Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 9 – Jesus, The Great "I AM")

(Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, 18:6 and Selected Scriptures)

9/8/2013



The years in Midian (Ex 2:15-22; Ac 7:29b)

The call of Moses at the Burning Bush (Ex 2:23-3:10; Heb 11:24-27; Ac 7:23-29a)



"The Angel of YHWH" (3:2) – is the messenger of Yahweh who had appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This powerful person is none other than the LORD (Jehovah) and God (Elohim).

Note the context of Exodus 3:

1) **The Angel of the LORD appears** to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a burning bush. (Exodus 3:2)

2) Moses sees this unusual bush all ablaze and yet was not consumed. So he turns back to take a closer look. As he does so "**The LORD** saw he turned aside to see, **God** called unto him out of the midst of the bush…" (v.4)

3) Moses is told to remove his shoes. "For the **place whereon thou standest is holy ground**" (v.5) Why was it holy ground? It is because the LORD was there. He was present and speaking out of the burning bush.

4) He identifies Himself as **God** (v.6) and says "**I am come down** to deliver them (the Israelites) out of the hand of the Egyptians" (v.8)

5) In doing so he claims **omnipotence** (v.8) to bring deliverance; He claims **omniscience** (v.9) to know the oppression Israel was experiencing. Note: "The cry of the children of Israel is come unto me"

6) After Moses excuse "Who am I" the LORD promises **His presence** (v.12).

7) Anticipating the children of Israel's response of inquiring about the name of the God who appeared to Moses, The Lord says **my name is "I AM"**

8) With this authority Moses is told to "Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The **LORD God** of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, **appeared unto me**…" (v.16)

The objections of Moses to the call of YHWH

Moses' Objections	YHWH's Reply to Moses
No authority (3:11) ["Who am I...?"]	YHWH's presence (3:12) ["I will be with you."]
No message (3:13) ["What shall I say?"]	YHWH's name (3:14) ["I AM has sent you."]
No credibility (4:1) ["They will not believe me."]	YHWH's power (4:1-9) ["What is that in your hand?"]
No eloquence (4:10) ["I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."]	YHWH's enablement (4:11,12, 14-16) ["Aaron shall be your spokesman!"]

The phrase “I AM” was the equivalent to the word Yahweh or Jehovah.

YAHWEH (JEHOVAH) - "Self Existent One"

The term signifies existence/ that which is real (as opposed to idols).

The source of God's existence is wholly within Himself. He depends upon nothing external to Himself for His existence.

“The inner meaning of Yahweh – “I am the One who is” – emphasizes God’s dynamic and active self-existence” (Ryrie note)

Who is this great “I AM”?

Considering the fact of John 1:18 that “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him”. This “angel of the LORD” or “Messenger of YAHWEH” is none other than a preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ!

1. Jesus said "Before Abraham was, <u>I am</u>" (John 8:58)
See John 8:51-59 (*v.58)

For Jesus to make the claims that He did about Himself, He must be either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord!

Only the Eternal One could promise Deathlessness to those who keep His word (v.51-52)

Only the Eternal One would receive the Highest Honor & Glory from God, the Father (v.53-55)

Only the Eternal One could infinitely Pre-date Abraham and the Prophets (v.56-58a)

v. 58
"Verily, verily" = truly, truly. This is an absolute fact worthy of complete trust.

"Before Abraham was, I am" - Before Abraham lived, I am alive.

It is interesting to note that the most grammatically correct way of stating pre-existence would be to say, "Before Abraham lived, I lived" or "Before Abraham was, I was."

But Jesus did not intend that His hearers miss His loaded point. His point is this: Not only did I exist before Abraham, but I am the eternal "I AM" – the God who appeared to Moses at the burning bush (SEE Exod. 3:13-14).

2. When Jesus said "I AM…they went backward, and fell to the ground" (John 18:6)
See John 18:1-<u>6</u>

v. 6
John, in keeping with His purpose to present the deity of Christ, adds a detail that the other Gospel writers did not record. This added significant detail was the initial reaction to Jesus words, "I AM."

