



Genesis 16:7-14 - Hagar calls the Angel “a God who sees”

Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." The Angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." And the Angel of the Lord said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her. You-Are-

the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

Genesis 21:17-18 – The Angel and God both will make a great nation

And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

Genesis 22:11-18 - The Angel is the same as “the Lord”

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided." Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Genesis 31:11-13 - The Angel (“of God”) who appeared to Jacob in a dream identified Himself as “the God of Bethel” cf. 28:10-22

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 and 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 and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'"

Genesis 32:24,28,30; Hosea 12:3-4

The man with whom Jacob wrestled is called “God” and “the angel”.

Genesis 48:15-16 - “God” is used interchangeably with “the angel”

And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil,

Exodus 3:2-6 - The Angel who appeared to Moses “in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush” (Exodus 3:2) was God, who also spoke to him from the midst of the bush. The context of 3:1-15 indicates that “the angel of the Lord” (v. 2) is the same as “the Lord,” “God,” and “I AM” (vv. 4,14).

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and 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.

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

Numbers 20:16

When we cried out to the Lord, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt; now here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border.

Numbers 22:31-32 (Angel accepts worship)

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me.

Judges 2:1-4 - The Angel of the Lord IS God, for He did what only God has done. God brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, and God made a covenant with them.

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'" So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.

Judges 6:12-14 - The Angel who appeared to Gideon is identified as the Lord (Judges 6:11-12, 14, 16, 20, 23).

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." Then the Lord (*Yahweh*) turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

Judges 13:21-22 - The Angel who announced the coming birth of Samson to Manoah and his wife was like a man, but they recognized Him as God

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!"

1 Chronicles 21:16 (Angel accepts worship)

Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.

Zechariah - Six times "the Angel of the Lord" is used.

Zechariah - The Angel who rebuked Satan and spoke for Joshua the high priest was the Lord (Zechariah 3).

Scripture sometimes distinguishes the Angel of the Lord from Yahweh. "The angel of the Lord" spoke to "the Lord" (Zechariah 1:12-13) (Genesis 16:11; 24:7,40; Exodus 23:20-21; 32:34; Judges 13:16; 1 Chronicles 21:15-30; Isaiah 63:9).

Psalms 110:1 makes a similar distinction but without reference to the Angel of the Lord: "The Lord says to my Lord: 'Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"

The Angel's Relationship to Christ

Identifying the Angel of the Lord as Yahweh and at the same time distinguishing Him from Yahweh presents an apparent contradiction until we realize how the occurrences fit the nature of the Trinity. There is good reason to identify the Angel as the preincarnate Christ, the second person of the triune Godhead.

The Angel of the Lord is identified with Yahweh to emphasize His deity. The Angel is distinguished from Yahweh to emphasize His distinct personality and functions and possibly the office of Messiah. An aspect of this biblical revelation is that this Messiah is clearly proclaimed to be God. Although OT readers would not have comprehended fully the triune distinctions, the work of the Son as Messiah is distinguished from the works of the Father and the Spirit.

Several other reasons support the identification of the Angel of the Lord as Christ.

- Some references to the Angel of the Lord show similarity to messianic prophecies. For example, the Angel's name is described as "wonderful [Heb peli]" in Judges 13:18, and the Messiah is called "Wonderful [Heb pele] Counselor" in Isaiah 9:6. The same Hebrew root word underlies both of these occurrences.
- The Angel of the Lord appeared visibly and bodily as a revelation of God in the OT; Christ was a visible, bodily incarnation of God in the NT (John 1:18; Hebrews 1:1-3).
- The Angel of the Lord does not appear after the birth of Christ. Through the Incarnation, Christ has taken perfect humanity upon Himself permanently (John 1:14). Therefore He would never again appear as an angelic presence, but rather forever as the God-man.
- The bodily appearance of the Angel precludes His identification as either the Father or the Holy Spirit. The Father has never been visible to human sight (John 1:18). The spiritual form of the Spirit appears only in likeness to a dove (Luke 3:22) or to tongues of fire (Acts 2:3).
- Both the Angel of the Lord and Christ are sent by the Father (Genesis 24:7; John 20:21). This shows a similarity of relationship.
- Ministries of the Angel are like those of Christ: revelation, commission, deliverance, protection, intercession, advocacy, confirmation of the covenant, comfort, and judgment (Dickason, 84-86).

There are implications to identifying the OT Angel of the Lord with Jesus Christ. Since the appearances of the Angel occurred before the first advent, the preexistence of Christ is demonstrated:

- He delivered God's message (e.g., Genesis 16:7-14).
- He accompanied, protected, delivered and provided for God's people (e.g., Exodus 14:19; 1 Kings 19:5-18; Isaiah 63:9).
- He executed God's judgments (e.g., 2 Samuel 24:15-17; 2 Kings 19:35; Psalms 35:5-6).

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