God Revealed – The Eternal Son

The almighty, infinite, and eternal God pre-existed creation and the known history of man. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was, is, and eternally will be in the fullness of His being. In theology (the study of God), the study of Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God is called Christology.

John 1:1-3 NKJV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:4-5 NKJV In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

The three persons of the Divine Trinity pre-existed the creation.

In eternity, before anything else existed, Jesus the eternal Son of God was with the Father and the Holy Spirit. God has revealed Himself across time and eternity through His mighty works and the inspired word.

In eternity past, God in His infinite perfections and being made the place of His abode.

Jesus said, John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. This eternal abode of God is described as the Father's house. The splendor and beauty of that glorious place is beyond compare. In eternity, the Divine Trinity dwelled in perfect harmony, holiness, and splendor.

Somewhere in eternity past, God began creating. We have been given a glimpse of God's almightiness in the revelation of His creation. By the word of His power, God created everything. That includes the spirit and physical world and all that encompasses. All of the angels, principalities and powers were created by God. Every star, constellation, cell and membrane of the universe was created by God.

God has revealed Himself throughout time in ways that we may know Him.

The Scriptures give special glimpses of the eternal and almighty God. Little is said about the events before Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God the trinity created everything that is. Adam and Eve enjoyed a period of time living and knowing the presence and provision of God's goodness. In our current state of affairs, it is impossible to understand the depth of their exposure to God's presence and being. We are simply told that

God “came down” in the cool of the day and would walk and talk with them. We do not know how much exposure they had to the fullness of the divine trinity. They knew and fellowshipped with God in a very special way, until sin entered.

Scanning across the eons of time, God revealed Himself in many ways.

We have been shown manifestations of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as they have taken action in this world. Initially, we observe God creating all things and then we are shown glimpses of His interaction with individuals at specific points of time. Most of our knowledge of God’s actions and revelations have been around individuals who had special manifestations of God.

- Enoch walked with God.
- Noah was warned by God of impending judgment.
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob heard and saw God.
- Moses met Him at the burning bush.

These kinds divine manifestations continued throughout the Bible. God revealed Himself to the judges, prophets, kings and the congregation of God’s people. A large number of these revelations revealed God’s eternal plan to provide a Savior, Jesus Christ His Son, and bring creation back into harmony with Himself after sin and the fall of man.

Our specific study at this time centers around the Lord Jesus Christ and His appearances.

Appearances of the pre-incarnate Christ are found throughout the Old Testament. Many prophets foresaw the Son of God coming as the Redeemer from sin. The revelation of Jesus Christ is more clearly seen in the New Testament. The prophecies of old were unfolded before those who *“beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,”* (John 1:14).

The incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ the Savior was born in the manger in Bethlehem. His early life and time up to His baptism by John is mostly hidden.

Once He was baptized, Jesus the Christ entered into His public ministry that the prophets of old foresaw. He preached good news to the poor, healed the brokenhearted, proclaimed liberty to captives, recovered sight to the blind, set at liberty the oppressed, and proclaimed the year of the Lord’s favor, (Luke 4:18-19, Isaiah 61:1-2). His 3 ½ year ministry

exposed thousands of people to the glory of God and revealed the Father. The Lord Jesus said, “whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9; 12:45; 1:18; Col 1:15) His word and works were a direct reflection of the heart and will of the Father.

After His death and resurrection, the Son of God appeared before His disciples for 40 days.

During those short forty days (Acts 1:3-9), He showed Himself alive with many infallible proofs to over 500 people, (1 Corinthians 15:6). Then He ascended back to the Father in heaven and is seated in a place of honor as our Intercessor and High Priest. In the end, Christ the glorious King will return to receive His waiting bride to Himself and then He will bring judgment on a wicked world and Satan. His ultimate glory shall be revealed throughout eternity as He rules and reigns in righteousness. As John said, 1 John 1:4, “our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 1:15-16 NIV He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:17-19 NIV He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him.

In the Old Testament, God, who is Spirit, revealed Himself using human-like characteristics, bodily form, emotions, and actions to communicate divine truth. These anthropomorphic revelations were essential for God to remain accessible to people. God also revealed Himself through visible manifestations (theophanies) that demonstrated His power, presence and glory in some physical manner. The pre-incarnate Son of God also appeared to select individuals and groups in what is known as Christophanies. These were manifestations of the second person of the Trinity in bodily form. Some of these manifestations are difficult to determine if they were a revelation of the Father or the Son of God.

