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## **Before the LORD.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Before the LORD.

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### Topics.

- The sons of God came before the LORD and Satan came among them.
- Elkanah and Hannah go up before the LORD.
- A modern example of the expression: "Came up to the LORD."
- Satan came among the sons of God to present himself before the LORD.
- Scriptures that speak of men and woman standing before the LORD

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### THE SONS OF GOD CAME BEFORE THE LORD AND SATAN CAME AMONG THEM

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This expression is used in the book of Job. This study shows that the expression, "The sons of God came up before the LORD" refers to human men and women and not angelic spiritual beings as some think. It shows when a biblical writer stated, "The sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD it carries the same idea as all other Scriptures that use the same expression and that the sons of God primarily refer to the children of Israel especially the faithful whose heart and minds are focused upon the LORD, but by extension can refer to whoever God considers to be His children and who belong to His Kingdom. This study will show that the expression: "They presented themselves before the LORD," simply means they are gathered in a place on earth that is recognized as the house of God where those who belong to the LORD'S Kingdom gather to worship and fellowship. It will show that the expression, "They came up before the LORD does not mean they ascended to heaven. This is especially important to know and understand to get a clear idea of what the author of the book of Job had in mind when he wrote:

- **Job 1:6:** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.
- **Job 2:1:** Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

Many believe that these verses are saying that eternal spiritual beings called the sons of God came before God in heaven and that an evil spiritual creature called Satan entered into heaven with them, but is this really what these verses mean? To help discover the answer we first need to understand the expression before the LORD.

The Bible states that all the following was done before the LORD:

- Moses and Aaron went up unto the LORD and spoke words before the LORD. (Exod. 19:3) (Exod. 28:29).
- All Israel's males appeared *before the LORD* (Exod. 34:24).
- Korah, all his company and all Israel stood *before the LORD* (Num. 16:16).
- All Israel appeared *before the LORD* thy God (Deut. 31:11).
- Joshua and all the tribes of Israel, the elders, the judges, and the officers and all their wives and children presented themselves and stood *before the LORD* (Joshua 24:1) (Judges 20:26).

- All the chiefs, the elders and the people and children of Israel, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept and sat there *before the LORD* and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings *before the LORD* (Judges 20:26).

### **These show us that the expression:**

- Came up before the LORD.
- Came up unto the LORD.
- Came up before the Altar.

All mean the same thing and all carry the same idea: they mean that whatever the people did was done was done in faith and with the mindset that they were doing it as though the LORD was present there with them. When the people were gathered together and the prophet or priest read the word of the LORD all Israel was to appear before the LORD. Biblically this was written in the following manner:

- All the people of Israel came, *before the LORD* and the LORD through the prophet or priest said.....

This could also be expressed in the following way:

- All the SONS of God came up *before the LORD* and the LORD through the prophet or priest said.....

When a prophet or priest called by God or an angel spoke God's true word, biblically it is considered the same as the LORD Himself speaking.

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## **ELKANAH AND HANNAH GO UP BEFORE THE LORD**

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The following is a brief overview of the story of Elkanah and his wife Hannah who was barren and his wife Peninnah who had two children. This story not only shines a spotlight on the reality that the expression, "They went up before the LORD" does not mean that they ascended to heaven, but also shows that a great deal of information and detail of how they actually came to be before the LORD is often not mentioned.

**The Story:** Elkanah and his two wives Hannah and Peninnah went up out of their city Ramah to worship and sacrifice unto the LORD in the city of Shiloh (v3) while Elkanah was making his offerings Peninnah provoked Hannah sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb (v6). Therefore, Hannah wept and did not eat, when Elkanah her husband saw her sorrow he asked, "Why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? Am not I better to thee than ten sons?" (v8). So Hannah rose up and they went to eat in the city of Shiloh (v9) Hannah returned to the house of the LORD and while she was praying Eli the priest noticed that Hannah was in bitterness and weeping while in prayer making a vow to the LORD (v10) and that though her lips were moving there was no sound of her voice so Eli thought she had drunk too much, Hannah explained she was not drunk, but in deep grief and prayer (v11-17). After this Elkanah, Hannah and Peninnah:

- Rose up in the morning early and worshipped *before the LORD* and then returned, and came to their house in Ramah (v19).

Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her vow and Hannah conceived a son who she named Samuel. Elkanah and all his house went again to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice (v20-21). Hannah did not go, but said after her child Samuel was weaned, she would take him so that he may appear before the LORD and there abide forever (v22). When Samuel was weaned Hannah left RAMAH and took him up with her and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh (v23-28). In biblical language when the Jewish people left their homes and travelled

to a city to worship at the house of God the Bible writer would often leave out all the detail of them leaving their home and the events of the journey (since the detail of their journey is not important to the message or the story) and simply write they came up before the LORD. This principal is seen in this chapter of Samuel when the writer says Hannah and Elkanah rose up early in the morning to worship before the LORD. In actual fact they rose up and left their city Ramah and travelled to Shiloh to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD (v3). All the detail of the trip is left out of the story. The statement, "They returned and came to their home," shines a spotlight on this fact (1 Sam 1:19) especially since it is most likely that they travelled on donkeys and camels for a few days before they arrived in the city of Shiloh and then they would of had to look around for accommodation since they would be staying in the city of Shiloh for a few days. Elkanah and all his house went up unto the LORD means, they went to the house of God and inquired of His word and worshipped. A shorter way to say the same thing, but in far less detail is to say, they came before the LORD.

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### CAME UP UNTO THE LORD AND CAME UP BEFORE THE LORD

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Following is a modern example of the expression: "Came up unto the LORD" and "Came up before the LORD." A Christian author today could write: a man and his wife rose early Sunday morning waking and dressing their children to go to church in the city of Southport, but on their way the car overheated and cracked the head of the motor. As a result, the family had to call for a yellow taxicab which meant that they arrived at the church a little late, but nevertheless they still had time to worship God and hear the minister's exhortation. After the service he and his wife stayed and had coffee and fellowship while their children played outside for a little while and then they got into the family car and returned to their home or the same author could write: the man and all his house went up before the LORD on Sunday. Both accounts are of the same event and both are correct one just has far less detail. If the detail is not important to the story or the message biblical writes would simply state only that information which is important to the story and message and leave it up to the reader to fill in the gaps.

The words:

- Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves *before the LORD* and Satan came also among them (Job 1:6).
- Again, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves *before the LORD* and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD (Job 2:1).

Do not mean that the sons of God literally ascended to heaven and appeared before the LORD nor do they mean that an evil spiritual creature called Satan literally entered into heaven where God and the angels' dwell. The sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD carries the same idea as all other Scriptures that use the same expression. The sons of God primarily refer to the children of Israel especially the faithful whose heart and minds are focused upon the LORD, but by extension the Sons of God can refer to whoever God considers to be His children and who belong to His Kingdom. The expressing: "They presented themselves before the LORD," simply means they are gathered in a place on this earth that is recognized as a house of God, a temple of God, a church of God or a place where those who belong to God's Kingdom gather to worship and fellowship. When a Jewish man and his wife went to the house of the LORD with their children and servants, it is written, they went to the house of the LORD and inquired of His word or they went to the house of the LORD and worshipped. A shorter way to say the same thing, but in far less detail is to say, they came before the LORD. When the Jewish people left their homes and travelled to Jerusalem to worship at the house of the LORD. The Bible writer often leaves out all the detail of their journey from their home or land and the detail and events of the journey and just

states, they came up before the LORD and worshipped. This principal is seen in the book of Samuel when the writer of Samuel says, "Hannah and Elkanah rose up early to worship the LORD." He leaves out all the detail and events of their journey since they are not important to the story or its message. The statement: "They returned and came to their house" (1 Sam 1:19) shines a spotlight on the fact Hannah and Elkanah had to travel to the house of God. It would be right and proper for every Christian family today who goes to such a place of worship to say, "We went up before the LORD the other day to worship fellowship and hear the word of the LORD."

