

## How God has Manifested Himself

Throughout history, God has made himself known in a variety of different manners. The term *manifested* simply means “readily perceived by the senses and especially by the sight” or “easily understood or recognized by the mind” (Merriam-Webster’s collegiate dictionary). So when we say “how God has manifested Himself” we are referring to ways that God has made Himself known to man. For the sake of this study packet, we are NOT going to be covering what is called “general revelation,” (i.e. God has made Himself known through His creation as discussed in Romans 1:18-20). Also, for the sake of this packet we will not be covering times that the “Angel of the Lord” appeared to people, since that was covered in the study packet on “God the Son.”

### God Manifested Himself in Human Form

While no person can see God’s full glory and live (Exodus 33:20), there have been a few times that He appeared to people in human form. In these events, people did not get to see God in His full majestic glory, but in a veiled way that would serve God’s purpose (while not ending the life of the sinful human who sees Him).

- I. Study Genesis 3:8-24 to answer these questions:
  - a. What were Adam and Eve doing when they heard God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Why were they doing this (look in the previous verses)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What did Adam and Eve hear God doing in the Garden? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Did God speak directly with Adam and Eve? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Do Adam and Eve seem to find it strange that God is speaking to them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. What did God do for Adam and Eve in verse 21? \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. Note: While this passage does not explicitly say that Adam and Eve saw God in human form, it can be implied by the fact that He was walking in the garden, they walked with Him, and they spoke to Him so directly.
- II. Continuing in Genesis, turn forward and study Genesis chapter 18:
  - a. How many occurrences of the word “Lord” appear in this chapter? \_\_\_\_
  - b. In verse 1, what Hebrew word is translated “Lord”? \_\_\_\_\_  
Strong’s #: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. In verse 2, in what form did Abraham see the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. In verse 3, what Hebrew word is translated “Lord”? \_\_\_\_\_  
Strong’s #: \_\_\_\_\_

- e. Was the Lord an apparition without physical substance, or intangible physical form (Hint: look in verses 1-8)? \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. What fact proves this? \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. In which verse(s) do we find this fact? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. What did the Lord say would happen about a year from that time? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. How did Sarah react to this? \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. The reason given for why the Lord told Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah is found in which verses? \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. What was the Lord's reason for telling Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. In the conversation between the Lord and Abraham about Sodom and Gomorrah, which version of "Lord" did Abraham continually use? \_\_\_\_\_
  - k. In that same conversation, when the Lord speaks, what version of the word "Lord" is used? \_\_\_\_\_
  - l. What did the Lord do when He finished speaking to Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_
- III. Next let's study Genesis 32:22-32 to find the answers to these questions:
- a. Why was Jacob alone in verse 24? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How long did the "Man" wrestle with Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Why did the "Man" put Jacob's hip out of joint? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What did the "Man" do to put Jacob's hip out of joint? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What condition did Jacob give for letting the "Man" go? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. What reason is given for why the "Man" changed Jacob's name? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Jacob named the place where this happened "Peniel." Why? \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. What is the Strong's definition for the word rendered "Peniel?" \_\_\_\_\_

While there are other accounts of God appearing in human form, these can be reviewed in the study packet for "God the Son," within the section on "the Angel of the Lord."

## God Manifested Himself in Non-Human Form

There are several times in Scripture in which God showed Himself in non-human form. These occurrences happened very much by design, based on the need of the moment.

- I. Study Exodus 3 for our first account of this section:
  - a. Whose sheep was Moses watching? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. According to verse 2, how did God appear to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Which Hebrew word for “Lord” is used here? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. From where did God speak? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Why must Moses take off his sandals? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. How did God identify Himself in verse 6? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - g. What reason does God give for why he is appearing to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - h. In what way does God refer to Himself in verse 14, after Moses asks about His name? \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. In verse 15 what name does God apply to Himself? \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Our next account is found in Exodus 13:17-22
  - a. By what land did God NOT lead the people? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Why did He not lead them in that direction? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Whose bones did Moses take with them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Why did He do this? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. In what way did God lead the people during the day? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. In what way did God lead the people during the night? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. What is the Strong’s number for the Hebrew word translated “Pillar”? \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Did the pillar depart from before the people? \_\_\_\_\_
- III. In Exodus 14 did Pharaoh meekly let the people of Israel go on their way? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. In chapter 14, God told Moses that “the Lord will fight for you.” This is found in which verse? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. In verse 19-20, what did God (in the pillar of cloud) do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What specific actions did God take against the Egyptians in verses 24-25?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_