In the Old Testament, God the Son revealed Himself sufficiently so that we may know that He is and that He is indeed Almighty God.

- **Genesis 3:8** — When God came walking through thee garden, Adam and

Eve hid from God's presence

- **Genesis 12:1-4; 17:1** — Almighty God spoke and appeared to Abram multiple times.
- **Genesis 18:1** — The LORD appeared with two angels to Abraham on His way to destroy Sodom.
- **Exodus 6:3** — The Lord appeared to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses as the LORD God Almighty.
- **Exodus 13:1-2; 6:2-29; 3:4**— God came close and spoke to Moses.
- **1 Kings 8:10-11** — When the priest came out of the holy place, the glory cloud of God's presence filled the temple.
- **2 Chronicles 5:11-14** — When the priests, Levites, singers, and musicians praised the LORD, the glory cloud of the LORD's presence filled the house.
- **Hosea 1:1-7** — The LORD Jehovah came to Hosea and spoke to him.

The Son of God was revealed as the Angel of the LORD in the Old testament.

- **Genesis 16:7-14** — The Angel of the LORD found Hagar by a spring in the wilderness and promised to bless her son Ishmael.
- **Genesis 18:13,14,17, 33** — The Angel of the LORD announced his future and covenant with Abraham.
- **Genesis 22:11-18** — The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham when he was about to slay Isaac on the altar.
- **Genesis 32:24-30** — Jacob wrestled with the Angel of the LORD. He said, "I have seen God face to face"....
- **Genesis 37:11-13** — The Angel of the Lord spoke to Jacob in a dream
- **Exodus 1:1-6** — The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a fiery bush.
- **Exodus 14:19** — The Angel of the Lord was revealed as a pillar of cloud and fire.
- **Daniel 3:25** — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego saw the form of the Son of God in the fiery furnace.

There are many more references that give Old Testament appearances of the Son of God. (Exodus 23:20; Exodus 32:34; 1 Corinthians 10:4; Numbers 22:22-35; Judges 6:11-23; Judges 13:2-25; 1 Kings 19:5-18; 2 Kings 19:35; Zechariah 1:1-17; Zechariah 3:1-8; etc.)

God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, was co-eternal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

John 1:1-2 NIV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:14 NKJV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In eternity past, the omniscient (all knowing) God, knew we would need a spotless and sinless Savior. So God the Father gave His Son as “the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8) to redeem us from our sins. God the Son knew the terrible consequences of man's sin and willingly came in the form of a man to pay that price.

Philippians 2:6-8 NIV Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

The prophets saw the One Who was to come.

When the fullness of time approached, the vision became so clear that His appearance and life could be easily recognized. Jesus said the Scriptures “testify of Me,” (John 5:39). The prophets revealed that He would be of the “offspring of the woman,” indicating the virgin birth, (Genesis 3:15). Christ’s genealogy can be traced from Adam, through the godly line of Noah and his son Shem, to Abraham, to David, to Mary and Joseph, (Genesis 6:8-10; 11:10-26; Luke 3:23-28; Matthew 1:1-17). He came exactly as the Scriptures indicated and did exactly what was prophesied. He lived, died, arose from the grave, and ascended back to the Father just as the Scriptures said.

His names indicate His eternal being.

The name “Jesus" was given before He was born.

Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The name “Jesus” was given to Joseph (Matthew 1:21) and Mary (Luke 1:31) by the Angel Gabriel. "Jesus” is the Greek form of the Hebrew name “Joshua,” which means “Jehovah Our Savior.” His earthly name “Jesus” is more prominent in the Gospels before His death, burial and resurrection. The name “Jesus” was used mainly before salvation was

completed.

"Christ"– the Title of the Son of God

Christos or "Christ," is Greek for "Messiah" or "the Anointed One." "Christos" means the same as the Hebrew word ''Messiah."

John 1:41 NIV The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

Although mentioned early on, the title Christ is more prominent after Calvary. The Epistles spell out the doctrine of salvation by faith in the sacrifice on the cross. Jesus was "made both LORD and Christ." In Acts 2:36 Peter said, "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both LORD and Christ."

"LORD" is the Title of Deity and Authority.

Romans 10:9 NIV84 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

In the New Testament, "Lord" comes from the Greek word "KURIOS," which is translated as "Lord, God, Master."

Philippians 2:8-11 says, "God exalted Him and gave Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow… that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The name "I AM" includes all His names.