**Satan came among the sons of God to present himself before the LORD** (Job 2:1) this does not mean that an evil spiritual creature called Satan literally entered into heaven where God and the angels' dwell. It carries the same idea as the following statements:

- Elkanah went up unto the lord (1 Sam. 1:19).
- Aaron the high priest wore the ephod before the LORD (1 Sam. 2:28).
- Hannah's child Samuel grew before the LORD (1 Sam. 2:21).

Satan came up before the LORD means that amongst the faithful (the sons of God) who came to worship before the LORD there was either:

- A deceptive leader who had great authority and influence amongst the people who challenged Jobs faith before the LORD.
- Unfaithful deceptive men who challenged Job's faith before the LORD.

**Satan:** in the Hebrew and Greek language does not have a capital \*S\* and simply means an adversary, one who withstands, opposes or resists. It can refer to an individual man or woman, an organization (religious or secular) a government or a nation that acts as an adversary to God and opposes His will and acts against the Lord Jesus Christ and those who faithfully follow him. In the original Hebrew language, the word Satan never carries the idea of an evil powerful spiritual creature. Satan is a word that symbolizes everything that is the total opposite to what is good, decent and right. In many verses of the Bible the word Satan is often personified as the arch enemy of God. In the following verses Jesus and James shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that every evil and sin manifested in the world today abides in the human heart and the human mind and flows out from them.

Jesus said:

- For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander (Matt. 15:19).
- For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery.
- For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within (Mark 7:21-23).

James wrote:

- Each person is tempted when they are lured and enticed by their own desire, then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death (James 1:14-15).

These verses show that the works of Satan flow out from the depth of the human heart which means that the word, Satan is a personification of the evil in the heart that influences a person's own lust, ego and pride etc., in rebellion against God or to act as an adversary to Christ and those who follow him. It should also be mentions that the word Satan is not limited

in its meaning to only religious matters, Satan in its widest and fullest sense is a personification of everything that is opposed to what is good (religious or secular) this is why the universal title, "The arch enemy of good." This influence can be manifested through an individual, a group, a government or leaders of nations that act as an adversary and enemy to everything that is good, decent and right. John tells us that the whole world lives under the influence and power of the evil one and Paul says unbelievers follow the prince of the power of the air because the god of this world has blinded their minds. The titles "the evil one," "the prince of the power of the air" and "the god of this world" all refer to the same power and influence that affects the human mind, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, they are simply different titles for the same entity which personifies the evil that rises up out of the human heart and influences the world, this entity in most verses is called Satan or the devil (1 John 5:19) (2 Cor. 4:4) (Eph. 2:2). With this understanding in mind it is easy to see that the words:

- Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD (Job 2:1).

Means that amongst the congregation of the faithful that stood before the LORD there were those who were wicked men who were claiming that the only reason Job was such a righteous man who held fast to his faith was because the LORD had abundantly blessed him. This same challenging spirit or mindset still exists in the global world today, many who look at Christians who have prospered and do appear to live a charmed life though they may not say it out loud, think to themselves that it is easy for such Christians to praise and worship God when their life is blessed.

For further information see the titles:

- Satan
- Devil.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The following verses are further instances of men and woman standing before the LORD and of things being done and offered before the LORD.

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## GENESIS

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- The earth was corrupt *before God* and the earth was filled with violence (Gen. 6:11).
- Nimrod was a mighty hunter *before the LORD* wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter *before the LORD* (Gen. 10:9).
- The men of Sodom were wicked and sinners *before the LORD* (Gen. 13:13).
- When Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; *walk before me* and be thou perfect (Gen. 17:1).

From these verses we see that:

- The earth was corrupt before the LORD.
- Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the LORD.
- Men were wicked before the LORD.
- Abraham walked before the LORD.

The expression before the LORD in these contexts and in its widest sense carries the idea that everything done by human men and woman on earth is done before the LORD. It means nothing done on earth is done that the LORD does not see. Whether it is corruption and violence, wars and battles or great acts of courage and faithfulness they are all done before the LORD regardless of whether a person believes in the LORD or not.

