

Lesson 21 – The God Who Keeps Showing Up

(Theophanies & Divine Presence)

Introduction

One of the most breathtaking truths in Scripture is that God does not leave His people alone. He continually shows up, sometimes expected, often unexpected at just the right moment. These appearances are called *theophanies* (God revealing Himself) or *Christophanies* (pre-incarnate appearances of Christ).

From the burning bush to the fiery furnace, from the wrestling mat at Peniel to the storm on the Sea of Galilee, the same Lord has been showing up again and again. This lesson explores His appearances, not merely as history but as living testimony that “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8).

Lesson Session

1. God Shows Up to Call and Commission

- **Moses at the Burning Bush**

Exodus 3:2-4 (KJV) – “And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush... And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.”

Pointer: God interrupts ordinary life with holy encounters to remind us He knows our name and calls us into His mission.

2. God Shows Up to Provide and Reassure

- **Abraham on Mount Moriah**

Genesis 22:11,14 (KJV) – “And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham... And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-Jireh as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.”

Pointer: When obedience feels costly, God shows up as Jehovah Jireh—the Lord Who Provides.

- **Hagar in the Wilderness**

Genesis 16:13 (KJV) – “And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?”

Pointer: In seasons of rejection or despair, God shows up as *the God who sees*.

3. God Shows Up to Wrestle and Transform

- **Jacob at Peniel**

Genesis 32:24,28,30 (KJV) – “And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day... And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed... And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”

Pointer: Sometimes God shows up in struggle, not to destroy us, but to rename, reshape, and release us into destiny.

4. God Shows Up to Lead in Battle

- **Joshua Meets the Captain of the Lord’s Army**

Joshua 5:13-14 (KJV) – “...there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.”

Pointer: God doesn’t take sides, He takes over. His presence assures victory when we align under His command.

5. God Shows Up in Fire and Danger

- **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego**

Daniel 3:25 (KJV) – “Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

Pointer: God doesn't always remove the fire, but He shows up *in* it.

- **Daniel in the Lions' Den**

Daniel 6:22 (KJV) – “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me...”

Pointer: God shows up to defend those who stand boldly for Him.

6. God Shows Up in Rebellion and Mercy

- **Jonah in the Great Fish**

Jonah 2:1-2 (KJV) – “Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me...”

Pointer: Even in disobedience, God shows up with discipline that leads to mercy and mission.

7. God Shows Up in Storms and Fear

- **Jesus Walks on the Water**

Matthew 14:25-27 (KJV) – “And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.”

Pointer: When fear overtakes us, God shows up to calm both the storm and our hearts.

- **Jesus Calms the Sea**

Mark 4:39-40 (KJV) – “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still... And there was a great calm.”

Pointer: God's presence brings peace where chaos reigns.

8. God Shows Up to Transform and Empower

- **The Transfiguration**

Matthew 17:2,5 (KJV) – “And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the

sun... behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

Pointer: God reveals His glory not just for awe, but to strengthen us for the path ahead.

- **The Risen Christ Appears**

John 20:19 (KJV) – “...came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.”

Pointer: God shows up even behind locked doors of fear.

9. God Shows Up to Assure & Finish

- **Paul on the Damascus Road**

Acts 9:3-5 (KJV) – “...suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven... And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest...”

- **The Lord Stands by Paul in Prison**

Acts 23:11 (KJV) – “And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul...”

- **John’s Vision on Patmos**

Revelation 1:17-18 (KJV) – “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore...”

Pointer: The Alpha and Omega shows up to assure us that He will finish what He began.

Study & Discussion Questions

1. Which appearance of God in Scripture most stirs your faith, and why?
 2. How do these stories challenge the idea that God is distant?
 3. In what ways has God “shown up” in your own life at the right time?
 4. How can remembering these appearances change the way you face trials today?
 5. What does it mean to you personally that the infinite Creator is also the intimate Father who keeps showing up?
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Conclusion

Ugo Okonkwo
Founder, Author & Director

The story of the Bible is the story of the God who keeps showing up. From burning bushes to prison cells, from wrestling mats to raging seas, from fiery furnaces to upper rooms, He reveals Himself again and again.

This is the wonder: the infinite, holy, almighty God bends low to walk with His people. He is the same Lord who showed up in the Old Testament, who walked the earth as Jesus Christ, and who dwells in us today by His Spirit. And He will keep showing up until the day we see Him face to face.