

Jesus Christ - His Pre-existence

Now that we've established the fact that the Bible is completely reliable. let us consider what it has to say about Jesus Christ. Since we can be absolutely confident that the Bible gives us an accurate record of the important events, and teachings, in the life of Jesus Christ, as well as the beliefs concerning Him held by the first Christians, let us see Who this Jesus was:

1. JESUS, A MAN OF HISTORY

That Jesus lived is evident, not only because Scripture testifies about Him, but, also, because such historians as Polycarp, Eusebius, Iranaeus, Ignatius, Justian, Origin, and others of the early Church Fathers, proclaim Him, as well as other *non-Biblical* sources such as, Cornelius Tacitus [A.D. 52-54], Lucian [2nd century], Flavius Josephus [A.D. 66], Tertullian [A.D. 197], Thallus, the Samaitain-born historian [A.D. 52], Letter of Mara Bar-Serapion [A.D. 73], Pontius Pilate's report [A.D. 150, and The Jewish Talmud. It is interesting to note that the Encyclopedia Britannica has 20,000 words describing Jesus.

2. JESUS, HIS PRE-EXISTENCE

A. BEFORE HIS CONCEPTION

For any one else but Jesus Christ to make the assertion that He existed *before* He was conceived in His mother's womb would be without warrant. However, Jesus, in John 6:62, said to some of His followers, "*What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before!*" Christ lived in heaven before He was born on this earth. In Hebrews 10:5 we find Christ talking immediately before His coming into this world and speaking about the *body* which He was to receive upon that advent. Hebrews 10:5 states, "*Therefore, when Christ came into the world He said: `Sacrifice and offering You [Speaking to His Heavenly Father] did not desire, but a body You prepared for me.*" In John 1:15 we read these striking words from the lips of John the Baptist concerning the Christ, "*This was He of whom I said, `He Who comes after me has surpassed Me because He was before me.*" Now John was born before Jesus was, and yet he says that Jesus existed *before* he did. Let us trace this existence through the pages of Holy Writ.

The Apostle John tells us in chapter one, verse 18, of his Gospel, "*No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.*" According to this verse no person has ever seen God, but *Christ* has *declared* or made known to men. In the Old Testament times God on numerous occasions appeared to individuals. In these appearances He took the form of either a man or an angel. If we accept the teaching of the above verse [John 1:18] , then we must come to the conclusion that since no man has ever seen God the Father, it must have been Jesus Christ the Son Who took upon Himself the form of an angel or a man and appeared to Old Testament characters. With this thought in mind let us make a study of some of these appearances. The New Testament will identify Christ in some of these appearances for us. The context will make it clear that more than merely an angel is meant.

[Other Scripture to study on this subject would be John 6:38; and 17:5 & 24.]

B. AT THE TIME OF JEWISH CAPTIVITY

The experience of Daniel's three friends who refused to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's image and were thrown into the fiery furnace is a familiar story. In Daniel 3:25, the king looking into the furnace, says, "*Look! I see **four** men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the god.*" No doubt this is the accurate translation of what the king actually said, however, the translators of the old version gave us the true situation when they expressed these words, "*The form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*" Certainly this fourth Person was none other than Jesus Christ, the Second Person in the Trinity! In verse 28 the king calls Him an "*angel.*" He no doubt had that appearance to those who saw Him.

What a comfort to know that the Lord Jesus Christ made His presence known to those who were going through trials even in the Old Testament times!

C. DURING THE TIME OF THE PROPHETS

The Apostle Peter in his first epistle, chapter one, verses 10 and 11, speaks about the Old Testament prophets, when he states, "*Concerning this salvation, the **prophets**, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which **the Spirit of Christ in them** was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*" The Spirit of Christ was in them. He existed in those days! It is true that He made Himself known to them through His Holy Spirit, but it is more than likely that at times He actually appeared unto them in human or angelic form when He revealed to them the teachings which have become a part of the Word of God. And, how appropriate that it should be so!