John 14:6 NIV Jesus answered, "I AM the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58).

Jesus declared "I AM" twenty times in the Gospel of John.

- "I AM the bread of life."
- "I AM the light of the world."
- "I AM the good Shepherd."
- "I AM the resurrection and the life," etc .

The name "I AM" refers back to Exodus 3:14 where the eternal God said, "I AM WHO I AM."

Son of God is His title of Glory and Deity.

Luke 1:35 NIV84 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.

Son of Man refers to His humanity and relationship with the Father.

Matthew 26:64 NKJV Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Isaiah 7:14 said He would be called Immanuel. In Matthew 1:23 the angel said “The virgin will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

John 1:14 NIV84 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Son of God became the Son of Man. The title “Son of Man” occurs more than 80 times in the Gospels. Jesus used this title to reference His obedience to the Father and mission to fulfill the Father’s purpose. The Son of God took our human nature into union with His Divine Person and became a man. The incarnation covers every phase of Christ’s earthly life from the virgin birth, His two natures, works, death, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus participated fully in all that it means to live a human life. Yet, He was not merely a “man” that was approved of God. The “Son of God” took on the form of a man and lived among us.

1 Timothy 3:16 NIV84 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Jesus Christ had a fully divine nature and took upon Himself a fully human nature—both natures were complete in every way. He had all the character and ability that He had in eternity, and yet His human nature was fully complete. He was Emmanuel, “God with us.” Jesus had a childhood and He grew and became strong in spirit, wisdom, and stature, (Luke 2:40; Luke 2:52).

Jesus, the Son of Man had human needs just like anyone else.

He became hungry (Matthew 4:2), thirsty (John 19:28), weary (John 4:6), and sleepy (Matthew 8:24). He experienced sorrow (Matthew 26:38) and His flesh became weak. He needed clothes to wear and shoes for His feet (Luke 9:29; John 1:16). Christ came in the “likeness” of sinful flesh to redeem those who are in sinful flesh (John 1:14; Romans 8:3; Hebrews 4:15). Although He was a flesh and blood person, Jesus did not surrender to the desires of the flesh.

He is The Word – The Living Word

John 1:1-2 NIV84 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:14 NIV84 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

He is Savior – He was born to save men from sin.

Matthew 1:21 NIV84 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

Luke 2:11 NIV84 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

The "Lord Jesus Christ" is His full title.

Ephesians 1:3 NIV84 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

There are 272 names attributed to Lord in Scripture.

- ➢ 145 are prophetic
- ➢ 132 describe different aspects of His life.
- ➢ There are 333 prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Christ.

After His death, Christ appeared seventeen times to various people and groups.

During the forty days, Jesus was recognized and spoke with people, (Mark 16:12-14; Luke 24:34; John 20:11-17; Acts 1:3).

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 NKJV He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

At least nine things are revealed about Christ's resurrected body.

1. Recognizable, could see Him, Matthew 28:9-10, etc.
2. Bore the imprint of the wounds in His hands, feet, and side, John 20:27-29
3. He could eat and drink with them, Luke 24:40-43
4. He could be touched, Matthew 28:9-10; Luke 24:39; John 20:27
5. Walked and talked with them, Luke 24:29-33, Mark 16:12-14
6. Knew them, John 20:11-17
7. Could appear and disappear in a locked room with them, John

20:19-23

8. He gave instruction to them, Matthew 28:16-20
9. He had a body, Luke 24:36-39

The Ascension of Christ

Forty days after His resurrection, Christ's earthly ministry ended with His ascension into heaven.

Luke 24:50-51 NIV84 When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.

In His glorified living body, Jesus Christ ascended into glory, ending His redemptive work. The Lord Jesus Christ is now at the right hand of the Father in a position of honor and power. He is ministering as our divine Advocate and Great High Priest with the Father, (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14; 5:4-10; 6:20; 7:25, 1 John 2:1). Jesus has an unchangeable priesthood and glory that He possessed with the Father before the world was. Being at the right hand of the Father indicates His full authority and power.

The final revelation of Jesus Christ refers to His Kingship.

As the Eternal Living Word, He authenticated the Scriptures, revealed the Father, and foretold what was to come. As a Priest, He offered Himself without blemish to God and entered the Holiest to appear in the presence of God on behalf of all believers. Just as He filled the offices of prophet and priest, it is required that He fill the office of the King. The Father will establish Him as King.

1 Timothy 6:15 NLT For at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.