Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 8 – The Lion of Judah, Shiloh, and the Great "I AM")

(Genesis 49:8-12)

3/1/2015

Gen. 49:1 – This "blessing" of his sons was more than an extended wish for them.
It was a prophetic statement which foretold their future.
Note the last line of verse 1 – "That I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."

I. As the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Jesus will <u>Conquer in Power</u>

(Genesis 49:8-9)

v. 8

"Judah" - means "praised"
Judah would become the praised leader of the twelve tribes.
The Messiah Jesus would come from this tribe (Matt. 1:2-3)

v. 8

Although the <u>immediate</u> reference is to Jacob's fourth son, Judah, the <u>ultimate</u> reference is to the Messiah. How do we know this?

1) Judah was not praised **(v. 8a**), but Jesus has been and will be by all of humanity (Phil. 2:11)
2) Judah as a man never had his hand "in the neck of" his enemies **(v. 8b**), but Jesus will rule and reign with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9; Rev. 2:27, 12:5, 19:15)
3) Judah never had his brothers bow to him **(v. 8c),** but Jesus will have every knee bow to Him (Is. 45:23; Ro. 14:11)

v. 9

"Judah is a lion's whelp" – a lion's young, strong offspring.
"you have gone up" - a lion is pictured as a strong young lion that has eaten his prey and has stood up after supper.
Then in the next line, the lion is pictured as an old, mature lion stooped down in its crouched position. Who would dare rouse him up.

Who is the Lion of Judah ultimately referring to?
Rev. 5:5 gives the answer. It is a reference to Jesus Christ.
Rev. 5:4-5 - Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Why is the Lord Jesus referred to as a Lion?
--As the Lion is the King of the jungle, Jesus is the King of kings
--As the Lion is to be feared, Christ is to be feared. He will bring judgment upon the earth in the Day of the Lord, and will ultimately rule.

Lesson: Jesus is to be honored and fears (with respect and reverence). Even demons trembled in His presence!

II. As Shiloh to Come, Jesus will <u>Reign in Peace</u>

(Genesis 49:10-12)

v. 10

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah" –

A **"scepter"** refers to an imperial ruling staff commonly held by kings and monarchs.







"Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet" – i.e. There will constantly be a ruler in Judah until "Shiloh" comes

"Shiloh" – the one to whom belongs <u>peace</u>; the one who brings <u>tranquility</u>.
The word "Shiloh" is akin to the word "shalom" (peace).
The word is also related to the city of Shiloh, located in the Ephraim hill country. Shiloh was the capital of Israel for 300 years until Jerusalem (City of Peace) became its capital.

In Shiloh:
1) The tabernacle was erected (and Israelites assembled here for worship) (Josh 18:1)
2) The ark of the covenant also rested here during that time

Interesting note:
There is a deliberate divinely established connected between Shiloh and God's provision for peace. The ancient Israelites assembled at the Tabernacle for sacrifice and worship at Shiloh, so that they could have <u>peace</u> with God. We now have peace with God because Shiloh has come and has died for us at Calvary – located in the City of Peace (Jerusalem)

Rom. 5:1 - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have <u>peace</u> with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
Phil. 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the <u>peace of God</u>, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hymn: "All your anxieties, all your care, bring to the mercy seat, leave it there.
Never a burden He cannot bear, Never a friend like Jesus."

Jesus is the "prince of peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

"And to him shall be the obedience (subjection or submission) of the peoples" –
This submissive gathering of the people around Messiah fits the context of verses 11 -12 and refers to God's people being subjected to Christ during the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 2:2-3; Isaiah 11:10-12)

III. Jesus, The Great "I AM"
(Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, 18:6 and Selected Scriptures)



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) **<u>The Angel of the LORD appears</u>** 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 that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (v.4)

3) Moses is told to remove his shoes. "For the **<u>place on which you are standing is holy ground.</u>**" (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 **<u>God</u>** (v.6) and says "**<u>So I have come down</u> to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians** (v.8)

5) In doing so he claims **<u>omnipotence</u>** (v.8) to bring deliverance; He claims **<u>omniscience</u>** (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 **<u>His presence</u>** (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 **<u>my name is "I AM"</u>**

8) With this authority Moses is told to "Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to 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 born, I am" (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
"truly, truly". This is an absolute fact worthy of complete trust.