D. IN THE DAYS OF KING DAVID

When the Lord Jesus debated with His enemies we find Him using a quotation from David concerning the Messiah indicating that He was alive in those days. Matthew 22:41-46 states, "*While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 'What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?' 'The son of David,' they replied. He said to them, 'How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls Him 'Lord' For he says... [Jesus, then, quotes Psalm 110:1]... 'The Lord said to My Lord: Sit at My right hand until I put your enemies under Your feet.'*" The question, Jesus asks, was, "*Since David calls Him, 'Lord,' how is He his son?*" And, verse 46 goes on to say, "*No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask Him any more questions.*" Here, under divine inspiration, David listened to a conversation carried on between God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. He wrote down what They said and has given it to us. We need no further proof than this, that our Savior lived in those days when the Psalms were being written.

E. AT THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

In the thirteenth chapter of Judges we find the story of the appearing of the "*Angel of Jehovah*" unto the parents of Samson. Verse 3 says, "*The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, 'You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son.'*" In verse 6 this angel is called "*A man of God.*" In verse 19 he is referred to as "*The Lord.*" Here then was a revelation of God in human form, and as we have already seen, it must have been

through the Person of the Second Person in the Trinity - the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 18 is a further confirmation of this fact, for we read, "*And the angel of Jehovah said unto him, Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?*" [Reminds us of Isaiah 9:6 where Messiah is named, "**Wonderful.**"]

A similar appearance was made to Gideon in chapter six. Verse 12 states, "*When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, 'The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.'*" In verse 22 Gideon talks to the angel and says to him, "*Ah, Sovereign LORD!*" Deity is most certainly indicated here. And, as no human being could have looked into the face of God the Father, we conclude this was once again the Lord Jesus Christ come down to earth to encourage one of the Old Testament saints.

F. DURING THE LIFETIME OF JOSHUA

Joshua and the Israelites had crossed over the river Jordan, and the manna, the food from heaven, had ceased. The tremendous task of conquering this land was before General Joshua and his army. Just here a fresh revelation of God was needed to encourage Joshua and it was supplied in the Person of Jesus Christ. Listen to the story in Joshua 5:13-15, "*Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, 'Are you for us or for our enemies?' 'Neither,' he replied, 'but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.' Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence and asked him, 'What message does my Lord have for his servant?' The commander of the Lord's army replied, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.' And Joshua did so."* After this remarkable appearance Joshua never needed to be afraid for the real captain of his army was the Second Person in the Trinity, whom we know to be the Lord Jesus Christ. And He is our Captain today. May we go forth under His banner to win battles under His leadership!

G. AT THE TIME OF ISRAEL'S EXPERIENCES IN THE WILDERNESS

Was Jesus Christ present with the Israelites in their wanderings through the wilderness as well as their coming forth out of Egypt? He most certainly was. Paul says so twice in the tenth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians. Verse 9 states, "*We should not test the Lord, as some of them did - and were killed by snakes.*" Christ was there and the Israelites tempted Him by their unbelief. And verse 4 states, "*They drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.*" Christ followed with them all through those wilderness experiences. And He will follow with us, but may we not tempt Him as they did!

Jesus Christ led the way for the hosts of the Israelites as they journeyed on! Exodus 14:19 states, "*Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them.*" When protection was needed in the rear His position was changed. The prophet Isaiah gives us an interesting name for this "*angel.*" In Isaiah 63:9, refers to this angel as, "*the angel of His presence.*" [Literally translated this verse would read, "*the angel of His face.*"] It would be appropriate then to call the angel, "*The Face of the Lord.*" And is that not exactly what Jesus Christ is? It is in the face that a person's real character is seen, and when we look at the face of Jesus we see the character of God, His heavenly Father and ours.

H. AT THE TIME OF MOSES

Moses was one of those highly favored in Old Testament times by having numerous revelations of God made known unto him. The first appearance of God to Moses is found in Exodus 3:1-6, which states, "*Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up.' When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.' 'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'*" At this Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God." In the verses which follow Moses is commissioned to go and deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. Moses then asks God concerning what name he should use in telling Israel God had sent him to them. God answers in verse 14 and says, "**I AM THAT I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: **I AM** has sent me to you.'" Again and again Jesus Christ used the expression "**I am**" in making claims of deity for Himself.