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## EXODUS

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- The king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry *came up unto God* by reason of the bondage (Exod. 2:23).
- Moses spake to Aaron, Say to all the congregation of Israel come *near before the LORD* for he hath heard your murmurings (Exod. 16:9).
- Moses said unto Aaron Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up *before the LORD* to be kept for your generations (Exod. 16:33).
- Moses *went up unto God* and the LORD called to him out of the mountain (Exod. 19:3).
- Three times in the year all thy males shall appear *before the LORD God* (Exod. 23:17).
- Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate upon his heart, when he goes into the holy place, for a memorial *before the LORD* (Exod. 28:29).
- Thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aarons' heart, when he goeth in *before the LORD* (Exod. 28:30).
- Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart *before the LORD* (Exod. 28:30).
- It shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place *before the LORD* (Exod. 28:35).
- Thou shalt kill the bullock *before the LORD* by the door of the tabernacle (Exodus 29:11).
- One loaf of bread, and one cake of oiled bread, and one wafer out of the basket of the unleavened bread that is *before the LORD* (Exod. 29:23).
- Thou shalt put all in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons; and shalt wave them for a wave offering *before the LORD* (Exod. 29:24).
- Thou shalt receive them of their hands, and burn them upon the altar for a burnt offering for a sweet savour *before the LORD* (Exod. 29:1-25).
- Thou shalt take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration, and wave it for a wave offering *before the LORD* (Exod. 29:1-26).
- This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation *before the LORD* (Exod.us 29:1-42).
- Thou shalt take the atonement money of Israel for the service of the tabernacle that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel *before the LORD* (Exod. 30:16).
- Thrice a year all Israel's men and children appear *before the LORD* (Exod. 34:23).
- For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders when thou (all the male children of Israel) shalt go up to appear *before the LORD* (Exod. 34:24).

### **From these verses we see that:**

- Israel's cry came before the LORD.
- The people of Israel came before the LORD.
- Manna was laid up before the LORD.
- Moses went up before the LORD.
- All the males of Israel were to appear before the LORD.
- Aaron was to go before the LORD.
- Coming before the altar was the same as coming before the LORD.

- A bullock was killed before the LORD.
- Unleavened bread was laid before the LORD.
- Aaron was to wave his hands before the LORD.
- Wave and burnt offerings were presented before the LORD.
- The atonement money was to be put before the LORD.
- Israel was to go up before the LORD.
- All Israel's male children were to appear before the LORD.

These statements clearly show that the expressions they came up before the LORD does not mean they literally ascended to heaven and stood before the LORD, but refers to the purpose of mind that the people were doing these things, it means there motive, intend and purpose for doing what they were doing was solely for the LORD. It is an expression of faith. Today it would be right and proper for those who worship the LORD and pray to the LORD to say that they are doing it before the LORD or that they have come up in prayer and worship before the LORD.

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## LEVITICUS

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- If his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish *before the LORD* (Lev. 3:1).
- Let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation *before the LORD* (Lev. 1:3).
- If his offering be a goat, then he shall offer it *before the LORD* (Lev. 3:12).
- He shall bring the bullock to the door of the tabernacle *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:4).
- Lay his hand upon the bullock's head and kill the bullock *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:4).
- The priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle the blood seven times *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:6).
- The priest shall put the blood upon the horns of the altar *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:7).
- Elders shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:15).
- The bullock shall be killed *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:15).
- The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:17).
- He shall put the blood upon the horns of the altar which is *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:18).
- He shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering *before the LORD* (Lev. 4:24).
- The priest that maketh the leper clean shall present the man that is to be made clean, and those things, *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:11).
- The priest shall take one he lamb, and offer him for a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them for a wave offering *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:12).
- The priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle of the oil with his finger seven times *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:16).
- The oil that is in the priest's hand he shall pour upon the head of him that is to be cleansed: and the priest shall make an atonement for him *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:18).

