam fell, God sent cherubim and a flaming sword to protect the tree of life. The flaming sword is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Genesis 3:24: "So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life" (Genesis 3:24).

When God gloriously visited Moses and the elders of Israel, in Exodus 24, we read: "The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel" (Exodus 24:17).

In Daniel's vision of God on His throne, God's throne, its wheels and the stream before Him were all fire: "His throne was flames of fire; its wheels a burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him" (Daniel 3:9-10).

Revelation 4 contains John's glorious vision of God on His throne and the throne room of heaven. We read: "Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God" (Revelation 4:5).

Jesus said: "Before Abraham was, I AM"

Let's look at God's words to Moses about His name:

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations' (Exodus 3:14-15).

We know that Jesus said: "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58).

When Jesus revealed that He is the "I AM," he revealed that He is indeed God Almighty. Amen!

FIVE

God Visits Moses & Elders of Israel Exodus 24

“Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very skies and heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.’

So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and

Moses went up to the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, 'Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them.' Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.

Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights" (Exodus 24:9-18).

Glory to God! What an awesome, incredible visitation!

As with all of God's visits to man, this one is truly glorious, staggering and beyond human comprehension.

Think of it! God Almighty literally came down from heaven to earth and spent time with Moses and 73 other elders and Israelites.

Moses, Aaron his brother, Aaron's sons, and the 70 elders of Israel "saw the God of Israel" (Exodus 24:10).

In verse 11, we read that they "saw God, and they ate and drank" (Exodus 24:11). They saw God! And they had a glorious meal!

When they saw God, "there was under His

feet as it were a paved work of transparent, precious stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity" (Exodus 24:10). Wow!

One aspect of verse 10: It is truly amazing that God's feet came down to earth! Herein is a glorious revelation: God Almighty, the Father of glory, has shape and form.

In fact, God created man into His own image. We have the same image and shape of God. God has feet, arms, hands, a back . . . He has a face, eyes, ears, mouth and more. We are the image of God. Amen! When the Holy Spirit reveals this revelation to someone, they will be supernaturally changed and see themselves and other people differently . . . the way God sees them! Amen!

The Sight of the Glory of the Lord was like a Consuming Fire

Then, we go on to read how God called Moses to the mountain, where God gave him the law and commandments. The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai. The cloud of glory covered the mountain, and "the sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain . . ." (Exodus 24:17). Wow! Awesome! And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

SIX

God Shows Moses His Glory & His Goodness Exodus 33 & 34

In Exodus 33, God told Moses to bring the Israelites to the land He swore to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God then said He will not go with them, but is sending an angel instead. God said: “. . . for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked, stubborn and rebellious people” (Exodus 33:3).

Then, God gloriously revealed Himself, His glory and His goodness to Moses. The following is one of the most famous passages in the Bible, from Exodus 33 and 34:

“And [the Lord] said, ‘My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’”

Then he said to Him, 'If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.'

So the Lord said to Moses, 'I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.'

And he said, 'Please, show me Your glory.'

Then He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.' But He said, 'You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.' And the Lord said, 'Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.'

And the Lord said to Moses, 'Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all

the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain.'

So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.'

So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. Then he said, 'If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance'" (Exodus 33:14-23, 34:1-9).

This holy, glorious visitation is one of the most famous in the Bible.

Human words can never, ever do justice to this visitation – or to the great Lord God Jehovah!

Think of how incredible this divine visitation

is! The Lord God Almighty, the only true God, visits and reveals Himself, His glory and His name – and infinitely more – to Moses.

The Lord God promises that His presence will go with Moses and that He will give him rest! He tells Moses that Moses has found grace in His sight and that the Lord knows him by name!

God makes all His goodness pass before Moses! God reveals His character to Moses! Glory to God!

And today, we the saints have the same God with us, within us, and all around us!

Just a few highlights: The Tablets of Stone

The Lord God tells Moses to bring tablets of stone, and God “will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke” (Exodus 34:1).

The broken tablets were prophetic. While Moses was on the mountain receiving the law and commandments, the Israelites were breaking the law by building and worshipping a golden calf, an idol. All details in the Bible are eternally important.

On the Top of the Mountain

God tells Moses to come up to Mount Sinai, and “present yourself to Me there on the top of

the mountain" (Exodus 34:2).

The Lord is the Most High God. Amen! When we meet Him, He will surely lift us up high!

