

## His Appearances

Now, it is a remarkable fact that the various concepts of God imaged forth in the mythology of the ancient nations find more or less expression in the Hebrew Scriptures. The anthropomorphism which appears in some of the ancient Hebrew writers has been offensive to modern readers, and has been pronounced low and crass.

Jehovah's formation of man (Gen. ii, 7), his walking in the garden in the cool of the day (iii, 8), his smelling the sweet savor of animal sacrifice (viii, 21), his coming down to see the city and tower (xi, 5), his feasting with Abraham (xviii) and wrestling with Jacob at Peniel (xxxii, 24), his appearance as an angel (xvi, 7; Exod. iii, 2), his presence in the pillar of cloud and of fire (Exod. xiii, 21), his coming down on the top of Sinai and talking with Moses there (xix, 20), his appearance to Joshua as Captain of the host (Josh. v, 14) —these and other like theophanies seem very human.

But why should we assume that this naïve and childlike conception of Jehovah is unworthy of our heavenly Father in his desire to approach the heart of the children created in his image? It is in perfect keeping with all the biblical declarations of his loving kindness and tender mercies and wonderful works for the children of men. It accords with the gracious Providence that "loved Israel when a child" (Hos. xi, 1) and bore them as on eagles' wings out of the house of bondage (Exod. xix, 4; Deut. xxxii, 11).

"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bore them and carried them all the days of old" (Isa. lxiii, 9).

Although the heaven of heavens cannot contain him, and he inhabiteth eternity, yet his peculiar delight is to "dwell with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit" (Isa. lvii, 15). The Levitical tabernacle was a symbol and object-lesson of Jehovah meeting and dwelling with Israel (Exod. xxv, 22; xxix, 43).

(The Mediation of Jesus Christ: A Contribution to the Study of Biblical Dogmatics by Milton S. Terry, New York: Eaton & Mains, e-book, 1903, 33-34; paragraph structure modified)