- He shall bring them on the eighth day for his cleansing unto the priest, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:23).
- The priest shall take the lamb of the trespass offering, and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them for a wave offering *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:24).
- The priest shall sprinkle with his right finger some of the oil that is in his left hand seven times *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:27).
- One for a sin offering, one for a burnt offering, with the meat offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed *before the LORD* (Lev. 14:31).

**From these verses we see that:**

- Peace offerings were offered before the LORD.
- Burnt sacrifices were offered before the LORD.
- Goat and bullock offerings were before the LORD.
- Bulls were killed before the LORD.
- Blood was sprinkled before the LORD.
- Sweet incense was put before the LORD.
- Elders laid their hands on a bullock before the LORD.
- The altar was before the LORD.
- Lepers were presented before the LORD.
- Wave offerings were before the LORD.
- Oil was to be presented and sprinkled before the LORD.
- Atonement was made before the LORD.
- Cleansing was before the LORD.

These statements are all about the offerings the nation of Israel was required to make to the LORD. Presenting their offering before the LORD means the same as making an offering to the LORD or to taking an offering up to the LORD. In actual fact they presented it to the priest at the altar, but this was seen as presenting it before the LORD. Many times, the Scriptures may simply state they took their offering up before the LORD when in reality they actually took it up to the priest at the altar of the LORD. Since the priest was standing before the nation of Israel and the altar taking the offering to offer it to the LORD the priest was seen as taking the offering up before the LORD.

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## NUMBERS

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- The priest shall bring her (the wife that a husband suspects of uncleanness) near and set her *before the LORD* (Num. 5:16).
- The priest shall set the woman *before the LORD* (Num. 5:18).
- When the spirit of jealousy cometh upon him, and he be jealous over his wife and shall set the woman *before the LORD* (Num. 5:30).
- The priest shall take the jealousy offering out of the woman's hand, and shall wave the offering *before the LORD* (Num. 5:25).
- Thou (Moses) shalt bring the Levites *before the LORD* (Num. 8:10).
- Aaron shall offer the Levites *before the LORD* (Num. 8:11).

- The Levites were purified, and they washed their clothes; and Aaron offered them as an offering *before the LORD* (Num. 8:21).
- Moses said unto Korah be thou and all thy company *before the LORD* thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow (Num. 16:16).
- We have brought an oblation for the LORD, what every man hath gotten, of jewels and of gold chains, to make an atonement for our souls *before the LORD* (Num. 31:50).
- The LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up *before the LORD* (Num. 25:4).
- Moses said unto them, if ye will go armed *before the LORD* to war (Num. 32:20).
- Moses said unto them, if the children of Gad and the children of Reuben will pass with you over Jordan, every man armed to battle, *before the LORD* (Num. 32:29).

**From these verses we see that:**

- Unclean women were to stand before the LORD.
- Wave offerings were before the LORD.
- Moses and Aaron were to offer the Levites before the LORD.
- Korah and all his company were to stand before the LORD.
- Atonement was made before the LORD.
- Leaders of the people were hanged before the LORD.
- Israel went to battle before the LORD.

These statements are all about men and woman (good and bad) coming before the LORD on earth and not in heaven.

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**DEUTERONOMY**

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- Israel returned and wept *before the LORD* (Deut. 1:45).
- Specially the day that thou stoodest *before the LORD* thy God in Horeb (Deut. 4:10).
- The LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand *before the LORD* (Deut. 10:8).
- There ye (Israel) shall eat *before the LORD* (Deut. 12:7).
- Thou (Israel) must eat them *before the LORD* (Deut. 12:18).
- Ye (Israel) shall rejoice *before the LORD* (Deut. 12:12).
- Thy manservant and thy maidservant and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice *before the LORD* (Deut. 12:18)
- Thou (Israel) shalt eat there *before the LORD* thy God, and rejoice (Deut. 14:26).
- Three times in a year shall all thy (Israel) males appear *before the LORD* (Deut. 16:16).
- The man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there *before the LORD* thy God, or unto the judge shall die (Deut. 17:12).
- Israel shalt offer peace offerings and eat and rejoice *before the LORD* (Deut. 27:7).
- When all Israel is come to appear *before the LORD* thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. (Deut. 31:11).

