

## **Christophanies**

A Christophany is a visible manifestation or appearance of God the Son before His human incarnation. This occurred with several figures in the Old Testament:

### **Abraham (Genesis 18)**

- Three men visited Abraham, and one of them was God Himself. We know he was God because the text says, “and the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre.” The other two men were angels.

### **Jacob (Genesis 32:22-32)**

- Jacob once wrestled with a man all night, and that man was God. He said to Jacob, “your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel for you have striven with God, and with men, and have prevailed.”
- The Angel of God appeared to Jacob in a dream and said, “I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me.” The God of Bethel is Yahweh (Genesis 28:13-22).

### **Joshua (Joshua 5:13-15)**

- A "Man" with a sword in hand appeared to Joshua before the fall of Jericho. He identified himself as the commander of the army of the Lord. Joshua immediately fell to his face and worshipped and the commander said, “take off your sandals from your feet for the place where you are standing is holy.”

### **Hagar (Genesis 16:7-14)**

- The angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar in the wilderness and said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” The angel of the Lord spoke with the authority of God and said he would multiply her offspring. Hagar called the angel, “You are a God of seeing,” and said, “truly here I have seen him who looks after me.”

### **Moses (Exodus 3:2-6)**

- The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses “in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush,” and then, “God called to him out of the bush.” He said, “I am the God of your Father, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac.”