"Before Abraham was born, 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 drew back and fell to the ground" (John 18:6) See John 18:1-6

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 - unless you believe that I am (He), you will die in your sins

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 8 – The Lion of Judah, Shiloh, and the Great "I AM")

(Genesis 49:8-12)

3/1/2015

Gen. 49:1 – This "blessing" of his sons was more than an extended wish for them.
It was a _____ statement which foretold their _____.
Note the last line of verse 1 – "That I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."

I. As the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Jesus will <u>Conquer in Power</u>
(Genesis 49:8-9)

v. 8

"Judah" - means "_____"
Judah would become the praised leader of the twelve tribes.
The Messiah Jesus would come from this tribe (Matt. 1:2-3)

v. 8

Although the <u>immediate</u> reference is to Jacob's fourth son, Judah, the <u>ultimate</u> reference is to the Messiah. How do we know this?

1) Judah was not praised **(v. 8a**), but Jesus has been and will be by all of _____ (Phil. 2:11)
2) Judah as a man never had his hand "in the neck of" his enemies **(v. 8b**), but Jesus will _____ with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9; Rev. 2:27, 12:5, 19:15)
3) Judah never had his brothers bow to him **(v. 8c),** but Jesus will have every knee bow to Him (Is. 45:23; Ro. 14:11)

v. 9

"Judah is a lion's whelp" – a lion's young, strong offspring.
"you have gone up" - a lion is pictured as a strong young lion that has eaten his prey and has stood up after supper.
Then in the next line, the lion is pictured as an old, mature lion stooped down in its crouched position. Who would dare rouse him up.



Who is the Lion of Judah ultimately referring to?
Rev. 5:5 gives the answer. It is a reference to Jesus Christ.

Why is the Lord Jesus referred to as a Lion?
--As the Lion is the King of the jungle, Jesus is the _____
--As the Lion is to be feared, _____.
He will bring judgment upon the earth in the Day of the Lord, and will ultimately rule.

Lesson: Jesus is to be honored and fears (with respect and reverence). Even demons trembled in His presence!

II. As Shiloh to Come, Jesus will <u>Reign in Peace</u>
(Genesis 49:10-12)

v. 10
"The scepter shall not depart from Judah" –
A **"scepter"** refers to an imperial _____ commonly held by kings and monarchs.





"Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet" – i.e. There will constantly be a ruler in Judah until "Shiloh" comes
"Shiloh" – the one to whom belongs _____; the one who brings <u>tranquility</u>.
The word "Shiloh" is akin to the word "shalom" (peace).
The word is also related to the city of Shiloh, located in the Ephraim hill country. Shiloh was the capital of Israel for 300 years until Jerusalem (City of Peace) became its capital.

In Shiloh:
1) The _____ was erected (and Israelites assembled here for worship) (Josh 18:1)
2) The _____also rested here during that time

Interesting note:
There is a deliberate divinely established connected between Shiloh and God's provision for peace. The ancient Israelites assembled at the Tabernacle for sacrifice and worship at Shiloh, so that they could have <u>peace</u> with God. We now have peace with God because Shiloh has come and has died for us at Calvary – located in the City of Peace (Jerusalem)

Hymn: "All your anxieties, all your care, bring to the mercy seat, leave it there.
Never a burden He cannot bear, Never a friend like Jesus."
Jesus is the "prince of peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

"And to him shall be the obedience (subjection or submission) of the peoples" –
This submissive gathering of the people around Messiah fits the context of verses 11 -12 and refers to God's people being subjected to Christ during the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 2:2-3; Isaiah 11:10-12)

III. Jesus, The Great "I AM"
(Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, 18:6 and Selected Scriptures)



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 that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (v.4)

3) Moses is told to remove his shoes. "For the **place on which you are standing 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 "**So I have come down to deliver them from the power 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 to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to 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.
“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 born, <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
“truly, truly”. This is an absolute fact worthy of complete trust.
“Before Abraham was born, 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 drew back 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 - unless you believe that I am (He), you will die in your sins

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 8 – The Lion of Judah, Shiloh, and the Great "I AM")

(Genesis 49:8-12)

3/1/2015

John 5:39 - Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 5:46 - For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

If Moses spoke of Christ and wrote of Christ, the question that naturally arises is: Where and When?