We all have ups and downs, highs and lows. Let's always remember that when we know and belong to Jesus Christ, we belong to the Most High God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the most powerful being in the universe! He will lift us up high, in the power of His might. Amen!

God Has Shape

Just like previous visitations, we see in this one that God has specific shape. These truths are holy and sacred, and also simple!

In this passage, God speaks about His face, hand, and back. He speaks, so He has a mouth.

God tells Moses: "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live" (Exodus 34:20).

The Lord speaks about His hand and back: "So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen" (Exodus 34:22-23).

Sometimes we overlook the truth that God has specific shape and that He made man into His own image and likeness. We are the image of God. Man has shape, the same shape of God. Amen!

The Holy Spirit will reveal to us the glorious

revelation that when the Lord God Almighty came to earth as a man, as one of us, Jesus Christ, He had shape and form, just like us! Amen!

In heaven, God the Father has shape. He sits on the highest throne in the universe. No man shall see His face and live. His "eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

He has a mouth. He speaks. When He spoke about Jesus at Jesus' baptism, the people who heard it said that it had thundered. His hands are mighty. His arms are outstretched. Amen!

And Jesus Christ has shape. His face shines like the sun. His eyes are like a flame of fire. He has a mouth, and His voice is as the sound of many waters. His hands and feet are nail-pierced. Amen!

The Rock

God tells Moses: "So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by" (Exodus 34:22).

The rock speaks of and is symbolic of God Almighty, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who is our rock. Amen!

God's Character

God "makes all His goodness pass before"

Moses (Exodus 33:19). What God reveals is so awesome, that for all eternity, we will be in awe of Him:

“The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin . . .” (Exodus 34:6-7).

Summary:

God is merciful

God is gracious

God is longsuffering, patient

God is abounding in goodness

God is abounding in truth

God forgives iniquity

God forgives transgression

God forgives sin

SEVEN

God Visits Joshua Joshua 5

“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, ‘Are You for us or for our adversaries?’

So He said, ‘No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.’

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, ‘What does my Lord say to His servant?’

Then the Commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, ‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.’ And Joshua did so (Joshua 5:13-15).

The Commander of the Army of the Lord

The Commander of the Lord's army is indeed the Lord God Almighty, the great God Jehovah.

God Almighty revealed Himself to man with numerous, glorious names, beginning in Genesis with Elohim and Jehovah.

Later, at the appointed time, the only true God was revealed as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, when Jesus Christ came to the earth as a man. Glory to God!

The Army of the Lord

The army of the Lord and the billions of angels comprising the army are indeed staggering and mind-blowing beyond comprehension.

For all eternity, we will never be able to express in words the glory and power of His heavenly host.

Every angel in the army is glorious, magnificent, mighty and so much more. They are literally made from God's glory.

Five Divisions of Angels

There are five divisions of the Lord's holy angels, His holy army.

Seraphim – Isaiah 6:1-3

Cherubim – Genesis 1, Ezekiel 3

Zao, or Living Creatures – Revelation 4
Archangels – Luke 1, Daniel 10
Angels – Luke 2, Matthew 4, Luke 22

The Lord is indeed the Lord of hosts, the Lord of armies.

There are numerous scriptures that declare Him to be the Lord of Hosts, including: Haggai 2:4-9; Malachi 3:17; Zechariah 4:6; Isaiah 44:6; Psalm 24:10; and many more.

Recommended Reading

Billy Graham, *Angels*
David Jeremiah, *Angels*
Mary Baxter, *Angels*

EIGHT

God Visits Manoah & Wife

Judges 13

In Judges 13, the Lord God appeared to Manoah's wife and told her she would have a son, who would be Samson, the last of the Judges of Israel in the Book of Judges.

A key portion:

"The Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar!" (Judges 13:20)

"So the woman came and told her husband, saying, 'A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. And He said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son . . .'

Then Manoah prayed to the Lord, and said, 'O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.'

And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, 'Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!'

So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, 'Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?'

And He said, 'I am.'

Manoah said, 'Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?'

So the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, 'Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe.'

Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, 'Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You.'

And the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, 'Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the Lord.' (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the Lord.)

Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, 'What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?'

And the Angel of the Lord said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'

So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the Lord. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on – it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar – the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. When the Angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the Lord (Judges 13:6-21)

This visitation is yet another glorious appearance and visit from the Lord God Almighty to man!

Manoah and his wife described Him as a "Man of God," and the passage describes Him as "the Angel of the Lord."