Here are a few of such claims: "**I am** the bread of life." "**I am** the light of the world." "**I am** the resurrection and the Life." "**I am** the true vine." "**I am** Alpha and Omega." "**I am** the bright and morning star." And each time such a statement was made, Jesus was saying, "**I am** the same Personage who appeared to Moses in the burning bush."

As a result of this appearance to Moses, he had to make a momentous decision. On the one hand was Egypt and a position of wealth, involving pleasure and popularity. On the other hand was the wilderness experience with God's people, and according to the writer of Hebrews, the presence of Christ. Hebrews 11:25-26 states, "*He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*" Moses chose the presence of Christ, although it meant reproach rather than all that Egypt had to offer him. Yes, Jesus Christ was with Moses in the long ago!

When the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai we know that Moses went up into the mount and there talked with God. The tables of the law were given and these commandments were soon broken by the people. But after Moses had destroyed the golden calf he went into the tabernacle and there he talked with God. Exodus 33:11 says concerning that conversation, "*The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.*"

[This was a temporary "*tabernacle*," called the "*the tabernacle of the congregation*" which the children of Israel worshiped at *before* the Tabernacle, which God commanded, at Sinai, to be built, was built.]

Could language be any more beautiful than that? But certainly Moses could not have looked into the face of God the Father. The Apostle John tells us no man has seen God the Father at any time. Hence we are driven to the conclusion that it must have been the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, with Whom Moses held conversation with "*face to face.*" One such

an experience would more than make up for all the hardships and trials of those wilderness experiences!

I. AT THE TIME OF JACOB

As we go back to the time of Jacob we find that God appeared to this patriarch in a most remarkable way. It was just before Jacob's reconciliation to Esau. The account of it is found in Genesis 32, beginning with verse 24. A man is said to have wrestled with him, but prevailed not to get him to surrender. Then this Person touches the hollow of Jacob's thigh and puts it out of joint. However, Jacob would not let Him go without a blessing which was given in the form of the new name, *Israel*. After this experience was over Jacob gave a name to the place where it occurred. Verse 30 states, "*So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw **God** face to face, and yet my life was spared.'*" This Person then was God having taken upon Himself human flesh, and Jesus Christ is the Person in the Godhead Who, is said to have done this. Jacob could never be quite the same after this experience as he had been before.

J. AT THE TIME OF ABRAHAM'S PILGRIMAGE

We know from the lips of Christ Himself that He lived in the days of Abraham. Jesus said in John 8:56-58, "*Your Father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day' he saw it and was glad.' You are not yet fifty years old,' the Jews said to Him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, **I am!**'"* Let's examine two experiences, recorded in the Old Testament, which Abraham had with the Lord Jesus Christ. The first one is given to us in Genesis 18:1, it states, "*The Lord appeared to Abraham.*" Then verse 2 speaks of three men standing by him. Hospitality is given these three men by Abraham and Sarah. In verse 9 they ask concerning Sarah's whereabouts. But in verse 10 we find one of these three men doing the talking, promising Sarah a son in words which could only be true of God. In verse 13 this Person is definitely called "***The Lord***." The promise made was repeated a second time and then the three men started toward the city of Sodom and Abraham went with them to bring them on their way. But *the Lord* ...one of the three...gave Abraham another promise of blessing, evidently as they walked along together. Then the Lord revealed to Abraham His purpose of destroying Sodom, and Abraham began to make his plea for Sodom because of Lot's presence in the city. And this wonderful chapter ends with these words, "*When the **Lord** had finished speaking with Abraham, He left, and Abraham returned home.*" In the light of New Testament teaching which we have already studied, there can be no question that one of these three men who appeared to Abraham was none other than Jesus Christ.

