


# Old Time Christmas (part 1)

*John 8:56-58, Luke 24:27, 31, 44-49*

## Sermon Questions:

1. Pray.
2. Read John 8:56-59.
3. What are your favorite "Old Time Christmas" traditions? Do any images, smells, or vivid memories come to mind?
4. Can you share a time when you have had trouble reading the Old Testament because it feels disconnected from the New?
5. In John's gospel, Jesus is progressively revealing his identity leading to the showdown with the Pharisees. What is significant about what Jesus claims about Himself in John 8:56-59?
6. It's been said that the gospel is trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ (who He is and what He accomplished). Why is it a critical gospel issue to get the identity of Christ correct? How, then, can we discover his true identity as truly God and truly man? (See New City Catechism Qs.21-23 for summary definitions and accompanying scriptures below)
7. How is Jesus identifying with the divine name (Yahweh) a greater claim than mere pre-existence or divinity?
8. Since Jesus existed before he took on flesh (the incarnation), why should we expect to see Him in the Old Testament?
9. Read Luke 24:27, 31, 44-49.
10. Can you think of five ways that the Old Testament looks to Jesus? Think of both predictive ways (explicit promises) and preparatory ways (how the OT sets the stage for the person and work of Jesus).
11. God has given us the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of Truth," (Jn 14:17) at the moment of faith (Eph 1:13-14) to help us discern truth from error (1 Jn 4:6). Why is it critical to ask God to teach us by the Spirit when we open the Old Testament to look for Jesus?

**Question 21:**

Q: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

A: One who is truly human and also truly God.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:6*

See also: 1 Tim. 2:5-6; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4; Rom. 9:5; Luke 1:35; Col. 2:9; Heb. 7:24-25.

**Question 22:**

Q: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

A: That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

*"Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" – Hebrews 2:17*

See also: Heb. 2:14, 16; Heb. 10:5; Matt. 26:38; Luke 1:27, 31, 35, 42; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 4:15; Heb. 7:26.

**Question 23:**

Q: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

A: That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

*"God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it." – Acts 2:24*

See also: John 1:1-3; Heb 1:1-3; Col 2:9; Col 1:15-20; 1 John 5:20; Titus 2:13; Rom 9