As soon as the words "I AM" came out of His mouth, the whole band of hundreds of armed soldiers was blown backwards and helplessly fell down to the ground. The force of His identification of Himself as the "I AM" hit them like a hurricane wind
Here Jesus fulfills Psalm 27:2 -
When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Conclusion:

Unless people acknowledge the deity of Christ, they have no salvation abiding in them.
John 8:24
I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **<u>I am</u>** *he*, ye shall die in your sins.

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 9 – Jesus, The Great "I AM")

(Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, 18:6 and Selected Scriptures)

9/8/2013



The years in Midian (Ex 2:15-22; Ac 7:29b)

The call of Moses at the Burning Bush (Ex 2:23-3:10; Heb 11:24-27; Ac 7:23-29a)



"The Angel of YHWH" (3:2) – is the messenger of Yahweh who had appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This powerful person is none other than the LORD (Jehovah) and God (Elohim).

Note the context of Exodus 3:

1) **The Angel of the LORD appears** to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a burning bush. (Exodus 3:2)

2) Moses sees this unusual bush all ablaze and yet was not consumed. So he turns back to take a closer look. As he does so "**The LORD** saw he turned aside to see, **God** called unto him out of the midst of the bush…" (v.4)

3) Moses is told to remove his shoes. "For the **place whereon thou standest is holy ground**" (v.5) Why was it holy ground? It is because the LORD was there. He was present and speaking out of the burning bush.

4) He identifies Himself as **God** (v.6) and says "**I am come down** to deliver them (the Israelites) out of the hand of the Egyptians" (v.8)

5) In doing so he claims **omnipotence** (v.8) to bring deliverance; He claims **omniscience** (v.9) to know the oppression Israel was experiencing. Note: "The cry of the children of Israel is come unto me"

6) After Moses excuse "Who am I" the LORD promises **His presence** (v.12).

7) Anticipating the children of Israel's response of inquiring about the name of the God who appeared to Moses, The Lord says **my name is "I AM"**

8) With this authority Moses is told to "Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The **LORD God** of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, **appeared unto me**…" (v.16)

The phrase “I AM” was the equivalent to the word Yahweh or Jehovah.
YAHWEH (JEHOVAH) - "Self Existent One"
The term signifies existence/ that which is real (as opposed to idols).
The source of God's existence is wholly within Himself. He depends upon nothing external to Himself for His existence.

Who is this great “I AM”?
Considering the fact of John 1:18 that “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him”. This “angel of the LORD” or “Messenger of YAHWEH” is none other than a preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ!

1. Jesus said “Before Abraham was, <u>I am</u>” (John 8:58)
See John 8:51-59 (*v.58)

For Jesus to make the claims that He did about Himself, He must be either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord!

- **Only the Eternal One could promise Deathlessness to those who keep His word (v.51-52)**
- **Only the Eternal One would receive the Highest Honor & Glory from God, the Father (v.53-55)**
- **Only the Eternal One could infinitely Pre-date Abraham and the Prophets (v.56-58a)**

v. 58
“Verily, verily” = truly, truly. This is an absolute fact worthy of complete trust.

It is interesting to note that the most grammatically correct way of stating pre-existence would be to say, “Before Abraham lived, I lived” or “Before Abraham was, I was.”

But Jesus did not intend that His hearers miss His loaded point. His point is this: Not only did I exist before Abraham, but I am the eternal “I AM” – the God who appeared to Moses at the burning bush (SEE Exod. 3:13-14).

2. When Jesus said “I AM…they went backward, and fell to the ground” (John 18:6)
See John 18:1-<u>6</u>

v. 6
John, in keeping with His purpose to present the deity of Christ, adds a detail that the other Gospel writers did not record. This added significant detail was the initial reaction to Jesus words, “I AM.”

