H1697 as Jesus in OT

I think H1697 might be a subtle way of saying Jesus in Genesis 15:1, like John 1; how many other places might H1697 be used as the person Jesus in the Old Testament?

Your instinct is well grounded. **H1697 (דָּבָר, *dābār* = "word / speech / message")** is often more than an abstract "statement." In several key passages, it functions **personally**—very close to what **John 1** later reveals about Christ.

In other words: *the "Word" that comes, stands, acts, saves, and speaks* is often presented as a **divine agent**, not merely sound.

1️⃣ Anchor Passage: Genesis 15:1

"After these things **the word of the LORD** came unto Abram in a vision…"

Here, **H1697 + YHWH** behaves like:

- A visitor
- A revealer
- A covenant mediator
- A speaking presence

This aligns closely with:

"In the beginning was the Word…" — **Gospel of John 1:1**

So you are seeing a legitimate typological bridge.

2️⃣ Pattern: "The Word of the LORD Came…"

This formula appears dozens of times. In many cases, it behaves **personally**.

A. Patriarchal & Covenant Contexts (Messianic Trajectory)

📖 **Genesis 15:1 (Abram)**

Covenant initiator
→ Proto-gospel line begins

📖 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (Samuel)

"The word of the LORD was rare…"
"The LORD came and stood…"

Here:

- "Word" and "LORD" overlap
- Presence + speech
- Almost incarnational

📖 1 Kings 19:9–13 (Elijah)

Word comes
Fire/wind follow
Still small voice

→ The Word mediates divine presence

B. Prophetic Callings (Word as Sender & Commissioner)

These are especially important:

📖 Jeremiah 1:4–9

"The word of the LORD came…"
"I have put My words in your mouth"

The Word:

- Calls
- Commissions
- Authorizes

Very similar to Christ in John 17 / Matthew 28.

📖 Ezekiel 1–3

"The word of the LORD came…"
"Son of man, eat this scroll…"

The Word:

- Feeds the prophet
- Enters him
- Sends him

→ Logos-like agency

C. Salvation & Creation Passages (Word as Actor)

These are the strongest "Jesus-like" uses.

📖 **Psalm 33:6**

"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made"

Creation through the Word
→ John 1:3

📖 **Psalm 107:20**

"He sent His word, and healed them"

The Word:

- Is "sent"
- Heals
- Delivers

This parallels Jesus' healing ministry.

📖 **Isaiah 55:11**

"My word… shall accomplish…"

The Word:

- Goes out
- Returns
- Completes mission

Mission language = Son-language

D. “Word” Almost as a Person

📖 **Psalm 147:15–18**

“He sends forth His command…”
“He sends out His word…”

The Word:

- Moves
- Controls nature
- Obeys God

Mediator role

📖 **Zechariah 7:12**

“Words which the LORD sent by His Spirit”

Word + Spirit + Sender
→ Trinitarian structure

3️⃣ Closely Related Concept: “Angel of the LORD”

Often overlaps with “Word” theology.

Example:

📖 **Exodus 3 (Burning Bush)**

Angel = LORD = Speaker

Many scholars see:

Word ↔ Angel ↔ Presence ↔ Son

as different “modes” of the same pre-incarnate Christ.

4️⃣ Big-Theology Framework (Peg-and-Rope)

Here is the structural pattern Scripture builds:

```
Father (Source)
   ↓
Word (Agent / Mediator / Messenger)
   ↓
Spirit (Power / Application)
```

You see this in:

Passage	Father	Word	Spirit
Gen 1	God	"Let there be"	Hovering
Ps 33	LORD	Word	Breath
Isa 55	Sender	Word	Power
John 1	Father	Son	Spirit

So H1697 is often functioning in the **"Agent" slot**.

5️⃣ Key Passages Where H1697 Is Most "Christ-Like"

If you want a focused study list, start here:

⭐ Tier 1 (Strongest)

1. Genesis 15:1
2. Psalm 33:6
3. Psalm 107:20
4. Isaiah 55:11
5. 1 Samuel 3:10
6. Jeremiah 1:9

⭐ Tier 2 (Supporting)

7. Ezekiel 3:1–4
8. 1 Kings 19:11–13
9. Psalm 147:15–18
10. Zechariah 7:12

6️⃣ Theological Summary

Your insight fits this biblical logic:

In the OT, God often reveals Himself **through His Word**
In the NT, God reveals Himself **as His Word**

So:

Old Testament	**New Testament**
Word comes	Word becomes flesh
Word speaks	Jesus speaks
Word saves	Jesus saves
Word creates	Jesus creates
Word heals	Jesus heals

John isn't inventing something new.
He's unveiling what was already there.

7️⃣ Answer to Your Core Question

"How many places might H1697 be used as the person Jesus?"

Conservatively:

- **Dozens** of passages show "Word as agent"
- **10–20** are strongly messianic/Christological
- **5–7** are very close to "personal Logos"

It is not every use of H1697,
but in covenant, creation, salvation, and commissioning contexts,
it regularly functions as **the pre-incarnate Son.**

If you'd like, next we can do a **verse-by-verse deep dive** on Genesis 15:1 → John 1:1 → Psalm 33 → Isaiah 55 as a unified "Word theology chain."