

THE ANGEL OF JEHOVAH

WHO WAS HE?



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**“THE ANGEL OF JEHOVAH”
“THE ANGEL OF GOD” “THE ANGEL OF THE LORD**

Introduction:

1. You will find in scripture, especially the Old Testament, the phrases “the Angel of the Lord,” “the Angel of Jehovah,” or the “Angel of God.”
2. Indications are this angel was different from the typical angel.
 - a. It spoke for God.
 - b. It accepted worship from man, indicating divinity.
 - c. It is used interchangeably with God.
 - d. It is given credit for God’s actions.
3. Examine the following selection of scriptures and draw your own conclusions.

I. The Account of Hagar:

- A. **Genesis 16:7**---“Angel of Jehovah...I will multiply your seed.”
- B. **Genesis 17:19-20**---“And God said...I will make him fruitful.”

II. The Account of Abraham:

A. **Genesis 18: Three men appear to Abraham:**

- Verse 2 “And Jehovah appeared unto him...”
Verse 10 “I will certainly return...”
Verse 13 “And Jehovah said unto Abraham...”
Verse 22 “And the men turned from there....but Abraham stood before Jehovah.”
Verse 26-33 **Abraham bargains with Jehovah**

B. **Genesis 19: Two angels leave to go to Sodom and the third angel is referred to as Jehovah in previous verses:**

- Verse 1 “And the two angels came to Sodom...”

C. **Genesis 22: Abraham offers his son Isaac:**

- Verse 1 “And God did prove Abraham...”
 Verse 11 “...the Angel of Jehovah called unto him...now I know that you fear God...and have not withheld your son from Me.”
 Verse 15 “...the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven and said, ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord...’”

NOTE: These verses are quoted in Hebrews 6:13 and He is called God:

- Angel of the Lord = Lord (Genesis 22:15-16)
 - Lord = God (Hebrews 6:13)
- ⇒ Angel of the Lord = God (the Word)
- Note:** *angel:* **Hebrew:** מַלְאָךְ = *malak* = *messenger*
angel: **Greek:** ἄγγελος = *aggelos* = *messenger*

III. The Account of Jacob:

A. Genesis 28: Jacob has a vision:

- Verse 12 “...and there were the angels of God ascending and descending.”
 “...the Lord stood above it and said, ‘I am the Lord God of Abraham.’”
 Verse 16 “Surely the Lord is in this place...”

B. Genesis 31: The above incident is referred to by Jacob:

- Verse 11 “...the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream...”
 Verse 13 “I am the God of Bethel...where you made a vow to me
- Jehovah = Lord
 - Lord = Lord God
 - Lord God = Angel of God
 - Angel of God = God of Bethel
- ⇒ Jehovah = Lord = Angel of God = God (the Word)

NOTE: Jehovah and Angel of Jehovah or God are identified with the one who appeared to Jacob at Bethel.

C. Genesis 32: Jacob returns home:

- Verse 24 “...and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.”
 Verse 28 “...you have struggled with God and...have prevailed.”
 Verse 30 “...I have seen God face to face...”

D. Hosea 12:3-5: The prophet Hosea refers to the story of Jacob:

Verse 3 “...in his (Jacob) strength he struggled with God.”
Verse 4 “...he struggled with the Angel and prevailed.”
Verse 4 “...he found Him in Bethel and there He spoke to us, that is the Lord God of Host. The Lord is His memorable name.”

- God = Angel
- Angel = The Lord God of Host
- The Lord God of Hosts = Lord

NOTE: Jehovah and the Angel and the one who spoke are identified as the same.

IV. The Account of Moses:

A. Exodus 3, 4: Moses is commanded to deliver Israel out of bondage:

Verses 2-6 “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.”
“So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush...I am the God of your father---the God of Abraham...
“...he was afraid to look upon God.”
“And the Lord said, “I have surely seen the oppression...”

⇒ Angel of the Lord = Lord = God of Abraham.

B. Exodus 4:1-5: Jehovah gives Moses signs to show people of Israel to prove that it was Jehovah Himself who appeared to him.

C. Exodus 13:21-22: The Lord went before them in the exodus from Egypt:

Verse 21 “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud...and by night a pillar of fire...”

D. Exodus 14:19: The Angel of God went before them in the exodus...:

Verse 19 “And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel...the pillar of cloud...”

E. Exodus 23:20: God sends an Angel before them to guide their way.

Verse 20 “Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way.”

F. Exodus 33:14: God promised that His presence would be with them:

Verse 14 “And He (the Lord) said, ‘My Presence will go with you.’”

