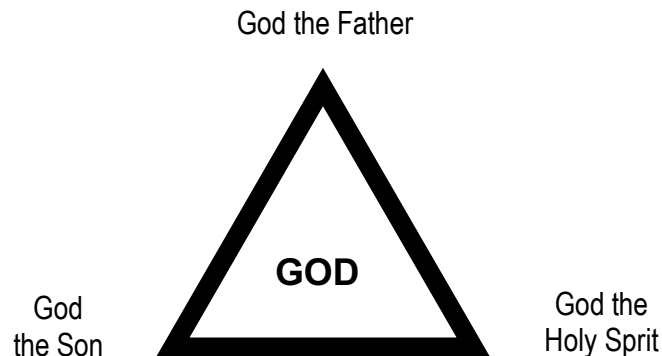


THE REST OF THE STORY: Before Bethlehem



God the Son came to REDEEM US and to REVEAL GOD.

THE ETERNITY OF GOD THE SON:

- Genesis 1:1 compared to John 1:1
In the beginning God . . . Genesis 1:1
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . John 1:1. And the Word became flesh . . . John 1:14
- **The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15-17**

JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM BUT HE HAS EXISTED ETERNALLY BEFORE BETHLEHEM AND HE WILL EXIST ETERNALLY AFTER BETHLEHEM.

God the Son appears as a human before he is born in Bethlehem. These appearances are called CHRISTOPHANIES. A Christophany is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus. Incarnate means "in flesh".

There are a number of Christophanies in the Old Testament. While not always the case, many times he is identified as "The Angel of the Lord" and is referred to as God (Judges 6:11, 14; Zechariah 12:8).

4 CHRISTOPHANIES AND WHAT THEY REVEAL ABOUT GOD AND US

1. ISAIAH WORSHIPS HIM:

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.
John 12:41

Compare John 12:40 with Isaiah 6:10

. . . I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, . . .
Isaiah 6:1

2. JACOB WRESTLES HIM:

Genesis 32:22-32

"I saw God face to face . . ."
Genesis 32:30

3. ABRAHAM EATS WITH HIM:

Genesis 18

The LORD appeared to Abraham . . .
Genesis 18:1

4. ADAM & EVE WALK WITH HIM:

. . . the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden . . .
Genesis 3:8

When you look at the infant Son of God in Bethlehem what do you see? Do you see God in flesh with all his glory and power and purity and eternity hidden from our eyes in his flesh? Do you see God revealed to us in Jesus? Do you see the extent to which God went to redeem us?