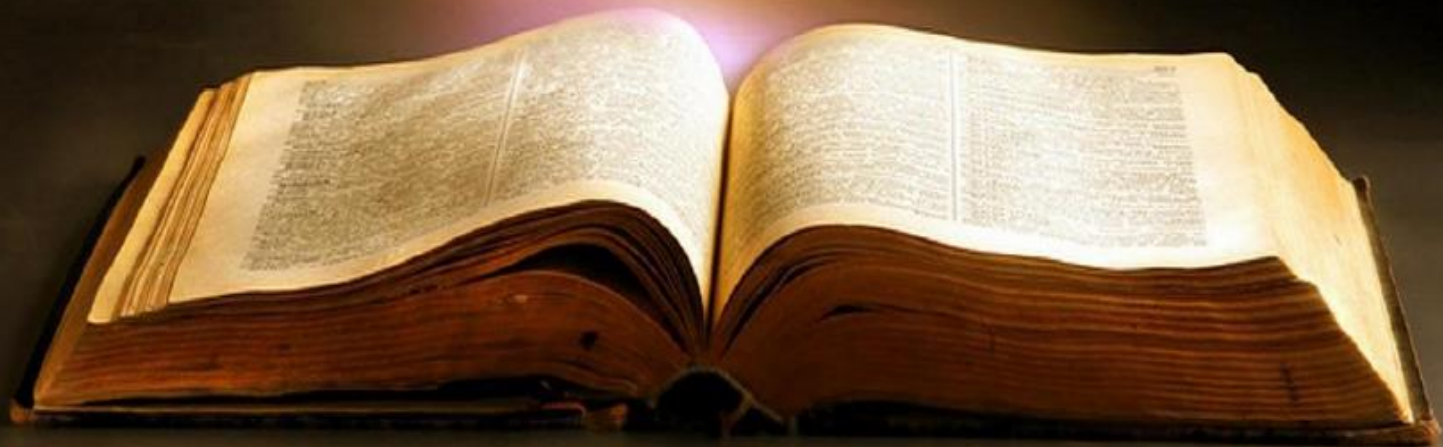


# SANDERSTEAD BIBLE WEEK

*'Finding Jesus Christ in the Hebrew Scriptures'*

**Speaker: Nick Lunn**

A Bible Translation Consultant with Wycliffe Bible Translators,  
and Associate Tutor at Spurgeon's College.



<b>DATE</b> August	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Bible Passage</b>
Monday 5th	<i>Jesus is Promised</i>	Genesis 12:1-7; 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Tuesday 6th	<i>Jesus is Prophesied</i>	Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:1-17; Isaiah 40:3-5
Wednesday 7th	<i>Jesus is Prefigured</i>	1 Corinthians 5:7-8; John 6:25-59
Thursday 8th	<i>Jesus is Personated</i>	Isaiah 61:1-2; Psalm 16:8-11
Friday 9th	<i>Jesus is Present</i>	Genesis 18:1-19; Exodus 3:1-10; Judges 13:1-23

**5. JESUS IS PRESENT  
IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

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Genesis 18, Exodus 3, Judges 13

# Genesis 18



Abraham receives three visitors

## Genesis 18

### The three visitors

**18** The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. **2** Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

**3** He said, 'If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord,<sup>[a]</sup> do not pass your servant by. **4** Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. **5** Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way – now that you have come to your servant.'

'Very well,' they answered, 'do as you say.'



<sup>10</sup> Then one of them said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.'

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.  
<sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?'

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Will I really have a child, now that I am old?" <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.'

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17 Then the LORD said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?  
18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.<sup>[a]</sup> 19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.'

20 Then the LORD said, 'The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.'

22 The men turned away and went towards Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.<sup>[d]</sup> 23 Then Abraham approached him and said: 'Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare<sup>[e]</sup> the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing – to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?'

26 The LORD said, 'If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.'

33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

**19** The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.



One 'LORD'  
Two 'angels'

# Exodus 3



Moses at the burning bush

## Exodus 3

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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 was not consumed.



<sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

<sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> 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.

**16** Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me’.



the angel of the LORD appeared to him (3:2)

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The LORD ... appeared to me (3:16)

The LORD has appeared to you (4:5)

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The LORD has appeared to you (4:5)

God said to him . . . (3:5)

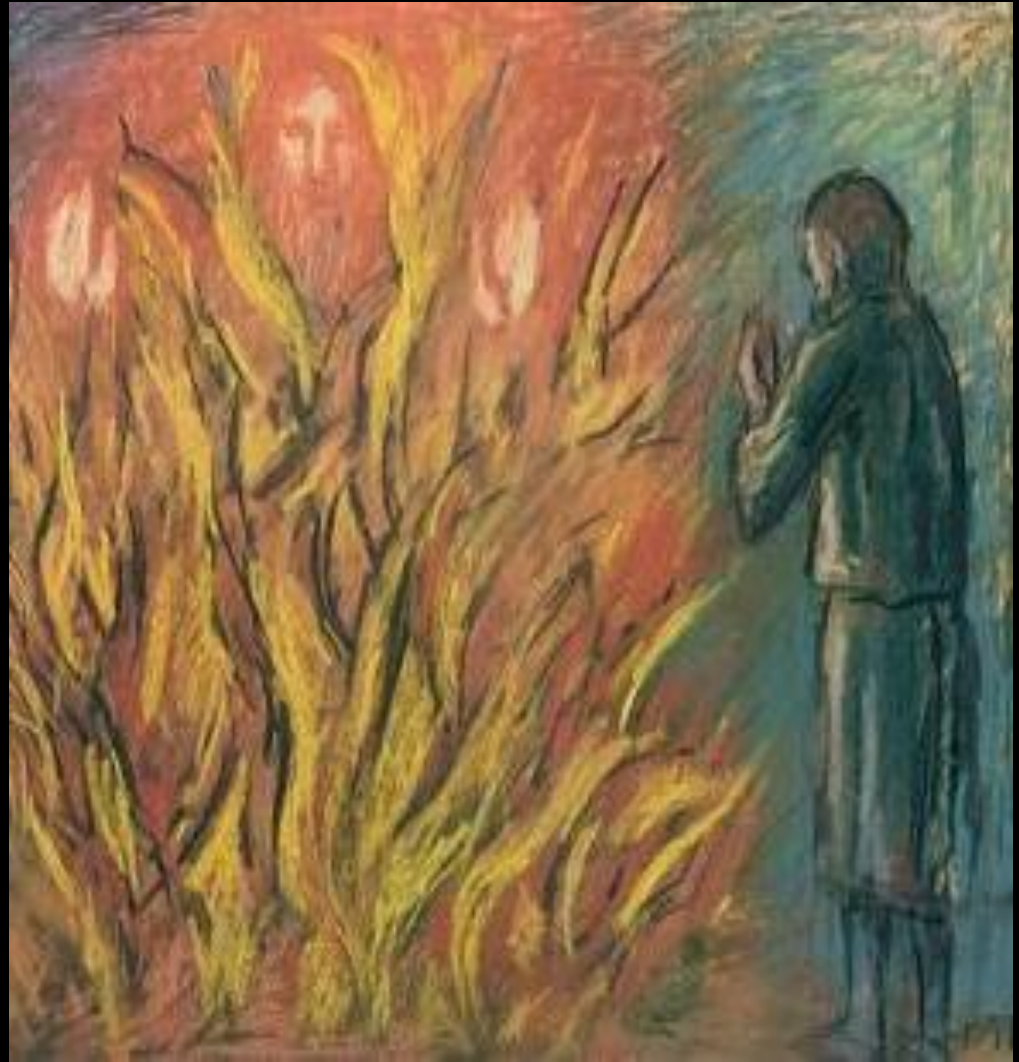
'I am the God of Abraham' (3:5)

Moses was afraid to look at God (3:6)











*The Burning Bush*

"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." **Exodus 3:5**

# Appearances of the Angel of the Lord

- To Abraham (Genesis 22)
- To Jacob (Genesis 28)
- To Joshua (Joshua 5)
- To Gideon (Judges 6)
- To Samson's parents (Judges 13)



"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Then Joshua fell face down to the ground and worshipped.