- d. In all these events, did Moses act by his own power OR did he act under the command of God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. By what means did God fully wipe out the forces of Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- IV. We see the same events recounted in Nehemiah 9
- a. What did the people do for a quarter of the day as they stood up places? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What did they do for another quarter of the day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What did the priests command the people to do in verse 5? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. In verses 6-31 they recount the history of the Israelite nation. Which verses mention the pillar of fire and pillar of smoke? \_\_\_\_\_
- V. Next let's go back to Exodus to study Exodus 19:16-20 (Read the rest of the chapter to get the context):
- a. What three things happened on the morning of the third day?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What did this cause the people to do? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Why was the mountain wrapped in smoke? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What analogy is used to describe the smoke coming off the mountain? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What else did the mountain do besides smoke? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. When Moses spoke to the Lord, how did the Lord answer him? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. To which part of the mountain did God come down? \_\_\_\_\_
- VI. In Exodus 20:18-21 (again, read the surrounding verses to get context), what emotional reaction did the people have to God's presence on the mountain? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. Why did they want Moses to speak to them, rather than God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What reason does Moses give for why God appeared in the way that He did? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

VII. For our next account, study Exodus 24 (Specifically, verses 9-11 & 15-18, but read the whole chapter for context):

- a. According to verse 9, who went up to see God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. What description is given of what they saw? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Cross-reference this image with the images in Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10. What similarities exist between the Exodus account and the Ezekiel accounts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. What specific action does God NOT take? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. What actions do the people take? \_\_\_\_\_
- f. In verse 15, what happened to the mountain when Moses went up on it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g. What dwelt on mount Sinai? \_\_\_\_\_
- h. On which day did God call Moses into the midst of the cloud? \_\_\_\_\_
- i. What description is used for the appearance of the glory of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- j. How long was Moses on the mountain? \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. Our next account takes place in Exodus 33:7-23

- a. When Moses would enter the tent of meeting, what would descend and stand at the entrance? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. In verse 11 what description is given for the way that the Lord would speak with Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What request does Moses make in verse 18? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What did God say He would make pass before Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. What did God say Moses could not see? \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Why was this? \_\_\_\_\_
- g. What two things did God do after he put Moses in the cleft in the rock? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- h. According to Exodus 34:29-33, what was the result of Moses seeing God in this way? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- IX. In Leviticus 9:22-24, Moses and Aaron went into what? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. When they came out, what appeared to the people? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Does the text say what form this took? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What happened to the offering prepared on the alter? \_\_\_\_\_
- X. For each of the following accounts, record each way God appeared to the people:
- a. Numbers 16:41-50, \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Deuteronomy 4:9-24, \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Deuteronomy 31:14-18, \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Job 38:1 & 40:6, \_\_\_\_\_

## God Manifested Himself in Dreams and Visions

The difference between dreams and visions is a subtle one. A dream happens when a person is sleeping. A vision happens when people are awake. Because these are so similar they have been included here in the same section.