**From these verses we see that:**

- Israel wept before the LORD.
- Israel and the tribe of Levi stood before the LORD.
- Israel was to eat and rejoice before the LORD.
- Israel's men, woman and the Levites rejoiced before the LORD.
- All Israel was to appear before the LORD.
- The priest ministered before the LORD.
- Peace offerings were eaten before the LORD.

When a prophet called by God or a priest and an angel spoke God's word, biblically it was considered by the Jews to be the same as the LORD Himself speaking. This same principal applies to offerings, prayer, sacrifices and worship when Israel come up to the temple of God to worship and before the priest at the altar to offer their sacrifice it was considered the same as coming up before the LORD and is expressed this way many times in Scripture.

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## JOSHUA

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- Joshua adjured them, saying, cursed be the man *before the LORD* (Josh. 6:26).
- Ye (three men from each tribe) (v4) shall therefore describe the land into seven parts, and bring the description hither to me (Joshua) that I may cast lots for you here *before the LORD* (Josh. 18:6).
- The men (three from each tribe) (v4) went and Joshua charged them to walk through the land and come again that he may cast lots for them *before the LORD* (Josh. 18:8).
- Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh *before the LORD* (Josh. 18:10).
- Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders, the judges, and their officers; and they presented themselves *before the LORD* (Josh. 24:1).
- Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words *before the LORD* (Judges 11:11).
- The children of Israel went up and wept *before the LORD* (Judges 20:23).
- Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept and sat there *before the LORD* and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings *before the LORD* (Judges 20:26).

### **From these verses we see that:**

- Joshua told Israel whoever re-builds Jericho would be cursed before the LORD.
- Joshua cast lots before the LORD.
- The tribes, elders, judges and officers presented themselves before the LORD.
- Jephthah spoke before the LORD.
- All the children of Israel wept before the LORD.

Whenever the nation of Israel gathered together at the house of God or the place appointed to offer their service and duty to the LORD it was often stated in the following biblical expressions:

- All the people of God came up before the LORD (Judges 20:26) (ESV).

- All the children of God came up before the LORD (Judges 20:26) (KJV).

This is the same as saying:

- All the sons of God came up before the LORD. (Job 1:6).

The fact Satan appeared with them simply means there were amongst the faithful of God those who were corrupt. Nowhere in the Bible does the expression they came up before GOD mean that they actually ascended to heaven. For further information concerning this, see the title:

- Satan in the Book of Job In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## 1 SAMUEL

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- The LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters and the child Samuel grew *before the LORD* (1 Sam. 2:21).
- I (the LORD) choose him (Aaron) out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod *before me?* (1 Sam. 2:28).
- The LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk *before me* forever (1 Sam. 2:30).
- The Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten *before the Philistines* (1 Sam. 4:2).
- The messenger answered and said, Israel is fled *before the Philistines* (1 Sam. 4:17).
- All Israel gathered to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out *before the LORD*. (1 Sam. 7:6).
- Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up *before the LORD* (1 Sam. 10:25).
- All the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king *before the LORD* in Gilgal; and they sacrificed peace offerings *before the LORD* (1 Sam. 11:15).
- Behold, here I am (Samuel): witness against me *before the LORD* (1 Sam. 12:3).
- Now therefore stand still, that I (Samuel) may reason with you (Israel) *before the LORD* (1 Sam. 12:7).
- When Abigail saw David, she lighted off the ass, and *fell before David* (1 Sam. 25:23).

### **From these verses we see that:**

- When Abigail saw King David she fell before him.
- Samuel grew up before the LORD.
- Aaron the high priest wore the ephod before the LORD.
- God's people walked before the LORD.
- Israel was defeated in battle before the LORD.
- Israel fled from before the Philistines.
- Israel poured water out before the LORD.
- Samuel laid a book up before the LORD.
- Saul was made king before the LORD.
- Peace offerings were sacrificed before the LORD.