What portion of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Canon) speaks of Christ?

Genesis 49:8-11 is one example.

Jacob lived approximately 17 years in Egypt, enjoying life under the rule of his son, Joseph.
As he anticipated death, he blessed his twelve sons, summarizing the place each was to play in the subsequent history of the nation which would arise from Jacob's loins.

Gen. 49:1 – This "blessing" of his sons was more than an extended wish for them.
It was a prophetic statement which foretold their future. This "blessing" was a divine oracle through which God mysteriously predicted the future.

Note the last line of verse 1 – "That I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."

v. 1

The prominent blessing is not pronounced on Jacob's firstborn (Reuben); nor on his next two children (Simeon and Levi); but on his fourth child (the son of Leah, the least preferred of Jacob's wives)

Most notable is the prophecy
concerning Judah, the fourth son of Jacob. Reuben, the eldest, had sinned in taking his father's concubine to himself, and thus he had forfeited the privilege of the firstborn (49:3,4; cp 35:22); Simeon and Levi had sinned in avenging the rape of their sister, Tamar, and thus they were denied even a portion in the land. Thus, the right of rule seems to have passed to Judah, son #4. He is called the "Lion" of Israel, and the promise is made that kings would come from his line. This is clear prophecy that Messiah-King would arise from Judah (cp. Mt 1:1-3). (Doug Bookman)

When Herod inquired of the Jewish chief priests and scribes as to where the messiah would be born (Mt. 2:4) they quoted Micah 5:2 which stated that He would be born in Bethlehem in the land of Judah (Mt. 2:5-6).
He would be born not only in the land of Judah, but (as far as his divinely appointed legal parents, Joseph and Many were concerned) would be legally linked to the lineage of Judah.

I. As the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Jesus will <u>Conquer in Power</u>
(Genesis 49:8-9)

v. 8

"Judah" - means "praised"

Judah would become the praised leader of the twelve tribes.
This leadership was evident with the Godly kings, David and Solomon.

However, after the divided monarchy, Judah would become the largest of the twelve tribes, with a different king than the northern ten tribes of Israel.

The Messiah Jesus would come from this tribe (Matt. 1:2-3)

Judah became the preeminent tribe of Israel.

"It is also to be remembered that the tribe of Judah during the wilderness wanderings had the preeminence in being first as the tribes moved to each new location (Numbers 10:14; Judges 1:1-2)." (John B. Metzger, <u>Discovering the Mystery of the Unity of God</u>, p. 381).

(An interesting note: The 12 tribes when settled in an area formed a cross with the tabernacle in the center! - V. Sawyer)

Judah was the <u>largest</u> tribe in terms of numbers of the 12 tribes of Israel.

v. 8

Although the <u>immediate</u> reference is to Jacob's fourth son, Judah, the <u>ultimate</u> reference is to the Messiah. How do we know this?

1) Judah was not praised **(v. 8a**), but Jesus has been and will be by all of humanity (Phil. 2:11) "Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"

2) Judah as a man never had his hand "in the neck of" his enemies **(v. 8b**), but Jesus will rule and reign with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9; Rev. 2:27, 12:5, 19:15)
   - Ps 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
   - Re 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.
   - Re 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.
   - Re 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and
   - wrath of Almighty God.

3) Judah never had his brothers bow to him **(v. 8c),** but Jesus will have every knee bow to Him (Is. 45:23; Ro. 14:11)

- Isa 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.
- Ro 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.
- Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

v. 9

"Judah is a lion's whelp" – a lion's young, strong offspring.

"You have gone up" - a lion is pictured as a strong young lion that has eaten his prey and has stood up after supper.

Then in the next line, the lion is pictured as an old, mature lion stooped down in its crouched position. Who would dare rouse him up.

As Ryrie notes: Judah "would be strong as a young lion that has eaten his prey and secure as a mature lion whom no one would dare to rouse."

Judah's descendents would not become such a powerful leader until 640 years after Jacob's prophecy.

King David and then Solomon would have such regal strength and stability (but only for a short time).

However, the rulership would remain with the tribe of Judah (even with the leadership of the Sanhedrin in Babylon).

Who is the Lion of Judah ultimately referring to?

Rev. 5:5 gives the answer. It is a reference to Jesus Christ.