**Joshua 5:13–15**

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- To Samson's parents (Judges 13)

# Judges 13



The announcement of Samson's birth

**17** Then Manoah enquired of the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that we may honour you when your word comes true?" **18** He replied, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful." **19** Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched: **20** As the flame blazed up from the altar towards heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground. **21** When the angel of the LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realised that it was the angel of the LORD. **22** "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "We have seen God!"

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# The Angel of the Lord

- He is also described as 'God' or 'the Lord'.
- He speaks in the 1<sup>st</sup> person ('I') as God.
- He sanctifies the place where he appears.
- He receives worship as God.
- He receives an offering.
- Those who see him believe they have seen God.

Who is he?

Angel of the LORD , God , the LORD

Angel or God?



I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and with your brothers the Prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

**Revelation 22:8-9**

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Hebrew: *malaak adonai*

'The Angel [of] the LORD'



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'The Angel [of] the LORD'

'The Angel [which is] the LORD'

- **The Angel of the LORD speaks to the LORD:**

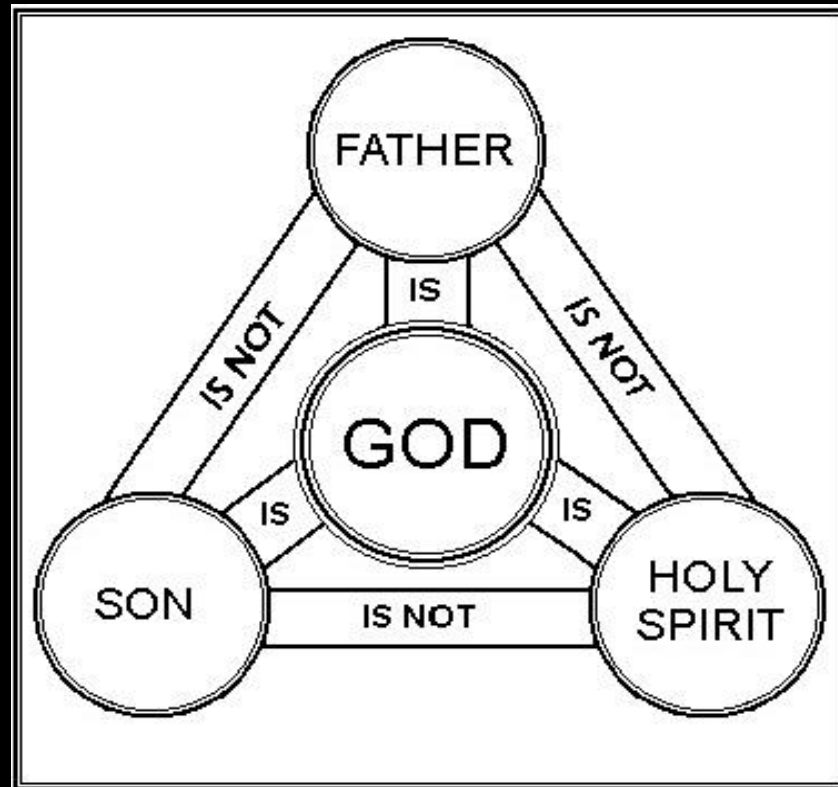
‘Then the Angel of the LORD said, “O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah?”’ [Zechariah 1:12](#)

- **The LORD speaks to the Angel of the LORD:**

‘the LORD spoke to the Angel . . . the Angel of the LORD’ [2 Samuel 24:16](#)

# Our God is Unity in Trinity

'one God in three persons'