The other experience in the life of Abraham is given in the twenty-second chapter of Genesis. God tested the faith of Abraham by asking him to offer up his son Isaac as a burnt offering unto the Lord. Abraham obeyed God but as he took the knife to slay his son Heaven intervened. Verse 11 states, "*But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham! Abraham!'*" The life of Isaac was spared, and a ram caught in a thicket was offered in his place. Then verse 15 states, "*The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time.*" A marvelous blessing was bestowed by this personage. The expression used here is, "*The Angel of the Lord.*" This expression is used in the Old Testament is specific and not general in its usage. This expression is never used in the plural of angels, but always in the singular, thus indicating that there is only one of the heavenly Beings to whom this title

belongs. Thus the *Angel of the Lord* Who called unto Abraham on Mount Moriah is the same Person Who appeared unto Moses, Jacob, and Abraham as recorded in Genesis 18. How highly favored of men was Abraham! God says of him in Isaiah 41:8, "*Abraham, my friend.*" And the Lord Jesus Christ was his friend!

K. AT THE TIME OF THE TRIALS OF HAGAR

Genesis 16 gives the story of the birth of Ishmael. When Sarah saw that Hagar was with child she despised her, and Hagar fled from her mistress. But the Lord did not forsake her. Verse 7 states, "*The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert.*" He told her to return and gave her a promise concerning her son and posterity. Verse 13 reveals that this was more than an angel, when it states, "*She gave this name to the LORD Who spoke to her: 'You are the God Who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One Who sees me.'*" The writer of Genesis calls the "*angel*" who appeared unto Hagar, "*the Lord,*" and she herself spoke of this "*Angel*" as God seeing her. The Angel of God came to her rescue again when, after the birth of her son, she was cast out of the home of Abraham and Sarah. And what a comfort to know that his angel is none other than Jesus Christ Who is "*the same yesterday, and today, and for ever!*"

L. AT THE TIME OF NOAH AND ENOCH

As we go farther back in Bible history we discover a statement made concerning both Noah and Enoch which throws light on the pre-existence of Jesus. Genesis 6:9 says of Noah, "*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.*" In Genesis 5:24 it says of Enoch, "*Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*" Now here are two men who are said to have "*walked with God.*" What does that expression mean? Was it simply a spiritual fellowship between the Creator and these men? It seems it was that and more than that. After seeing how the Lord through the Second Person in the Trinity took upon Himself the form of an angel or of a man and actually appeared unto various Bible characters, it seems more logical to believe that He did similarly in the case of these two men. If so, then it was Jesus Christ with Whom they walked. And what an experience it must have been to these men of old.

M. AT THE TIME OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Did Jesus Christ walk in the Garden of Eden? Let's see! Genesis 3:8 states, "*Then the man and his wife heard the word of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day.*" Adam and Eve had sinned and so they are now afraid of God's presence and hide themselves because of their nakedness. But this verse is an indication that before their fall they had been in the habit of walking with the Lord God. Now this account of God's coming and talking in the cool of the evening with Adam and Eve is very personal. The Almighty is represented as appearing in human form and conversing with man. And Scripture makes it plain that such appearances were customary for the blessed Second Person of the Trinity, so it seems certain that our Christ was in the Garden of Eden even as He will be the prominent Person in the final Paradise of Heaven. Can you imagine Paradise without Him?

N. AT THE TIME OF THE CREATION OF ALL THINGS

How far back does the pre-existence of Christ extend? Was He in existence when the world and all the vast universe was created? When God created man, we learn from Genesis 1:26, that more than one Person in the Godhead was involved, because this verse states, "*Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.'*" The plural pronouns indicate that at least two persons of the Godhead had to do with creation. A careful study of Scripture will indicate that all Three Persons of the Godhead had a part in this marvelous event. But how could this be? A good way to understand the part each One had in creation is to think of God as the Architect of the universe...Jesus Christ as the Contractor, or Builder...and...the Holy Spirit as the Furnisher, or the One Who bestows life.

Let us see what the New Testament says about Jesus Christ as the Creator:

John 1:3 says, "*Through Him [Christ Jesus] all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.*"

1 Corinthians 8:6 states, "*Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.*" Ephesians 3:9 states, "*God, Who created all things.*" [King James translates this verse as, "*Who created all things by Jesus Christ.*"]

Colossians 1:16 states, "*For by Him [Jesus Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.*"

Hebrews 1:2 states, "*...through Whom [Christ Jesus] He [God, the Father] made the universe.*"

So what?