Rev. 5:4-5 - Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Why is the Lord Jesus referred to as a Lion?

--As the Lion is the King of the jungle (Prov.30:30), Jesus is the King of kings (Rev. 19)

--As the Lion is to be feared, Christ is to be feared. He will bring judgment upon the earth in the Day of the Lord, and will ultimately rule. (Rev. 19)

Lesson: Jesus is to be honored and feared (with respect and reverence). Even demons trembled in His presence!

There is a balance in Christ's character and conduct. Not only is He pictured in Scripture as a conquering King (The Lion of the tribe of Judah), but He is also called "Shiloh" (As He brings Peace to His People)

II. As Shiloh to Come, Jesus will <u>Reign in Peace</u>
(Genesis 49:10-12)

v. 10

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah" –

A **"scepter"** refers to an imperial ruling staff commonly held by kings and monarchs.





"Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet" – i.e. There will constantly be a ruler in Judah until "Shiloh" comes

Psalm 60:7 – "Judah is my lawgiver"

The first king of Israel (Saul) was from the tribe of Benjamin. His dynasty would end at his death and the death of his sons.

No one from Benjamin could permanently rule as king, because the Scripture predicted that the Scepter would stem from Judah.

The vowel pointing differences in some ancient manuscripts allows for a different meaning of "Shiloh."

"The Septuagint Greek version reads the Hebrew as it if was differently pointed and translated "shelloh" instead of "Shiloh." This means "he to whom it belongs" and is a very proper name for Christ (Ezekiel 21:27). The passage would then mean that royalty would be held in trust by the tribe of Judah until Christ to Whom it belonged came to assume it." (Metzger, p. 383)

The normal pronunciation.
"Shiloh" – the one to whom belongs <u>peace</u>; the one who brings <u>tranquility</u>.

The word "Shiloh" is akin to the word "shalom" (peace).

The word is also related to the city of Shiloh, located in the Ephraim hill country. Shiloh was the capital of Israel for 300 years until Jerusalem (City of Peace) became its capital.

In Shiloh:

1) The tabernacle was erected (and Israelites assembled here for worship) (Josh 18:1)

2) The ark of the covenant also rested here during that time

Interesting note:

There is a deliberate divinely established connected between Shiloh and God's provision for peace.

The ancient Israelites assembled at the Tabernacle for sacrifice and worship at Shiloh, so that they could have peace with God.

We now have peace with God because Shiloh has come and has died for us at Calvary – located in the City of Peace (Jerusalem)

Rom. 5:1 - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

ILLUS: of the joy that comes when you're at peace with someone you offended.

Peace with God = not speaking about a feeling of peace; but rather a relationship of peace. Paul is not speaking of the changed attitude of a sinner toward God, but God toward the sinner.

NOTE: It's not the "peace of God" (Phil. 4:7 - "a tranquility of the mind), but "peace with God."

God is no longer at odds with the believer. The believer is no longer an object of wrath (Rom. 9:22). God is no longer angry with the wicked one (Ps. 7:11).

Through Christ we have been "Reconciled" = the word describes a change of relationship. To change from a relationship of enemies to one of friendship; from one of enmity to one of peace!

In the N.T., the word "reconciled" was used of the restored relationship of a wife to her husband (I Cor. 7:11a - "But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband").

Primary reference is made toward the restored relationship between man and God.

(NOTE: It is always man being reconciled to God, not God to man. Man is at fault for the fractured relationship, not God – SEE II Cor. 5:18-20)

Peace with God only comes after one is right with God (Justification).

Lit. "having been justified (aorist tense) by faith we have (present tense) peace with God.

No one has peace with God who has not been made just before God. Note: the word "justified" is passive, meaning God does the justifying, not man.
Jesus not only brings peace with God (justification) but He brings the peace of God.

Phil. 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds **in Christ Jesus**.

Hymn: "All your anxieties, all your care, bring to the mercy seat, leave it there.
Never a burden He cannot bear, Never a friend like Jesus."

He will guard your heart and mind with incredible peace

Man's "peace treaties" (peace agreements) are often broken.

Martin Luther King and Henry Kissinger received the Nobel Peace prize.
But can equal rights fighters or diplomats bring lasting peace?
No! Only the Prince of peace can!

This is not speaking of peace with God (justification) (Rom. 8:1)
but the peace of God which comes after salvation.