As soon as the words “I AM” came out of His mouth, the whole band of hundreds of armed soldiers was blown backwards and helplessly fell down to the ground. The force of His identification of Himself as the “I AM” hit them like a hurricane wind
Here Jesus fulfills Psalm 27:2 - When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Conclusion:
Unless people acknowledge the deity of Christ, they have no salvation abiding in them.
John 8:24 - “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **<u>I am</u>** *he*, ye shall die in your sins.”

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 9 – Jesus, The Great "I AM")

(Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, 18:6 and Selected Scriptures)

9/8/2013

Moses defends a fellow Israelite by killing an Egyptian and burying him in the sand (Ex 2:5-11; Ac 7:23-29)

The next day two fellow Israelites are fighting and Moses rebukes them. One of them says to him "intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?" Moses thought that the news of his secret killing of the Egyptian had spread.

The result: Moses flees to Midian
(The land east of the eastern arm of the Red Sea. Modern day Saudi Arabia).

Note: The Real Mt. Sinai is in this area (Ga 4:25 – "For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia")





The years in Midian (Ex 2:15-22; Ac 7:29b)

The call of Moses at the Burning Bush (Ex 2:23-3:10; Heb 11:24-27; Ac 7:23-29a)





"the Angel of YHWH" (3:2) – is the messenger of Yahweh who had appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This powerful person is none other than the LORD (Jehovah) and God (Elohim).

Note the context:

1) **The Angel of the LORD appears** to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a burning bush. (Exodus 3:2)

2) Moses sees this unusual bush all ablaze and yet was not consumed. So he turns back to take a closer look. As he does so "**The LORD** saw he turned aside to see, **God** called unto him out of the midst of the bush…" (v.4)

3) Moses is told to remove his shoes. "For the **place whereon thou standest is holy ground**" (v.5) Why was it holy ground? It is because the LORD was there. He was present and speaking out of the burning bush.

4) He identifies Himself as **God** (v.6) and says "**I am come down** to deliver them (the Israelites) out of the hand of the Egyptians" (v.8)

5) In doing so he claims **omnipotence** (v.8) to bring deliverance; He claims **omniscience** (v.9) to know the oppression Israel was experiencing. Note: "The cry of the children of Israel is come unto me"

6) After Moses excuse "Who am I" the LORD promises **His presence** (v.12).

7) Anticipating the children of Israel's response of inquiring about the name of the God who appeared to Moses, The Lord says **my name is "I AM"**

8) With this authority Moses is told to "Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The **LORD God** of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, **appeared unto me**…" (v.16)

The objections of Moses to the call of YHWH

Moses' Objections	YHWH's Reply to Moses
No authority (3:11) ["Who am I…?"]	YHWH's presence (3:12) ["I will be with you."]
No message (3:13) ["What shall I say?"]	YHWH's name (3:14) ["I AM has sent you."]
No credibility (4:1) ["They will not believe me."]	YHWH's power (4:1-9) ["What is that in your hand?"]
No eloquence (4:10) ["I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."]	YHWH's enablement (4:11,12, 14-16) ["Aaron shall be your spokesman!"]

IMPORTANT: Notice the two miraculous signs given to Moses in order to vindicate him as God's spokesman (Ex 4:2-7).

Exodus 3:13-14

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

The phrase "I AM" was the equivalent to the word Yahweh or Jehovah. (the Hebrew words "I AM" and Yahweh are related terms). God is now giving His proper name for the first time in history. Although the name YAHWEH appears earlier in Genesis, it was not disclosed to the patriarchs. Exodus 6:3 – "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them."

YAHWEH (JEHOVAH) - "Self Existent One"

The name "Yahweh" is the person name of God (cp. Ps. 83:18; Is. 26:4) and is the most frequently used name. It occurs 5321 times in the O.T.

This name is used only of the true God. The pagans never referred to their gods by this name.

Jews viewed this name to be so holy that they never would utter it. (EX: bath and new pen each time they would write it)

The word "Yahweh" (Heb. YHWH) comes from the root (Hawa), which is the Heb. "to be" verb.