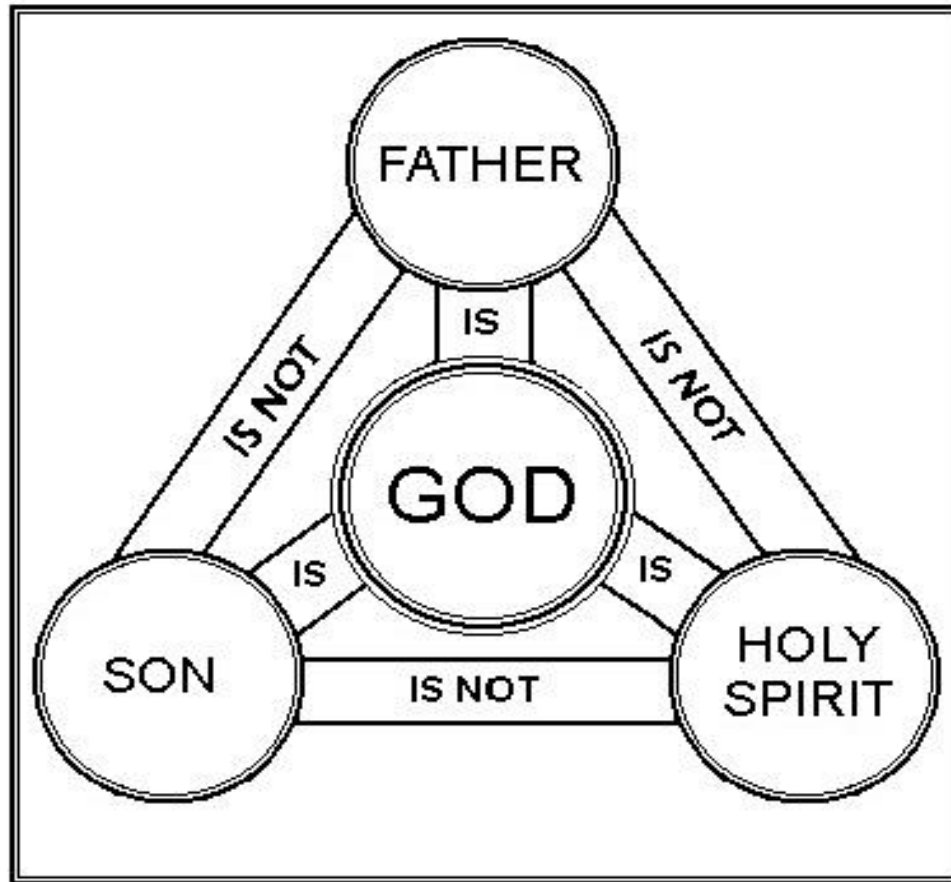


Genesis 1:26

And God said,  
Let **us** make man  
in **our** image  
after **our** likeness.



MORE  
THAN ONE



‘No one has seen the Father’ [John 6:46](#)

The Father sends the Son [1 John 4:14](#)

The Father sends the Spirit [John 14:26](#)



The Holy Spirit never takes on human form

The name 'Wonderful'

The Angel of the LORD:

'my name . . . is Wonderful' [Judges 13:18](#)

Jesus the Messiah:

'his name shall be called Wonderful . . .' [Isaiah 9:6](#)

His name shall be called

*Wonderful*  
Counsellor

The mighty  
God



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# CHRISTOPHANY

# **CHRISTOPHANY**

‘an appearance of Christ’

