

Theophanies

A theophany is an appearance of God in visible form. Usually the appearance is temporary and it is not necessarily material.

1. What problem do the following passages offer to the fledgling disciple? (Exodus 33:20; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:16 cp Genesis 32:30; Exodus 24:9-11; Deuteronomy 5:24; Judges 6:22-23; 13:20-23; Isaiah 6:5; 1 John 1:1-2; 3:2; Revelation 1:16-17)
2. What do the following passages teaches us about Jesus' history? (John 1:1-10; 8:58; Proverbs 8:22-31)
3. In what ways does the intrinsic nature of the Father and the Spirit preclude their being seen or handled? (Luke 24:39; Romans 1:19-20; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17)
4. What do we glean from the Lord's appearances to Abram? What do we learn of His character and purpose? (Genesis 17:1-4, 9-10, 15-16, 22; 18:1-3)
5. Read Genesis 16:7-14. What clues lead us to identify the Angel of the Lord as a theophany? What significance does His appearance to Hagar have?
6. How does Genesis 22:10-12 support the idea that the Angel of the Lord should be identified as God?

7. Jacob is one of Israel's three great patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). What was his view of the Angel of the Lord? (Genesis 32:24-30; 48:15-16)

8. Notice that the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the flaming bush (Exodus 3:2-6). How did he identify Himself? What was Moses' reaction? Why was his reaction significant?

9. Compare the following three passages and write down what conclusions you draw from that comparison.
Exodus 3:2-6

Hebrews 12:28-29

Revelation 1:14-15

10. What do we learn of the Angel of the Lord's role and attitude from His encounter with Gideon?

11. Compare that with the following passages and briefly discuss how this perception of the Son of God differs with the popular, Culturally Christian view of Jesus.
Joshua 5:15

Matthew 26:52

Zechariah 1:8-13

12. Based on the following two passages, what does Jesus look like now?
Ezekiel 1:26-28

Revelation 1:12-18