In reality, the visitor is the Lord God Almighty, the One and Only. How do we know this? Verse 18: "And the Angel of the Lord said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'" (Judges 13:18)

We read in Isaiah 6:9 that God's name is Wonderful: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Won-

derful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 6:9).

Man of God

Notice that Manoah and his wife called the visitor a "Man of God."

When God appears, He often looks like a man, with the same shape and image we have: a head, body, arms, legs.

God has shape and image. He created man into His own image and likeness. We are the image of God.

Just as God is a trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – man is a trinity: spirit, soul and body.

Just as God is eternal, every person is an eternal being. Every person will exist for eternity, either in eternal life or eternal death.

Just as God has a will, He has given every man his own will to choose.

The Church is Being Transformed into His Image

God creating man into His image and likeness also speaks of the church of Jesus Christ.

God's church and saints are being transformed into God's glorious image, as they walk with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the One who causes this transformation, helping the saints go from glory to glory, until they are clothed with the glori-

ous, wonderful presence of Jesus.

When God created Adam, Adam was clothed with God's glory. God wants the church to be filled with and clothed with His glory. Amen.

God Came to Earth as a Man

Mysteries surround salvation – and everything related to our most holy faith.

Jesus said, "Because to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven . . ." (Matthew 13:11).

It is truly a great mystery that God Almighty would come to earth as a man and reveal Himself to man!

When we realize God came to earth as a man at various times to reveal Himself to man, we will begin to get a deeper understanding of the Trinity, of salvation, of Jesus Christ, and infinitely more.

God indeed came to earth as a man at various times, before coming to the earth as Jesus Christ, to save the world. This visitation in the Book of Judges is an example.

In these appearances, the visitor was the Lord God Almighty, before He came to earth as a physical man like us. When He came to earth as a literal man like us, He was revealed as Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

**“For God So Loved the World that He Gave
His Only Begotten Son . . .” (John 3:16)**

The truth that the Father sent Jesus Christ to the earth is beyond human comprehension.

The truth that God sent Jesus to die for the world is so glorious and awesome, for all eternity we will be in awe of our great God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

How can it be that God would perform such an incredible sacrifice? That He would send Jesus to the earth to be a man, knowing His Son would have to suffer and endure such a cruel death, to save mankind?

How can it be that Jesus Christ would leave glory and come to the earth as a man, and suffer and endure such pain and suffering and a cruel death on the cross?

The Holy Spirit is of course the One who reveals these glorious truths to us.

When we realize the truth that God created man into His image and likeness, we will get a deeper understanding of God’s love for mankind, such love that He would send Jesus Christ to the earth to die for the world.

**“His Countenance was . . . Very Awesome”
(Judges 13:6)**

Manoah’s wife described the visitor: “A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very

awesome" (Judges 13:6).

The Lord God Almighty's countenance is indeed very awesome! And He is very awesome!

**"He Did a Wondrous Thing . . ." (Judges
13:19)**

Manoah offered the goat and the grain offering on the altar, burning them with fire. Then the Lord did a wondrous thing – He ascended in the flame of fire!

The fire of course speaks of and is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

God indeed does wondrous things.

"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen" (Psalm 72:18-19).

NINE

God Rescues Three Men from a Fiery Furnace Daniel 3

Key portion:

“‘Look!’ he answered, ‘I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God’” (Daniel 3:25).

“Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and

their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, 'Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?'

They answered and said to the king, 'True, O king.'

'Look!' he answered, 'I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God'" (Daniel 3:19-25).

Another glorious visitation and revelation – and rescue! – of and from the Lord God Almighty!

Three men refused to bow down to the image of King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. The king orders them to be killed in a fiery furnace. The furnace is even heated seven times more than usual, so hot that it killed those placing them in the furnace.

God rescues them! Amen. The king and his men saw "four men" in the fire, and "the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:25).

Man and Son of God

Again, we see that God appears as a man. He also is called the "Son of God."

God indeed has form and shape, and He created us into His image and likeness.

In this supernatural story of rescue and revelation, God indeed came to earth as a man.

Seven

In the Bible, the number seven speaks of completeness, perfection and redemption, among other truths.

The number seven is mentioned 735 times in the Bible.

We see that the fire was heated seven times more than usual. This speaks of how God's salvation, redemption and rescue of us through His Son Jesus is complete and perfect.

Three Men

God's rescue of these three men surely speaks of God rescuing us from the enemy. God sent the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for mankind. Glory to God forever!