# CHRISTOPHANY

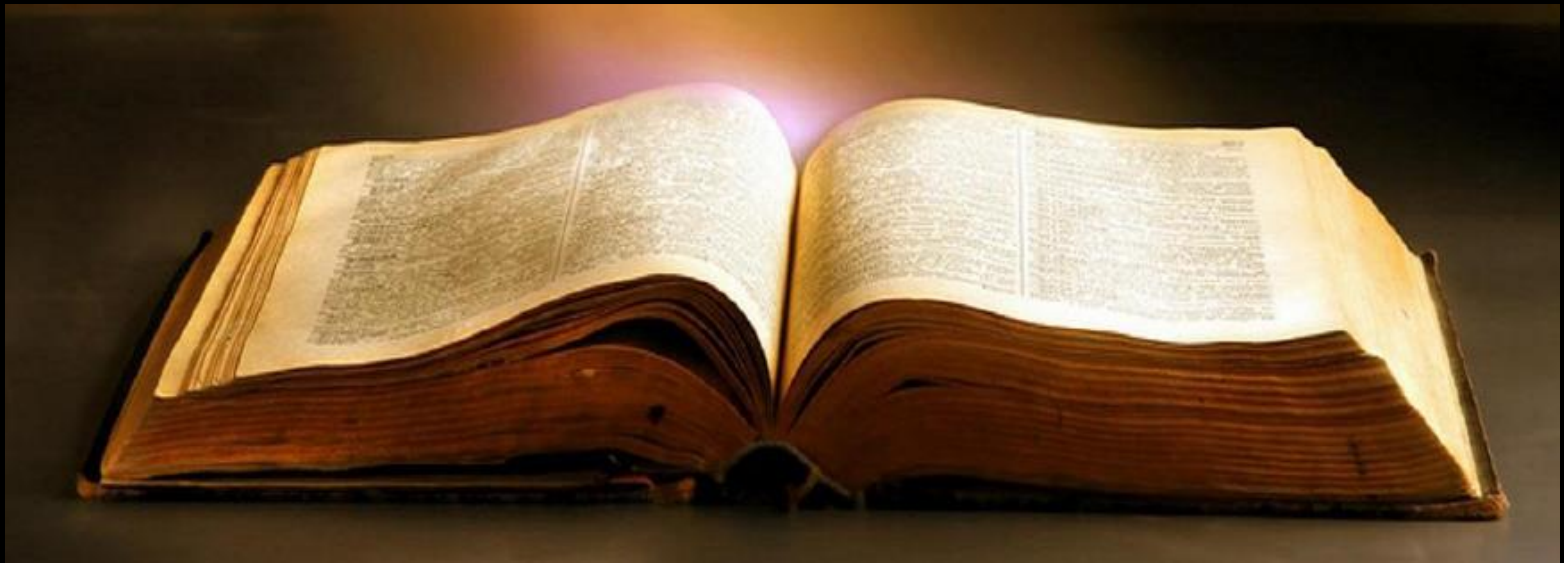
‘an appearance of Christ’

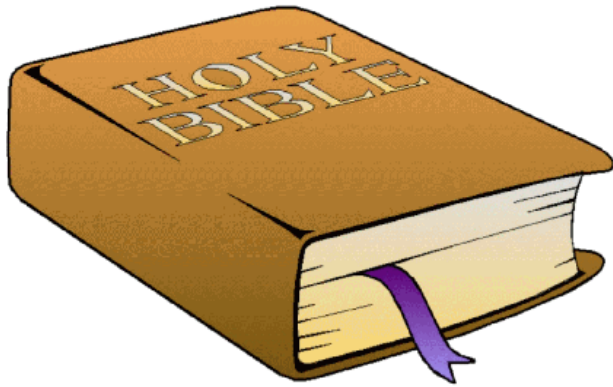
‘a temporary manifestation in human form  
as a precursor to his permanent incarnation  
in human nature’

IRENÆUS OF LYONS (church father, second century): ‘the Son of God is implanted everywhere throughout his [Moses’] writings: at one time, indeed, speaking with Abraham, when about to eat with him; at another time with Noah, giving to him the dimensions of the ark; at another, inquiring after Adam; at another, bringing down judgment upon the Sodomites; and again, when he becomes visible, and directs Jacob on his journey, and speaks with Moses from the bush. It would be endless to recount the occasions on which the Son of God is shown forth by Moses’. (*Against Heresies*, 4.10.1)

