



FireMan – “I AM”

Memory Verse: *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."* – John 8:58

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Women of The Rock: Spring Tea & Fashion Show, April 23 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

New parking for The Rock: Help us open up 100 parking spaces at Ruffin Road by parking at Level 3 Communications (8929 Aero Dr.) The walk is not any further than our SDSU days! View the map at: <http://www.therocksandiego.org/moreparking/>

The Armor of God: Can you stand against the schemes of the devil? Join us for a six week study with Pastor John Leeder. Study begins Wednesday, April 27. Register at www.therockuniversity.org

S m a l l **G** r o u p **Q** u e s t i o n s

Spend some time reviewing the following questions and see what everyone remembered from this weekend. (Need help? Check out the last page)

1. What does ‘theos’ mean?
2. What is a theophany?
3. Have your Small Group list as many Old Testament titles of Jesus Christ as they can.
4. Why did God rain fire down on Sodom?
5. List at least three different characteristics of fire.
6. In Revelation 1 where is fire used as John describes Jesus?
7. Where in the Bible do we find fire used to protect believers from judgment?

Jesus in the Old Testament

I. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Tabernacle

1. Door – **John 10:1-9**
2. Brazen Altar – **Hebrews 9**
3. Laver – Living Water – **John 4**
4. Menorah – **John 8:12**
 - a. 6 branches pounded out of one piece – **Exodus 25:31-32**
 - b. I am the vine you are the branches – **John 15:5**
5. Table of showbread – Bread of Life – **John 6:51**
6. Golden Altar – **John 17** – Jesus our Great High Priest – **Hebrews 3:1**
7. Ark of the Covenant / Mercy Seat – Jesus tears the curtain from top to bottom – **Matthew 27:51**

2. The Feasts of Israel point to Jesus

In the Hebrew the word feast literally means “a rehearsal”

1) **Passover** - Pointed to the Messiah as our Passover lamb whose blood would be shed for our sins. Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation for the Passover, at the same time that the lambs were being slaughtered for the Passover meal that evening.

2) **Unleavened Bread** - Pointed to the Messiah's sinless life, making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' body was in the grave during the first days of this feast, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the bread of life.

3) **First Fruits** - Pointed to the Messiah's resurrection as the first fruits of the righteous. Jesus was resurrected on this very day, which is one of the reasons that Paul refers to him in I Corinthians 15:20 as the "first fruits from the dead."

4) **Harvest or Pentecost** - (Called Shavuot today.) Pointed to the great harvest of souls, both Jew and Gentile, that would come into the kingdom of God during the Church Age. The Church was actually established on this day when the Messiah poured out the Holy Spirit and 3,000 souls responded to Peter's first proclamation of the Gospel.

5) **Trumpets** - (Called Rosh Hashana today.) Points to the Rapture when the Messiah will appear in the heavens as a Bridegroom coming for His bride, the Church. The Rapture is always associated in Scripture with the blowing of a loud trumpet (I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and I Corinthians 15:52)

6) **Atonement** - (Called Yom Kippur today.) Points to the day of the Second Coming of Jesus when He will return to earth. That will be the day of atonement for the Jewish remnant when they "look upon Him whom they have pierced," repent of their sins, and receive Him as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 11:1-6, 25-36).

7) **Tabernacles** - (Called Sukkot today.) Points to the Lord's promise that He will once again tabernacle with His people when He returns to reign over all the world from Jerusalem (Micah 4:1-7).

Appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament

Christians believe that Jesus appeared many times in the Old Testament – the writers just didn't necessarily call Him *Jesus*. Simply stated, the writers really didn't know the extent and details of God's salvation plan – that God would become a man named Jesus. Because of this, Jesus presence in the Old Testament was often referred to as "The Angel of the Lord." You are probably wondering how we can be sure that "The Angel of the Lord" is really Jesus. Doesn't it make sense that this Angel could be God the Father or just simply one of His angels?

Before we take a look at when and how Jesus appeared in the Old Testament, let's look at the evidence that confirms the Angel of the Lord was really Jesus.

The Angel of the Lord could not have been just another angel

(Information taken from www.gotquestions.org)

- The Angel of the Lord speaks as God would speak
- The Angel of the Lord identifies Himself with God
- The Angel of the Lord exercise the responsibilities of God
- Appearances of the Angel cease after Jesus birth.

Clearly, the Angel of the Lord aligned Himself with God, not with other angels.

(Information taken from the article [An Angel You Ought to Know](http://www.idolphin.org/angelL.html), written by Loren Jacobs, <http://www.idolphin.org/angelL.html>)

- The Angel of the Lord guided the people of Israel, performed miracles, and executed judgment on Israel's enemies. These are not acts that an angel would perform unless that angel was God.
- Those who encountered the Angel of the Lord identified the Angel as God, worshiped the Angel, or hid their face. These actions would only be taken if the person who saw the Angel truly believed they were experiencing God.

(Information taken from the article [Christ in the Old Testament](http://users.aristotle.net/~bhuie/christot.htm), written by Bryan Huie, <http://users.aristotle.net/~bhuie/christot.htm>)

- The roles assumed by the Angel of the Lord are the same roles Christ assumes in our life.