What difference will it make to me if I realize that the same Christ Who dwells in my heart as my Savior is the One Who created all the vast universe?

A number of year ago a South American firm purchased from the United States the first printing press that was sent down to that land. After it was set up, for some reason or other it would not work. so word was sent to the ones from which it had been purchased asking that someone be sent down who could fix the machine.

However, when the man arrived they refused to let him work on the machine because he was too young. They wired back to the United States, "*This man you sent is too young. Send us one more experienced.*"

Back over the wires came this answer, "*This man made the machine. Let him fix it.*" This young man had been instrumental in making the machine, which had been sent down, in the first place!

Jesus Christ made me, I ought to have faith to believe He can fix anything about me that needs fixing! What I need is to realize the tremendous power of the One Whom I call *my* Savior!

O. BEFORE CREATION

Since Jesus Christ was Creator, then we know His experience goes back before creation. In John 17:5 Jesus uses the expression, "*before the world was*" to describe His pre-existence. The Prophet Micah in his famous prediction concerning the birth of the Messiah says of Him in Micah 5:2, "*whose origins are from of old, from ancient time*" [or from days of eternity].

Jesus Christ has existed from all eternity! He had no beginning.

There you have the facts - as to understanding those facts, it is beyond the finite mind of man to grasp such truths.

What was Jesus Christ doing before the creation? Does the Bible tell us anything about His activities in the long ago? Yes, we have a glimpse, but it is sufficient to encourage our hearts just to have that glimpse. That glimpse gives us an idea of His condition in relation to God the Father, and also links us up with Him through the ages, if our faith is in Him. Philippians 2:6 tells us that He was on an equality with the Father. John 17:5 tells of the glory which He had with the Father before the world was. John 17:24 speaks of God the Father loving Jesus Christ the Son before the foundation of the world. But what of His relation to us? Listen to the words of 2 Timothy 1:9, "*Who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.*" Back there in those days of the eternity of the past Jesus Christ was busy purposing and planning for your salvation which was to be on the principle of free grace. What a glorious salvation is ours! In Ephesians 1:4 we are given another wonderful thought: "*For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight in love.*" Chosen in Christ in the eternity of the past! We can scarcely grasp the meaning of it. But what made it possible? Revelation 13:8 gives the answer. It states, "*...the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.*" The cross of Christ and the precious blood of Christ were in the mind and purpose of God throughout all the ages of the past. And it is this that makes possible all these wonderful blessings which are ours in Him.

We have traced the preexistence of Christ from His birth back through the period of Old Testament history, back to the creation of the universe, and finally we stood on the shore of the eternal ocean of the past. As far as man can peer we still find Christ. There He is sharing in the glory of the Father. And do you wish to share with Him in that glory? Listen to John 17:24, "*Father, I want those you have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world.*"

Let us thank God for the pre-existence of Christ!

3. JESUS CHRIST, THE "**JEHOVAH**" OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

While it is true that, in Scripture, Jesus is shown to be the Second Person of the Triune Godhead...having life from eternity...He is...as we will see...the "**Jehovah**" of the Old Testament as well.

In Exodus 3:14, God revealed Himself by the name *Jehovah*..."**I am that I am**," "**I AM**" being one of the names of Deity. In the New Testament, Christ applied the name "**I am**" to Himself many times, and He is called "*Lord*" in both Testaments. [See Isaiah 40:3 with Matthew 3:3; Isaiah 6:1 and 53:1 with John 12:41, etc.]

Many times in the New Testament, Christ used the words, "**I am**" to indicate that He was *Jehovah*...the **LORD**...and, often, as has been stated earlier in this study, He used the words "**I am**" followed by other descriptive words...such as **I am** the resurrection and the life."

It is interesting to compare Christ's usage of the word "**Jehovah**" with the Old Testament's usage of this word because...like Jesus...the Old Testament compounds the word "**Jehovah**" with such descriptive words as "**Jehovah-Ydifykrnu**," "*The Lord our Righteousness*" [Jeremiah 23:6]...or, "**Jehovah-Shalom**," "*The Lord our peace*" [Judges 6:24].