- Samuel calls Israel to witness against him before the LORD.
- Samuel tells Israel to listen while he reasons with them before the LORD.

From these verses it is clear that the expression before the LORD does not mean that people literally ascended to heaven and stood before the LORD, but that whatever they did they did in faith and with a mindset that they were standing before the LORD.

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## 2 SAMUEL

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- David and all the house of Israel played *before the LORD* (2 Sam. 6:5).
- David danced *before the LORD* with all his might (2 Sam. 6:14).
- They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings *before the LORD* (2 Sam. 6:17).
- Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up *unto the LORD* (2 Sam. 21:6).

### **From these verses we see that:**

- David and all Israel played music before the LORD.
- David danced before the LORD.
- David offered burnt offerings before the LORD.
- Seven men were to be hanged up unto the LORD (this is the same as saying hanged before the LORD).
- Supplication was made before the LORD.

From these verses we see that the term before the LORD means the same as unto to LORD, both expressions simply mean that whatever is done is done in faith believing the LORD is present and is attending what is being done. Naturally this this mindset is a right and proper one for God's people since there is nothing that God does not see and nothing that can be hidden from Him and all things should be done to His glory.

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## 1 KINGS

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- Let these my (King Solomon) words, wherewith I have made supplication *before the LORD* (1 Kings 8:59).
- King Solomon, and all Israel offered sacrifice *before the LORD* (1 Kings 8:62).
- Three times a year Solomon offered burnt and peace offerings upon the altar which he built *unto the LORD* and burnt incense on the altar *before the LORD* (1 Kings 9:25).

### **From these verses we see that King Solomon:**

- King Solomon made supplication before the LORD.
- All Israel offered sacrifices before the LORD.
- King Solomon offered burnt offerings before the LORD.

From these verses we see that the term before the LORD means the same as unto to LORD, both expressions carry the same idea and simply mean that whatever is done is done in faith and with a mindset that believes the LORD is watching and by His Spirit is present. It would be right and

proper for Christians today to say we went up before God to worship and up unto the Lord Jesus Christ to offer praise. This simply means that the focus of their mind and heart was set upon God and the Lord Jesus Christ and their worship and praise was by faith directed toward God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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## 2 KINGS

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- Thine heart (Josiah king of Judah) was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself *before the LORD* (2 Kings 22:19).
- The king (Josiah king of Judah) stood by a pillar, and made a covenant *before the LORD* (2 Kings 23:3).

From these verses we see that Josiah the king of Judah humbled himself before the LORD and made a covenant before the LORD.

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## 2 CHRONICLES

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- Asa and the people pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown and destroyed *before the LORD* (2 Chron. 14:13).
- All Judah stood *before the LORD* their little ones, wives and children (2 Chron. 20:13).
- Amon humbled not himself *before the LORD* as Manasseh his father had humbled himself (2 Chron. 33:23).

### **From these verses we see that:**

- Israel destroyed the Ethiopians before the LORD.
- All Judah their wives and children stood before the LORD.
- Amon did not humble himself before the LORD.

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## SUMMARY

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The sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD carries the same idea as all other Scriptures that use the same expression and the statement "They presented themselves before the LORD," simply means they are gathered in a place on this earth that is recognized as a house of God, a temple of God, a church of God or a place where those who belong to God's Kingdom gather to worship and fellowship. When a Jewish man and his wife went to the house of the LORD with their children and servants the detail of the journey and any events surrounding it is often left out since it is not important to the story or the message and therefore it is simply stated, "They came before the LORD."

This principle is seen in the book of Samuel when the writer of Samuel says, "Hannah and Elkanah rose up early to worship the LORD." He leaves out all the detail and events of their journey since they are not important to the story or its message. It would be right and proper for every Christian family today who goes to such a place of worship to say, "We went up before the LORD last Sunday" and those who knew them would understand that contained within this short statement is the idea that they left their home and travelled to their place of worship, listened to an exhortation and spent some time there with other Christian friends and then travelled home again.