NOTE: That “Presence” is identified as Jehovah, Lord, and the Angel of Jehovah and the Angel of the Lord.

V. The Account of Balaam:

A. Num. 22:21-35: The Angel of the Lord stands in Balaam’s way.

Verse 22 “Then God’s anger was aroused...and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way...”

B. Num. 22:35: The Angel of the Lord was to put the word into Balaam’s mouth.

Verse 35 “Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Speak only the word that I speak to you...”

C. Num. 23:5-15: The Lord put a word in Balaam’s mouth.

Verse 5 “Then the Lord put a word in Balaam’s mouth...”

Verse 12 “Must I not take heed to speak what the Lord has put in my mouth?”

D. Num. 23:16: The Lord and Jehovah put a word in Balaam’s mouth, and is identified as the Angel of the Lord.

VI. The Account of Joshua:

A. Joshua 5:13: A Man stands in front of Joshua.

“...behold a Man stood opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand.”

B. Joshua 5:14: The Commander of the army of the Lord speaks.

“...I have come as the Commander of the Lord’s army (the prince of the host).”

C. Joshua 5:14: Joshua worships the Man and calls Him Lord.

“And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”

NOTE: This was deity, but angels are not to be worshiped, Revelation 19:10.

VII. The Account of Gideon:

A. Judges 6:11-16: The Angel of the Lord comes to Gideon:

Verse 11 “Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat...”

Verse 12 “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord is with you...”

B. Judges 6:13: Gideon refers to the Angel of the Lord as “lord,”

The Hebrew word *adoni* (lord) is used to refer to a man.

Verse 13 “Gideon said to Him, “Oh my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?”

C. Judges 6:14: The Angel of the Lord is referred to as “Lord” by the writer of Judges:

The Hebrew word *Adonai* (Lord) is used to refer to God.

“Then the Lord turned to him and said...have I not sent you?”

D. Judges 6:15: Joshua now refers to the Angel of the Lord as “Lord:”

Verse 15 “So he said to Him, “O my Lord...” (*Adonai*).

E. Judges 6:20: The Angel of God speaks to Joshua:

Verse 20 “The Angel of God said to him, “Take the meat...”

F. Judges 6:22: The Angel of the Lord departs and Joshua calls Him “Lord God.”

Verse 22 “So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face.’”

VIII. The Account of the Parents of Samson:

A. Judges 13:1: The Angel of the Lord appears to the woman:

Verse 3 “And the Angel of the Lord appeared...”...you shall conceive and bear a son.”

B. Judges 13:6: The woman tells her husband:

Verse 6 “A Man of God came to me...he did not tell me where He is from and He did not tell me His name.”

C. Judges 13:8: The husband, Manoah prays to the Lord:

Verse 8 “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again.”

D. Judges 13:10: The Angel of God comes to the woman and she refers to Him as the Man who came to see her and that he has now appeared again.

E. Judges 13:11-13: The Angel of the Lord is identified as the Man that appeared:

Verse 13 “So the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, ‘Of all that I said to the woman, let her be careful.’”

F. Judges 13:17: Manoah wanted to know His name.

G. Judges 13:18-19: Manoah learns that he was speaking to the Angel of the Lord.

H. Judges 13:20: The Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar where Manoah had offered a sacrifice to the Lord.

I. Judges 13:22: Manoah exclaims that they will die because they have seen God.

Verse 22 “We shall surely die because we have seen God.”

CONCLUSION

Who then is the Angel of Jehovah?

1. He is identified with God Himself, so he must be a manifestation of God and not a created angel. It is written in the Hebrew *MALACH HA ELOHIM*, “the Angel of Jehovah” or “Angel of the LORD.”
2. The people to whom he appeared acknowledged him as Jehovah and worshipped Him. The name reference and the worship were accepted by him.
3. He is also differentiated from God. He is at times distinguished from Jehovah (Exodus 23:20-21).
4. There are three possibilities offered by Bible scholars: (1) He is simply an angel with a special commission; (2) He may be the Logos, a kind of temporary reincarnation of the second person of the trinity; (3) He may be a

momentary descent of God into visibility. It must be remembered that at best these are only conjectures that touch on a great mystery.

5. There are two problems that arise if the Angel of Jehovah is not identified with Jehovah himself, or with the Logos; (1) How is it to be explained that the angel is called Jehovah in some of the passages? (2) How is it to be explained that the angel accepted worship? He must have been deity. Since he is identified with Jehovah, and differentiated from Jehovah, our conclusion is that he is the Logos who appeared as a Man and as an Angel.