

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

Text: Genesis 16:7-14

INTRO: From the time of Abraham till the time of the judges, an individual known as The Angel of the Lord made several appearances. For the next few minutes we will look at those appearances & see what we can learn about the Being known in the O.T. as The Angel of the Lord.

I. THE PASSAGES INVOLVED.

- A. Gen 16:7-14, to Hagar.
- B. Gen 18:1-33 to Abraham. Identified as the Lord, vs. 1
- C. Gen 22:11-18, to Abraham.
- D. Gen 28:11-17 to Jacob. Identified as the Lord, vs. 13.
But also see Gen. 31:11-13

- E. Gen 31:11-13, to Jacob.
- F. Gen 32:24-30 to Jacob. Identified in Hos. 12:3-5.
Hos 12:3-5, He took his brother by the heel in the womb, & in his strength he struggled with God. Yes. he struggled with the Angel & prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, & there He spoke to us--that is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.

- G. EX 3:2-3, to Moses.
- H. EX 14:19, to Moses & Israel. In Isa. 63:9, He is called "the Angel of His presence.

- I. Num. 22:22-33, to Balaam.
- J. Josh 5:13-15 to Joshua. Identified as Commander...
- K. Judg. 6:11-23, to Gideon.
- L. Judg. 13:2-25, to Manoah & his wife.

II. THOSE TO WHOM HE APPEARED ACKNOWLEDGED HIM AS DEITY.

- A. Hagar, Gen. 16:13, "You are the God who sees."
- B. Gideon, Judg. 6:22-23, feared he would die.
Judg 6:22, Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord

GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face."

C. Manoah, Judg. 13:21-22.

Judg 13:21-22, When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"

D. Jacob, Gen 32:30, "I have seen God face to face."

III. THE WRITERS OF THE O.T. ACCOUNTS IDENTIFY HIM AS DEITY.

Ex 3:2-6, And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, & behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

Ex 13:21-22, And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, & by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day & night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

Ex 14:19, And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

IV. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD ACKNOWLEDGED HIS OWN DEITY.

- A. He accepted worship, Gen 22:12; Joshua 5:14.
- B. Created angels are not to be worshipped,
Rev 19:10; 22:8-9
- C. The Angel of the Lord plainly declared His own Deity.
Gen 31:11-13, Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' "And He said, 'Lift your eyes now & see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar & where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'

V. YET THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED IN HUMAN FORM

Gen. 18:1-2, 22; 19:1
Judg 13:6, 18
Josh 5:13-15
Gen. 32:24-30

VI. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD WAS DEITY, YET SOMEHOW DISTINCT FROM GOD THE FATHER.

Ex 23:20-21, "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way & to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him & obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

VII. SUMMARY OF WHAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED.

- A. The Angel of the Lord was with God.
- B. The Angel of the Lord was God.
- C. The Angel of the Lord appeared as a Man.
- D. The Angel of the Lord was sent by the Father.
- E. What is true of the Angel of the Lord in the O.T. is true of Jesus Christ in the N.T., John 1:1-3, 14

John 8:55-58, Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it & was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet 50 years old, and have You seen

Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

John 1:51 fulfills Gen. 28:11-13

F. Another interesting fact: John 1:51 fulfills Gen. 28:11-13.

John 1:51, [Jesus said to Nathan] "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Exton, PA, March 4, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 19, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 5, 1997

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 11, 2004