

Peaks Bible Church Study Guide

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The Radiant Logos

Tracing the Eternal Word from John 1:1, the “beginning” through the Progressive Revelation of the Trinity

01 The Logos was never "silent" in the Old Testament

- In the Prologue of John, Jesus is identified as the **Logos**. This is not merely a name but a profound theological designation regarding **the nature of Christ**.
- Before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Logos was active in the Old Testament. These visible manifestations of Christ are called **Christophanies**.
- In the Old Testament dispensations, the Logos was the **"Angel of the Lord"** or the **"Theophany."** He was present as **the primary agent of revelation** throughout the entire Old Testament, but His full identity was a **“mystery”** (a term used for something once hidden but now revealed)
- **Examples:**
 - **The Angel of the Lord:** In the OT, this specific figure speaks as God, identifies as God, and accepts worship (e.g., Moses at the burning bush in **Exodus 3**).
 - **Jacob’s Wrestle:** Jacob wrestled with a "man" but claimed he had seen God "face to face" (**Genesis 32**).
 - **The Captain of the Host:** Joshua fell in worship before a figure who did not rebuke him, unlike a standard angel (**Joshua 5**).
 - **The Veil of Types:** In the OT, Christ was shining through a "thick veil" of **shadows and symbols**. In the NT, the veil is torn, and the "full light" of His identity is revealed.

03 Historical Development of Trinitarian Doctrine

Era	Key Figure / Event	Terminology / Contribution	Primary Defense Against...
1st Century	Ignatius of Antioch	<i>“Our God,” “God Incarnate”</i>	Gnosticism (The denial of Christ’s actual physical humanity).
2nd Century	Theophilus of Antioch	Trias (Greek for “Trinity/Threeness”)	Pagan Polytheism (Defining the unique, singular nature of the True God).
3rd Century	Tertullian	Trinitas; Una Substantia, Tres Personae	Modalism (The heresy that God is one person in different "modes").
4th Century	Council of Nicaea (Athanasius)	Nicene Creed; “Begotten, not made”	Arianism (The heresy that Jesus was a created, lesser being).

05 Living in the "Full Light"

- The transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament is described as a change in **dispensations** (the way God relates to man).
1. **The Dim Light:** The Old Testament saints lived under the law, seeing only shadows of what was to come.
 2. **The Full Light:** We live in the **Dispensation of Grace**. Because of the Logos, the Holy Spirit lives permanently within believers.
 3. **The Application:** We should not try to live under the "dim light" of old rules but in the "full light" of our intimate relationship as heirs of Christ, empowered by His strength.

02 The "Mystery" Revealed

- While the Old Testament saints truly interacted with the Son, they did so under the veil of Old Testament titles. They knew Him as **Yahweh** or the **Malak Yahweh** (Angel of the Lord).
- **“Jesus”** and **“The Son”** were not yet part of the "theological vocabulary" of the patriarchs, as it was revealed at the incarnation. To them, He was the manifest presence of the one true God.
- The Pre-existent Christ was the **active agent** of Jehovah in the Old Testament.
- Definition of **"Mystery"**: is not something spooky or unsolvable; it is **a divine secret** that was kept hidden in past ages but is now "unfolded" for the Church.
- The **"Radiant Logos"** was always shining, but in the OT He shone through a thick veil of **types and shadows**.
- Now, in the **Dispensation of Grace**, the veil is torn. We now look back at the "Angel of the Lord" and say, "That was Jesus!"
- The Son was the only manifestation of God that the world has ever known. His ministry was **progressively revealed** throughout the Old Testament before His birth in Bethlehem.

04 The Nature of "With-ness" (Pros)

1. John 1:1 states, "The Word was **with** God." In the original Greek, the specific word used for "with" provides a deeper look into the relationship within the Godhead. Three different Greek words.
 - a. **Sun** (togetherness): Used for groups or synchronized items.
 - b. **Meta/Para** (alongside): Used for two people walking side-by-side.
 - c. **Pros** (face-to-face): This is the word John uses. It implies a **face-to-face relationship**.
2. **Theological Insight:** The use of pros indicates the closest possible relationship between two distinct persons. Jesus was not just "near" God; He existed in an **eternal, intimate, face-to-face oneness of essence with the Father**.