JOHN CALVIN (reformer, sixteenth century): ‘Christ, who is the living image of the Father, often appeared to the fathers [i.e. patriarchs] under the form of an angel’ (*Commentary*, on Genesis 18:9)

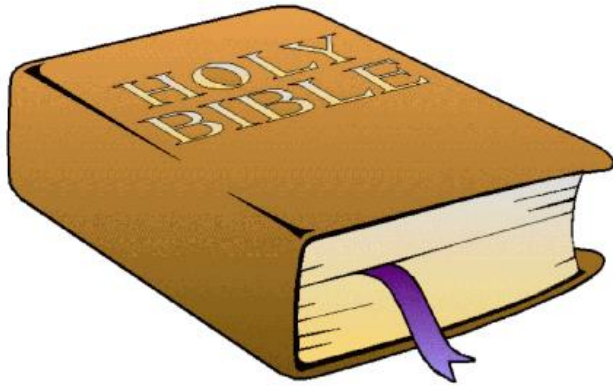
WALTER KAISER (Old Testament scholar, present-day): ‘It is clear from this abundance of evidence that the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament was a preincarnate form of our Lord Jesus Christ, who would later permanently take on flesh when he came as a babe in Bethlehem’. (*Hard Sayings of the Bible*, on Judges 6:22–23)



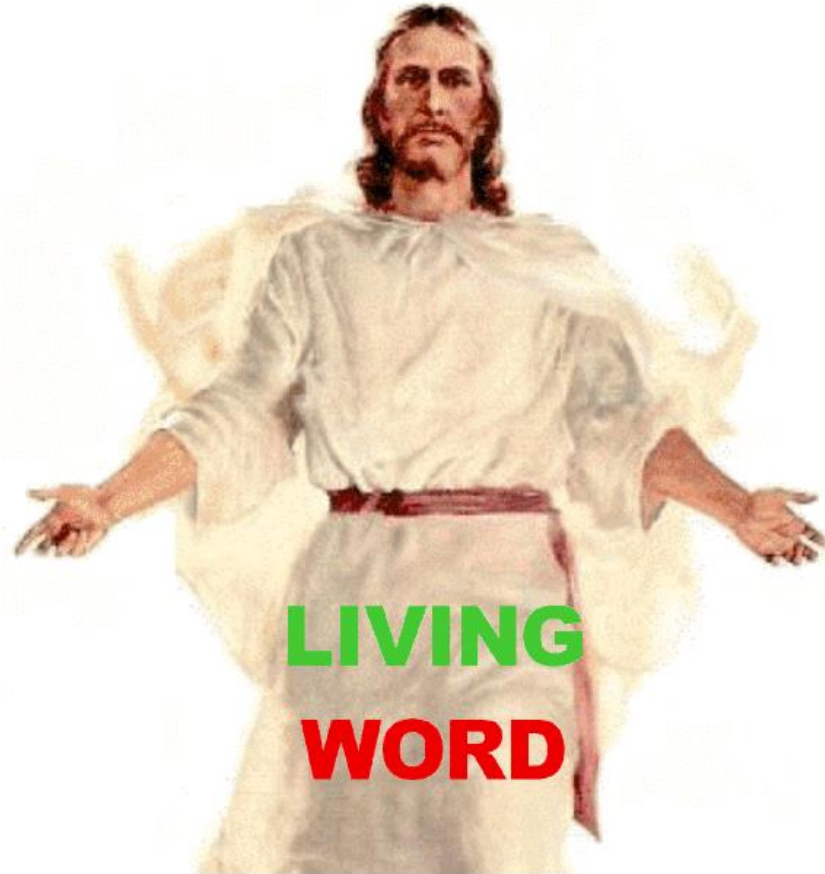


**WRITTEN  
WORD**





**WRITTEN  
WORD**



**LIVING  
WORD**



