

Doctrine of Christophany * The Angel of the Lord

Zechariah 12:8

“In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.”

1. A Christophany comes from two Greek words: *Christos*, Christ, Anointed; *phany*, from *phaneroo* which means “to appear”, “to be revealed,” “to manifest.”
2. This term was made popular by George Balderston Kidd (1794-1852), a Dissenting Minister and theological writer.
3. The term speaks of the pre-existence of Christ before His incarnation and His appearance in the Old Testament.
 - Jesus Christ appeared as a Wrestler. *Genesis 32:24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. 29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.*
 - Jesus appeared as a Man to Abraham in the Person of Melchizedek, Melchisedec (king of righteousness; priest of God Most High). Melchizedek, as king of Salem (Jerusalem), went out to greet Abraham following his victory over Chedorlaomer and his allies.
 - Jesus Christ appeared as a Great Warrior to destroy the Assyrian army in one night. *2 Kings 19:35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.*
 - Jesus Christ appeared as the Fourth Man in the Fire. *Daniel 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*

- Jesus Christ appeared as the Ancient of Days. *Daniel 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*
- Angel of the Lord. The Angel of Jehovah is Jehovah.
 - ❖ Genesis 16:7-13
 - ❖ Genesis 22:11-18
 - ❖ Genesis 31:11-13
 - ❖ Genesis 48:15-16

 - ❖ Exodus 3:1ff; Acts 7:30-38
 - ❖ Exodus 13:21
 - ❖ Exodus 14:19

 - ❖ Judges 6:11-23
 - ❖ Judges 13:3-5

Special Note.

Elohim is the name for God and is plural. This term refers to the essence of God who is sovereign, righteous, love, a spirit, immutable, omnipotent, omniscience, omnipresent, just, eternal, and truth (veracity). In essence, God is one. In person, God is three and so the term Jehovah is used.

- Angel of the Lord. The Angel of Jehovah is distinct from Jehovah.
 - ❖ Genesis 24:7
 - ❖ Numbers 20:16
 - ❖ Exodus 23:20
 - ❖ 1 Chronicles 21:15-18
 - ❖ Isaiah 63:9
 - ❖ Daniel 2:25-28
- Angel of the Lord. The Angel of Jehovah is the Second Person of the Trinity who is the visible member of the Godhead.
 - ❖ John 1:18
 - ❖ John 6:46
 - ❖ 1 Timothy 6:16
 - ❖ 1 John 4:12

Special Note.

Only one member of the Godhead is visible and He is called the Angel of Jehovah who is Jesus Christ. The Angel of Jehovah and the Lord Jesus Christ are both sent by the Father.

God the Holy Spirit has sent Christ.

Luke 4:18

God the Father has sent Christ.

John 5:30, 36, 37; 6:39, 44, 57; 7:29; 20:21.

- The Angel of Jehovah could not be the Father, or the Spirit according to John 1:18 *“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”*

4. There are pre-inanimate Christophanies.

- The burning bush.
- The pillar of fire.
- The cloud.
- The Shekinah glory.

5. There are post Incarnation Christophanies.

- Paul’s vision of Christ on the road to Damascus. *Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.*
- Ananias’ vision of Christ. *Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.*

- John's vision of the Son of Man. *Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. 17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*