The term signifies existence/ that which is real (as opposed to idols). The "I AM" is the One Who IS; as opposed to the idols who "aint"

The source of God's existence is wholly within Himself. He depends upon nothing external to Himself for His existence.

Whereas man, animals, & spirit creatures (angels - good & fallen) have the basis or ground of our existence outside of ourselves, God is not dependent for His existence or sustenance on anything or anyone.

God is the Cause of everything outside of Himself, but He Himself is uncaused. Also it is important to note that "God's self-existence is not grounded in His will, but in His nature. He exists by the necessity of His nature. It is not correct to say that God is His own cause; for if that were the case, God would have the power to annihilate Himself." (Thiessen, p. 122)

Psalm 36:9 - God is the Source of life - "the fountain of life" From Him all life has its source.

John 5:26 - "The Father hath life in Himself"

The tetragrammaton YHWH originally did not have vowels (like the entire O.T.) until the Masoretes added the vowels (about 1,008 A.D.).

The vowel points for "Adonay" were used - hence the English spelling YaHoWaH

Dt. 32:40 - "For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever."

Is. 44:6 - "Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."

He always existed (in 3 persons!)

"The inner meaning of Yahweh – "I am the One who is" – emphasizes God's dynamic and active self-existence" (Ryrie note)

The LORD is the great "I AM" of:
Isaiah 41:4
Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Isaiah 43:13
Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

Who is this great "I AM"?

Considering the fact of John 1:18 that "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him". This "angel of the LORD" or "Messenger of YAHWEH" is none other than a preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ!

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

See John 8:51-59 (*v.58)

In John's Gospel, the phrase "I am" occurs in 59 verses!
We will examine two of those occurrences in this study.

The theme of John 8:51-59 centers on Christ's eternal nature.

There was never a time when He was not, and there will never be a time when He will cease to be.

Jesus is the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end," and He is "the same yesterday, today and forever."

For Jesus to make the claims that He did about Himself, He must be either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord!

If a liar, He knew who He really was, but portrayed Himself to be something He really was not. If a lunatic, He thought He was something He really was not.

But if Lord, He was Who He claimed to be!

Only the Eternal One could promise Deathlessness to those who keep His word (v.51-52)

Only the Eternal One would receive the Highest Honor & Glory from God, the Father (v.53-55)

Only the Eternal One could infinitely Pre-date Abraham and the Prophets (v.56-58a)

v. 56
There are at least 3 ways in which Abraham saw Christ's "day" –

1) Abraham saw Christ's day literally (when God – in the person of Jesus – met him)

Since no one has ever seen God the Father with mortal eyes (Jn. 1:18; Exod. 33:20), every reference then in the Old Testament to people seeing God must refer to people seeing a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ (or as the term used in theology: a Christophany).

The occasions that Abraham saw Christ are:

a) When the LORD appeared to Abraham and promised him a son through Sarah (Gen. 17:1-8, 22).

b) When the LORD appeared to Abraham prior to His destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:1-22, 26-27, 33; 19:24, 27).

2) Abraham saw Christ's day spiritually (when He though eyes of faith believed that God would provide Himself with a Lamb for an offering on Mount Moriah – Gn. 22:8).

Abraham "did look for and welcome the Messianic time, "My day" (Robertson, p. 158).

3) Abraham saw Christ's day visibly (when He went to Heaven and met the Lord face to face in all of His glory)

v. 57
At this time, Jesus was in His early thirties and Abraham had lived over 2,000 years before Jesus was born, so how in the world did Abraham see Jesus?

Now they really accuse Him of being "bogus." It was not humanly possible to pre-exist Abraham! And they were right! But Jesus was not merely human; He was divine!

Only the Eternal One could claim to be the "I AM" of Exodus 3:14
(v.58b-59)

v. 58
"Verily, verily" = truly, truly. This is an absolute fact worthy of complete trust.