Many times in the New Testament, Jesus used the term "**I am He**" [that is, the Messiah] to imply His Deity! In each of these instances where Christ said, "**I am He**," the "**He**" is not in the text, but, rather, was supplied by the translators.

Other Scriptural examples of Christ's usage of "**I am**"...followed by descriptive words...are the following:

"I am the Bread of Life" - [John 6:33, 41, 48, 51]

"I am the Light of the World" - [John 8:12; 9:5]

"I am the Door" - [John 10:7, 9]

"I am the Good Shepherd" - [John 10:11, 14]

[Also see, John 10:36; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1; Revelation 1:11, 17-18; 21:6; 22:13 and 17.]

While the more literal translation of "**YHWH**" is "**Yahweh**," most translate it as "**Jehovah**"...or..."**LORD**"...and basically, it (the word "**Yahweh**") means "**He who is**"...or..."**I AM WHO I AM**" [Exodus 3:14].

In John 8:24, Jesus said, "**Unless you believe that I AM, you shall die in your sins.**" In verse 28 Jesus says, "**When you lift up the Son of Man, then you shall know that I AM,**" and, then, in verse 58 He said, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.**"

Matthew 13:14-15 states, "*In them...[that is in the Jews who rejected Jesus as their Messiah]...is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: `You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'*" This passage, which Jesus quoted, stating that He, indeed, fulfilled is from Isaiah 6:8-10, and identifies Him with "**Jehovah**" of the Old Testament.

When John the Baptist announced the appearance of the Messiah, he, of course, was referring to Jesus Christ specifically, it is my conviction that the word "**Jehovah**," more accurately, really refers to the Godhead...including Jesus Christ...the Second Person of the Triune Godhead...and was the physical expression of that Godhead to man.

Jesus as Jehovah

Said of Jehovah	Mutual Title or Act	Said of Jesus
Isaiah 40:28	Creator	John 1:3
Isaiah 45:22; 43:11	Savior	John 4:42
1 Samuel 2:6	Raised dead	John 5:21
Joel 3:12	Judge	John 5:27, cf. Mt.25:31
Isaiah 60:19-20	Light	John 8:12
Exodus 3:14	I Am	John 8:58; cf. 18:5-6
Psalms 23:1	Shepherd	John 10:11
Isaiah 42:8; 48:11	Glory of God	John 17:1,5
Isaiah 41:4; 44:6	The First and Last	Revelation 1:17; 2:8
Hosea 13:14	Redeemer	Revelation 5:9
Isaiah 62:5; Hosea 2:16	Bridegroom	Revelation 21:2, cf. Mt.25:1
Psalms 18:2	Rock	1 Corinthians 10:4
Jeremiah 31:34	Forgiver of sins	Mark 2:7, 10
Psalms 148:2	Worshiped by Angels	Hebrews 1:6
Throughout Old Testament	Addressed in Prayer	Acts 7:59
Psalms 148:5	Creator of Angels	Colossians 1:16
Isaiah 45:23	Confessed as Lord	Philippians 2:11

3. JESUS, IN HIS DESCENT FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH

Throughout the Old Testament, God's promise is that He would enter the human family...that He would suffer, die, and rise again, in order to redeem the lost world and to reconcile all things unto Himself. [Note: Genesis 3:15; 49:10; Micah 5:2; Daniel 9:25; Hebrews 1:5-13.]

The Old Testament predicts that the coming Messiah, Who was none other than Jesus Christ, would be Deity. Matthew 1:21-23 proclaims very clearly that the Messiah ...for Whom the Jews were looking for...was to be God Himself in human form...Jesus.

In John 16:28, Jesus tells us, "*I came out from the Father and have come into the world*"...a fact which is continually confirmed throughout the New Testament in such Scriptural verses as 1 John 4:9; Romans 8:3; and 1 Timothy 3:16.

Isaiah 9:6 makes it clear that not only was "*a child born*" that first Christmas day, but, also, that "*a Son was given*." God gave His Son...(eternal Deity)...and, a "*child was born*"...(born into the human race)...Christ's humanity began.