- I. In Genesis 6:11-22 what instruction did God give to Noah? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Does this section tell us whether God spoke to Noah in a dream, vision or through a literal audible voice? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Did Noah take God's words seriously? How can we tell? \_\_\_\_\_
- II. According to Genesis 28:10-17 to whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. In what way does the text say that God appeared to him? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What image did this person see? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What promise did God make to him? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What was this man's response to this? \_\_\_\_\_
- III. In Genesis 31:22-42 to whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. In what way did God appear to this person? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Was this person known for being faithful to God? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- c. What message did God give this person? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. What does the text say would have happened if God had not appeared to this person? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- IV. Study through Numbers chapter 12 for the answers to these questions:
- a. For what reason were Moses' brother and sister mad at him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. In what way did God appear to them? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Where did He appear to them? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. In what way did God say that He would make Himself known to prophets? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. In what way did God say that He would speak to prophets? \_\_\_\_\_
- f. In what way does God say that this is different from the way that He spoke to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- V. Study 1 Kings 3:1-15 to answer these questions:
- a. Why was Solomon sacrificing on a high place? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. In what way did God communicate with Solomon? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What question did God ask Solomon? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. After a bit of preamble, what did Solomon request of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. Was God pleased with this response, and did God grant Solomon's request? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- VI. Who does God appear to in 2 Chronicles 7:11-22? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Does the text say **exactly** how God appeared to him? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b. What condition did God place on his continued blessings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Who did God use as a good example? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What consequence did God give if this is not done? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- VII. Using your Strong's concordance find the number of occurrences of "Vision" in the book of Isaiah. \_\_\_\_\_
- How many of these refer to the prophet receiving a message from God? \_\_\_\_
  - How many are referring to sight? \_\_\_\_\_
- VIII. To get the context of the next set of questions, read through Ezekiel 1-3. The questions will be over Ezekiel 1:1-4.
- Is an exact time given for when this happened? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Was the prophet awake or asleep for this vision? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What description is given for the first scene of this vision? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- IX. In Amos 9, where does the prophet see the Lord standing? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is there any indication of whether the prophet is awake or asleep? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Does the prophet respond to the Lord at all? \_\_\_\_\_
- X. Now we will move forward to the New Testament. In 2 Corinthians 12:1-5, when did the events described take place? \_\_\_\_\_
- Was this a vision or a literal transportation? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who did this happen to? \_\_\_\_\_
  - For what reason is Paul including this account in his letter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- XI. The final passage for this section is Revelation.
- Was John awake or asleep when he received this revelation? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Could John interact with those who spoke to him? \_\_\_\_\_

## God Manifested Himself in an Audible voice

This section may seem slightly redundant considering that in almost all the accounts we have studied so far, God speaks. However, there are occurrences in which the prophets only heard God's voice without seeing visions at the same time.

- I. In Joshua 1:1-9, who had recently died? \_\_\_\_\_
- Does this passage **say exactly** how God spoke to Joshua (i.e. in a dream, in a vision or face to face like He did with Moses)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - What does verse 1 say about the manner in which God communicated with Joshua? \_\_\_\_\_



- c. What phrase does God repeat to Joshua three (3) times? \_\_\_\_\_
- II. With whom does God communicate in 1 Samuel chapter 3? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. In what way did God communicate with him? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Was this something that he had experienced before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- c. Did he immediately understand what was going on? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- d. Could he respond to God? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- III. In 1 Samuel 23:6-14, where was David hiding?
- a. Who was coming after him? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What two questions did David ask of God?
- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Did God answer David's questions? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- d. What did David do because of God's answers? \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. The next passage we are going to study is 1 Kings 17:1-7:
- a. Who does God communicate with in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What exactly does the text say came to him? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Does the text say **exactly** how this came (i.e. through audible voice, dream, voice inside his mind)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- d. Did he follow God's instructions? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- i. This passage is an example of a common way of referring to God's communication with prophets. The text does not always directly say whether the communication was through audible voice, or a voice inside their head, or through a vision.

## God Manifested Himself in Manners that are Undisclosed

There are quite a few occurrences in which God is said to have appeared to someone, but the text does not say exactly how He appeared to them. We might have educated guesses about how God appeared to them, but since the text does not clearly say, we should not make assumptions.

- I. For the following passages, list those to whom God appeared and give a summary of what God said:
- a. Genesis 12:1-9, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Genesis 17:1-14, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Genesis 26:1-5, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Genesis 26:23-25, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Genesis 35:9-15, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Numbers 14:5-12, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Numbers 16:19-23 (Read the whole chapter to get the context)  
To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Numbers 20:2-9, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_
- i. 1 Samuel 3:19-21, To whom did God appear? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God say? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Special and unique account**

There is one account that stands out from the other sections we have studied, because it is the only occurrence of its kind. Study Daniel 5 to answer these questions:

- I. Who was having a party in this section? \_\_\_\_\_
- II. What blasphemous act provoked God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- III. What appeared “opposite the lampstand”? \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. What did this apparition do? \_\_\_\_\_
- V. What was the response of the king? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- VI. Who suggested calling Daniel to solve the mystery? \_\_\_\_\_
- VII. The words inscribed were: \_\_\_\_\_
- VIII. What interpretation did Daniel give of the inscription? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- IX. What happened that very night? \_\_\_\_\_