"Before Abraham was, I am" - Before Abraham lived, I am alive.

It is interesting to note that the most grammatically correct way of stating pre-existence would be to say, "Before Abraham lived, I lived" or "Before Abraham was, I was."

But Jesus did not intend that His hearers miss His loaded point. His point is this: Not only did I exist before Abraham, but I am the eternal "I AM" – the God who appeared to Moses at the burning bush (SEE Exod. 3:13-14).

Abraham was not in the beginning with God, but Jesus was.

John 1:1-2
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] The same was in the beginning with God.

v. 59
When you are confronted with the great "I AM," you will either love Him and submit to Him, or you will hate Him and seek to rid yourself of His authority in your life. Notice the Jews' response.

Now the reaction of the Jews proves that they knew that Jesus intended to mean more than pre-existence by the words "I AM."

They thought that He was committing blasphemy by claiming to be God, the "I AM" of the Old Testament, so they pick up stones to stone Him to death. But since His hour for death had not yet come (Jn. 8:20), He disappears from their view and walks right through the middle of the crowd.

This was not a "docetic vanishing" (Robertson, p. 159), but a quiet, bold, and clever mingling in the crowd that rendered Jesus unidentifiable.

The "Glory" now leaves the Temple; just as the shekinah Glory left the Old Testament Temple due to Israel's rejection of God, now Jesus leaves the Temple due to the Jews rejection of Himself.

2. When Jesus said "I AM…they went backward, and fell to the ground" (John 18:6)

See John 18:1-6

"A garden" – This is the garden of Gethsemane (a place filled with olive trees, located on the western slope of the Mount of Olives (Mt. 26:30). This quiet place was where Jesus often resorted with His disciples to avoid the noise and distractions of the city and to spend time alone in fellowship (Lk. 22:39; see Jn. 18:2).

The name "Gethsemane" means "oil press." It was here that the soul of Jesus would be crushed and out of His very pores would flow as it were great drops of blood.

v. 3
"A band of men" – normally a group of 600 Roman soldiers (a "spira" – a military cohort from the Antonia Fortress), plus officers (temple police) from the Jewish authorities.

Why so many? They were fully aware of Jesus' power; in case He would offer resistance, they thought they had better be ready.

These soldiers were armed with "lanterns and torches and weapons." The weapons included "swords and staves (clubs)" (Mt. 26:47).

Jesus gave Himself to be arrested even though He Knew Everything that would happen to Him (v.4)

Because Jesus knew that this was His hour to fulfill the Passover sacrifice by the voluntary sacrifice of Himself, He "went forth."

He saw them coming for Him and He went forward to meet them. He willingly offers Himself by taking the initiative and moving forward to hand Himself over.

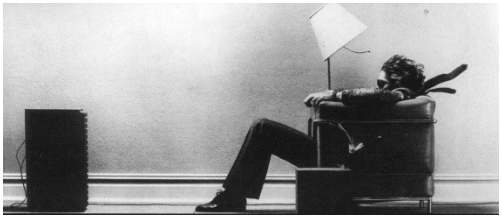
[In the chronology of events, Jesus would have first met Judas, who led the way for the soldiers and greeted Christ with a kiss of betray. Why a kiss? He wanted to give Jesus the appearance that he had nothing to do with the arrest.]

Jesus gave Himself to be arrested even though He was the great "I AM" (Jehovah God) (v.5-6)

v. 5
"I AM" – Note the "He" is italicized by the translators. In actuality, all Jesus said was, "I AM." The soldiers' reaction to the phrase "I AM" in v. 6 indicates that there was more to Jesus' words than what it seemed.

v. 6
John, in keeping with His purpose to present the deity of Christ, adds a detail that the other Gospel writers did not record. This added significant detail was the initial reaction to Jesus words, "I AM."

