

GOD IS NOW HERE

LUKE 24 & GENESIS 22

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God is with us and in control—He is now here! We can trust in God’s providence and promises.

INTRODUCTION

In this new series, *Jesus & You 2: Old Testament Edition*, we are learning about Jesus in the Old Testament. Pastor Greg explains how the Old Testament not only points to the coming Messiah, but how there are also appearances of Jesus (Christophanies) throughout redemptive history.

God is present when He seems absent. How can one small difference change your perspective from thinking God is “nowhere” to trusting God is “now here”? How can we know that God is with us (Matthew 1:21-23)?

Define *providence*. Whether in a prison (Joseph) or a palace (Esther), God has always been with His people. What is the difference between providence and coincidence? How does this cause you to trust that God is in control (Psalm 37:23)?

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 24:13-35

Jesus didn’t begin in Bethlehem—He has always been. Being God, Jesus is co-eternal, co-equal, and co-existent with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Trinity—one God eternally existing in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons. In comparison to false beliefs about Jesus, why are these truths essential? What are some common misconceptions about Jesus?

A Christophany is an appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament—in creation (Colossians 1:16-17), the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8), and the Red Sea and beyond (Exodus 14:19). The disciples on the Emmaus road literally listened to God incarnate describe His Old Testament appearances. What was their reaction and response (v.32-35)? How should we respond when we read and hear God’s Word?

How can we understand the Old Testament in light of the gospel (v.25–27)? How is it about the promise of the Messiah (Genesis 3:15)?

READ GENESIS 22:1–18

Read John 8:53–59. What is significant about Jesus’ “I am” statement? What does it reveal about His identity, and why did the religious leaders react in this way?

How does the story of Abraham and Isaac reveal God’s providence and provision (v.8)? How does it foreshadow Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross?

Abraham looked forward, trusting in God’s promises (Hebrews 11:8–9) and rejoicing in the Redeemer (Galatians 3:8; John 8:56). How can we look back to the cross, trusting and rejoicing in what Jesus has done? How does this cause us to look forward to the promise of Christ’s Second Coming?

APPLICATION

What practical ways can we remind ourselves and each other of God’s promises and providence—that “God is now here”? Consider these Scriptures: Psalm 46:1; Matthew 28:20; Psalm 23:4.

When have you felt like God was absent, only to later realize He was present and working? How did your feelings catch up with your faith?

***We can never escape the presence of God.* How does this truth give you comfort in hardship, conviction in sin, and confidence in God’s calling?**

How might this new series develop your understanding and deepen your appreciation for Jesus’ presence and promises in the storyline of Scripture?

PRAYER

Thank God that He is with you and in control—He is now here in your life! Pray for renewed trust in God’s providence. Rejoice in the promises of the Messiah!