Inner rest can only come to you when you are absolutely sure that you are trusting in one who is trustworthy.

ILLUS: Contrast the differences of peace between stockholders and those who invest their $ in a bank.

God's peace protects us. With inner protection.

His peace stands like military guards at the door of the believer's heart and mind to keep out invaders who would seek to make your life miserable.

ILLUS: Daniel's peace while in the lion's den (Dan. 6)

A "peace that passeth understanding" - we sing about it, talk about it, preach about it, but never seem to experience it. Why? We neglect the Lord.

We do not empty out our dump truck of anxieties on the Lord!

Jn. 16:33 - "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Jesus is the “prince of peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

“Today many Messianic passages that have been historically viewed by the rabbis as Messianic are often rejected as being Messianic. Let me quo0te from Targum of Jonathan ben Uzziel on Genesis 49:10: Kings shall not cease from the house of Jehuda, nor sapherim teaching the law from his children’s children, until the time that the King Meshiha (Messiah) shall come, whose is the kingdom, and to whom all the kingdoms of the earth shall be obedient. How beauteous is the King Meshiha, who is to arise from the house of Jehuda” (Metzger, p. 383)

“Finally, what is the Messianic interpretation of this verse: What does it say? First it states that Judah will have the scepter [kingship], the authority to rule until the one comes whose right it is and to whom it belongs. Second, the tribe of Judah must be identifiable. This passage actually sets a general time table as to the appearance of the Messiah. Two things must be in effect when the Messiah comes, Judah’s identity and its governmental rule. Both of them were present when *Yeshua* was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the Great. However, two equally important things happened in 70CD when the Roman armies destroyed the “city” and the “sanctuary.” First, the governmental authority of Judah was completely removed and has not existed since; second all of the genealogical records of the tribes of Israel including Judah were also destroyed in the destruction of 70 CE. The net result is that Messiah had to come to His people before 70 CE and before those two things ceased to exist. Also the seed of the woman in Genesis 3:15 had been narrowed down from all of humanity, to Jewish humanity, to the tribe of Judah.” (Metzger, p. 385)

“And to him shall be the obedience (subjection or submission) of the peoples” –
This submissive gathering of the people around Messiah fits the context of verses 11 -12 and refers to God’s people being subjected to Christ during the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 2:2-3; Isaiah 11:10-12)

Isaiah 2:2-3
2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 11:10-12
10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.
11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.
12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

“Verses 11-12 describe the millennial prosperity, with vines so plentiful no one will hesitate to tie an ass (donkey) to them (even though asses are herbivorous animals), with wine abundant as water, and with healthy people red with wine (which may possible mean “brighter and more sparkling than wine”). (Ryrie note)

Christ eyes are described as a flame of fire!

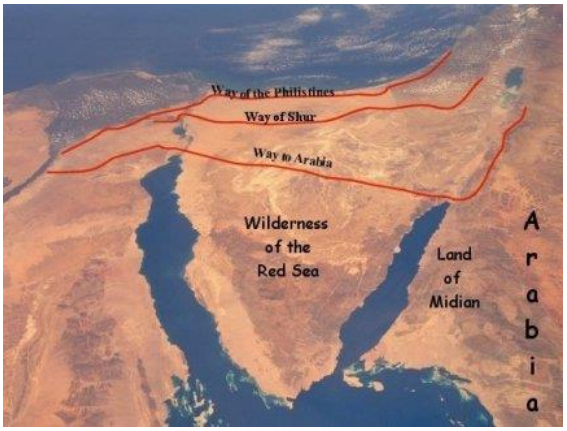
III. Jesus, The Great "I AM"

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

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, <u>I am</u>" (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.

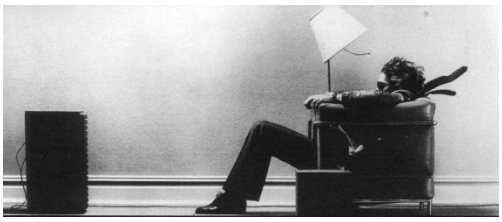
[In the chronology of events, Jesus would have first met Judas, who led the way for the soldiers and greeted Christ with a kiss of betray. Why a kiss? He wanted to give Jesus the appearance that he had nothing to do with the arrest.]

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)