As soon as the words "I AM" came out of His mouth, the whole band of hundreds of armed soldiers was blown backwards and helplessly fell down to the ground. The force of His identification of Himself as the "I AM" hit them like a hurricane wind (EX: the Memorex commercial) and drove them away from His holy and powerful presence.



What significance would their fall to the ground have if Jesus indeed was not the "I AM" of Exodus 3:14?

Note: In his film "The Passion of the Christ" Mel Gibson left this scene out! He showed the Garden of Gethsemane scene, but omitted this detail. What a shame!

Here Jesus fulfills Psalm 27:2 -
When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

As they fell to the ground, Jesus could have kept them there; but in order to fulfill His purpose for coming into the world, He allows them to get up and arrest Him.

Who is Jesus? He is the great "I AM" – the self-existent One, the eternal Yahweh – He is Jehovah God. He shares the same attributes and name as God the Father.

Proverbs 30:4
Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

The soldiers falling to the ground and "biting the dust" showed Who was really in charge here at the Garden of Gethsemane. It was Jesus!

The Bible speaks of demon-possessed people who could break the chains that bound them. Jesus could have resisted arrest and broken any hold they would place on Him and set Himself free, but instead He willingly gives Himself.

No man could take the Life of Christ, unless He gave it up. Though He could have destroyed all of His enemies, He surrendered Himself voluntarily to die for you and me!

Conclusion:

In describing Himself as the "I am" (John 8:24, 58; 13:19; 18:5-6), Jesus identifies Himself as the Jehovah God of Exodus 3:14.

Unless people acknowledge the deity of Christ, they have no salvation abiding in them.
John 8:24
I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **I am** *he*, ye shall die in your sins.

Jesus said I am . . .

"the bread of life" (6:35)
(He satisfies the hungry soul)
"the light of the world" (8:12; 9:5)
(He removes the darkness of sin)
"the door" (10:7, 9)
(He is the entry way into eternal life)
"Good Shepherd" (10:11, 14)
(He leads, feeds, protects, and died for all of His sheep)
"Resurrection and the life" (11:25)
(He gives victory over the grave to the dead)
"the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6)
(He is the source of real direction, truth, life)
"the vine" (15:1)
(He produces fruit in the lives of those connected to Him)

Jesus Christ is Eternal!
Proof:

1. His name is "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 1:11, 21:6, 22:13)
2. He gives eternal life (Jn. 10:28)
3. His descriptive name is "eternal life" (I Jn. 1;2, 5:20)
4. He is called "the everlasting Father" (Is. 9:6)
5. The Redeemer said, "I am the first and I am the last, and beside me there is no God" (cp. Rev. 1:8, 11)
6. Christ is the Creator of Heaven and earth and all the contents thereof (Jn. 1:3, 10; I Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2)
7. Christ did not begin to exist in Mary's womb but came from Heaven (Jn. 6:51; I Tim. 1:15; II Cor. 8:9; I Cor. 15:47)
8. Christ's "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2; Mt. 2:6)

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF CHRIST'S ETERNAL NATURE

1) Patience - Be patient. God will fulfill (accomplish) what He has promised (II Pet. 3:3-10 - *v. 8; Rev. 6:9-11)

2) Assurance - Since God is eternal, He can give eternal life (Jn. 3:16, 10:28) (Eternal life will last as long as God will!)

John Newton captured this truth in the hymn "Amazing Grace" when he wrote, "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun."

3) Strength - He is our constant supply of "everlasting strength" (Is. 26:4)

4) Comfort - God is our eternal "dwelling place" (Ps. 90:1-2)

"Dwelling place" - God is pictured as a house that has never gotten old, decrepit, or ruined. As Paul said to the philosophers at Mars Hill, "In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28)

5) Security - Since the eternal God is your refuge, keep "leaning on the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27)

6) Peace - God's "mercy is everlasting" (Ps. 100:5). "His mercy endureth forever" (Ps. 136).

7) Fear - Since God is eternal, eternal damnation will exist as long as God exists (Mt. 25:41, 46; Jude 7)