Those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior when they leave the earth will be rescued from the fires of hell, the "eternal fire prepared for the enemy and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

The saints will spend eternity in heaven, God's home, a place of absolute glory, beauty, love and infinitely, eternally more.

TEN

A Vision of God on His Throne & of the Son of Man Daniel 7

"I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame, made of flames
of fire,
Its wheels a burning fire;
A fiery stream issued
And came forth from before Him.
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood be-
fore Him.
The court was seated,
And the books were opened.

I watched then because of the sound of the
pompous words which the horn was speaking;

I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.
Then to Him was given dominion, supreme
authority, glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:9-14,
including Amplified).

This glorious passage should fill us with awe and wonder of our great and awesome God Almighty! And of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Amen!

Glory to God!

The first section describes God Almighty.

The second section describes the Son of Man, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, before He was known as Jesus.

God on His Throne

The following is holy and sacred. At the same time, it is simple, wonderful, and infinitely more.

These descriptions of God reveal once again that God has form and shape, and that He made man into His own image.

Man is God's highest creation. He loves mankind so much that He sent His only Son to die for the world.

Receive and walk with Jesus Christ as your wonderful Lord and Savior. Receive eternal life, which is knowing the only true God and Jesus Whom He has sent.

What is God like? He is the most wonderful, most beautiful Person in the universe.

ELEVEN

A Vision of God on His Throne Isaiah 6

Isaiah 6 contains a vision of the glorious, awesome Lord God Almighty on His throne:

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train, the long back portion, of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!’

And the posts of the door were shaken by the

voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke (Isaiah 6:1-4).

Glory to God! Another glorious description of God Almighty on His throne!

The following three chapters contain scripture with descriptions of God Almighty, so glorious, human words cannot express it.

TWELVE

A Vision of God on His Throne Ezekiel 1

Ezekiel Chapter 1 contains a vision of the glorious, awesome Lord God Almighty on His throne:

“And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone, a transparent precious stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber, a honey-yellow color, with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the

appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord" (Ezekiel 1:26-28).

THIRTEEN

God Comes to Earth as a Man

God came to earth as a man, Jesus Christ, and justified Himself to the world.

Jesus Christ is God. Amen.

Jesus Christ is both God and . . . the Son of God.

This truth is one of the most significant revelations in the universe.

This truth is central to God Almighty's plan for humanity. It is more than central; it is center, source, and substance of God Almighty Himself.

He is the only true God, the Creator and Sustainer of the Heavens and the Earth, the Great and Awesome Jehovah, the Lord God Almighty . . . the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And His name is . . . Jesus Christ.

For man, this truth is so important, vital, and central; it is so deep, profound, and vast; that those who make it to heaven will spend eternity in holy awe of this glorious revelation and the unsearchable, eternal revelations within it, related to it, and connected to it.

Those who make it to heaven will spend eternity in holy awe of Him . . . the Lord God Almighty . . . Yahweh . . . Jehovah Elohim . . . and His Son Jesus Christ, the Lord, Savior, and God, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And yet, Jesus Christ is also the Son of God – and much more! And Jesus says, “My Father is greater than I” (John 14:28).

The fact that He is both God and the Son of God is a mystery and a reality

The Trinity is an eternal revelation that is beyond human comprehension.

**Jesus said: “He Who Has Seen Me
Has Seen the Father” (John 14:9)**

As with everything He did and does, Jesus spoke about His deity perfectly.

Below are four (4) of the portions of scripture in which Jesus reveals that He is indeed God Almighty:

“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He

who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him” (John 5:22-23).

“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM’” (John 8:54-58).

“He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me” (John 12:44-45).

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.’

“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves” (John 14:7-11)

Redemption – Jesus Christ

Humans will never be able to comprehend or fathom how significant, important, and deep

this specific truth is: that Jesus Christ is God.

This truth is perhaps the central and primary message of the Bible and of God's relationship with mankind.

If the Bible is summed up in one word, it is: redemption.

If redemption is summed up in one word, it is: Jesus. In two words, it is: Jesus Christ.

FOURTEEN

A Vision of Jesus Christ Revelation 1

Revelation 1 contains a vision of the glorious Lord Jesus Christ:

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,’ and, ‘What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.’

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about

the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death'" (Revelation 1:10-18).

FIFTEEN

A Vision of God on His Throne Revelation 4

Revelation 4 contains an awesome vision of the only true God, the Lord God Almighty:

“Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures

full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

'Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!'

Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

'You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created'" (Revelation 4:2-11).