Angel of the Lord	Christ
Was the <i>guardian</i> of the Israelites during the Exodus out of Egypt	<i>Leads and guides</i> us in our spiritual walk & emotional growth, Christ meets our physical needs.
Delivered God's Word on Mt. Sinai	Christ was God's Word of redemption to us.
Protected the Israelites in the desert	Protects us from the attacks of the enemy
Punished the Israelites when they sinned	Defeated death and now holds the keys of judgment

The Angel of the Lord could not have been God the Father

Scripture tells us that no one has seen God the Father; therefore the Angel of the Lord could not have been God the Father and must be another member of the Trinity. Because the Holy Spirit cannot be seen, the Angel of the Lord must be Jesus Christ.

- John 1:8 No one has seen God at any time. (NKJV)
- John 5:37 “And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. (NKJV)
- John 6:46 “Not that nay man hath seen the Father, except he who is from God, he hath seen the Father.” (NKJV)
- I Timothy 6:14Our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the Kind of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (Jerusalem Bible)
- I John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. (NKJV)

Clearly, the Angel of the Lord is God revealing Himself to His people. Furthermore, because no one has ever seen God the Father or God the Spirit, the Angel of the Lord must be Jesus.

Appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament	Why does this prove Jesus’ deity?
Jesus appears to Hagar to tell her to return to Sarai Gen 16:7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hagar acknowledged she was in the presence of God • She called the Angel “El Roi” or <i>The God who sees</i>
Jesus appears to Abraham to tell him that he will have the promised son with Sarah Gen 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abraham bowed low to the ground and referred to himself as “your servant” indicating that he was talking to a superior
Jesus appears to Abraham to tell him to sacrifice his son Gen 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Angel identified himself as Yhvh. • In Hebrew Yhvh means Lord.
Jacob wrestles with God Gen 32:22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob identified the man he wrestled with as God by saying “I’ve seen God face to face...”
Jesus appears to Moses in the burning bush Exodus 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses hid his face from the burning bush. • Moses would not have done this if he did not believe that God was present in the burning bush.

Appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament	Why does this prove Jesus' deity?
<p>Jesus leads the Israelites through the desert as a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night.</p> <p>Exodus 13:21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare this verse to Ex. 14:19. • Ex. 14:19 says, "The Lord went before them."
<p>Jesus appears to Moses on Mt. Sinai to give him the 10 commandments</p> <p>Exodus 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses the same Hebrew name as in Genesis 18
<p>Jesus appears to Joshua to give him instructions for the Battle of Jericho</p> <p>Joshua 5:13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua worshiped the man who gave him instructions. • Joshua would only have worshiped God.
<p>Jesus appears with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace.</p> <p>Daniel 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a foreshadowing of Jesus' willingness to walk with us into the fiery trials of our lives. Uses the phrase Son of Man to describe him.

Metaphors for Jesus in the Bible

Metaphor for Jesus	Explanation of Metaphor	New Testament Old Testament References
Word or Logos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Word” or Logos is an eternal attribute of God the Father ● The Greek’s understood “Logos” as more than just speech and sound ● Logos was an action; it was a word that did something! ● Jesus Chris is God’s active Word in the world. He is God’s Word that brought redemption and salvation to His people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● John 1: 1-3 ● Gen. 1:1 ● Psa. 36:9 ● Isa. 55:11
Sacrificial Lamb:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In both the Old and New Testaments, the sacrificial lamb was the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for sin. <p>http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Lamb-of-God.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jn 1:29, 36 ● Rm. 3:32; 6:23 ● Ex. 12; 29:38 – 49 ● Isa. 53: 7, 10 ● Jer. 11:19
Bread of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Bread of Life represents God’s desire to satisfy our hunger. ● Also, the Bread of Life symbolizes how God’s salvation is linked to a banquet with a table spread for royalty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jn. 6:35 ● Ex. 25:23
The Door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jesus is referred to as “The Door” because it is through Him that we enter the Kingdom of God. ● By going through Jesus to the Father we find substance and rest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jn. 10:7 – 10 ● Matthew 11:29-30
Shepherd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jesus is called our shepherd, the Good Shepherd, because he laid down his life for his sheep. ● Jesus leads, guides, protects, and sustains us. ● By calling Himself the Good Shepherd, Jesus is saying that he is God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jn. 10:11 – 18 ● Ez. 34:11 – 16 ● Isaiah 40:10-11 ● Psa 23

S m a l l G r o u p Q u e s t i o n s

1. What does 'theos' mean?
God
2. What is a theophany?
Aan appearance of God before man
3. Have your Small Group list as many Old Testament titles of Jesus Christ as they can.
Angel of the Lord, Word, Lamb of God, Son of Man, Commander of the Lord's Army
4. Why did God rain fire down of Sodom?
Sexual sin
5. List at least three different characteristics of fire.
Always moving, always consuming, provides light, purifying, baptizing (to name a few)
6. In Revelation I where is fire used as John describes Jesus?
His eyes
7. Where is the Bible do we find fire used to protect believers from judgment?
Daniel – the Fourth Man in the Fire