

# The Angel of the Lord

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Sub-title: Post-Campaign Message of “Angels on Assignment”

We have now completed our 40 Day Campaign, a 6 week journey where learned new things about angels & their activity in the earth & in our lives.

**Today we will focus our attention on the “Angel of the Lord”**

- The Angel of the Lord is no ordinary (or regular) angel
- The term (or name) “The Angel of the Lord” in the Old Testament refers (mostly) to Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate state
- There are numerous instances in the O.T. where Jesus Christ appeared to & communicated with people as “the Angel of the Lord”
- A study on the Angel of the Lord helps us to better understand the trinity of God

## **1. The Angel of the Lord appears to Hagar**

**Genesis 16:6–10,13 (NKJV)** *So Abram said to Sarai, “Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.” And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence. **7** Now **the Angel of the Lord** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. **8** 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.” **9** **The Angel of the Lord** said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.” **10** Then **the Angel of the Lord** said to her, “**I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.**” ... **13** 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?”*

- Hagar fled from her mistress Sarai & went into the wilderness
- The Angel of the Lord appeared to her & instructed her to return to Sarai
- He also told her that He would multiply her descendants
- (Ordinary angels are created beings & cannot multiply anybody’s descendants – only God can do that)
- Vs. 13: Hagar called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees ...

- She knew that the Angel of the Lord was no ordinary angel, but the Lord Himself (2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the trinity, God the Word, in His pre-incarnate state)
  - “Pre” – means “before”
  - “incarnate” – means “made flesh, be embodied in human form”

**John 1:1 (NKJV)** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.***

**John 1:14 (AMP)** *And the Word (**Christ**) became flesh (**human, incarnate**) **and tabernacled** (**fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile**) **among us**; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth.*

- Prior to His birth, Jesus Christ was called “the Word”
- Jn. 1:1 tells us that “the Word” “was (is) God”, which confirms His divinity
- He is not a created Being, but an eternal Being (He has always existed)
- Approx. 2000 years ago He became a Man by being born of virgin Mary
- Some scholars call an appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ a “Christophany,” (from the Greek words “christos” & “phaino” [to appear])

**Marginal (foot) note of Gen. 16:7 in the Amplified Translation:**

“The Angel of the Lord” or “of God,” or “of His presence” is readily identified with the Lord God (Gen. 16:11, 13; 22:11, 12; 31:11, 13; Exod. 3:1–6 and other passages). But it is obvious that the “Angel of the Lord” is a distinct person in Himself from God the Father (Gen. 24:7; Exod. 23:20; Zech. 1:12, 13 and other passages). Nor does the “Angel of the Lord” appear again after Christ came in human form. He must of necessity be One of the “three-in-one” Godhead. The “Angel of the Lord” is the visible Lord God of the Old Testament, as Jesus Christ is of the New Testament. Thus His deity is clearly portrayed in the Old Testament. *The Cambridge Bible* observes, “There is a fascinating forecast of the coming Messiah, breaking through the dimness with amazing consistency, at intervals from Genesis to Malachi. Abraham, Moses, the slave girl Hagar, the impoverished farmer Gideon, even the humble parents of Samson, had seen and talked with Him centuries before the herald angels proclaimed His birth in Bethlehem.”

**Question:** How do we know if an angel mentioned in any Scripture passage is an ordinary angel or Christ Himself?

- We know it from the terms used:
  - Angel of the Lord

- Angel of God
- Angel of His Presence
- My Angel
- Certain Bible translations print the word “Angel” with a capital “A” if it refers to Christ pre-incarnate (ie. (NKJV, AMP, HCSB, GB, LB)
- We know it from the context of the Scripture passage (many times the “Angel of the Lord” is identified as “the Lord” within the same passage)

## **2. The Angel of the Lord speaks to Abraham on Mount Moriah**

**Genesis 22:8–17 (NKJV)** *And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But **the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”** So he said, “Here I am.” 12 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.**” 13 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. 14 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.” 15 Then **the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 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—17 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.***

- God had instructed Abraham to offer up his son Isaac on Mt. Moriah
- When Abraham was ready to bring down the knife on his son, the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and stopped him from killing his son
- In this instance, the Angel of the Lord did not appear visually, but He spoke to Abraham audibly

**Genesis 18:1–5 (NKJV)** *Then **the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre**, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3 and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favor*

*in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. 4 Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant.” They said, “Do as you have said.”*

- The Lord (& 2 angels [Gen.19:1]) appeared to & talked with Abraham to:
  - announce the birth of Isaac
  - discuss the judgment & overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah
- Here, the term “Angel of the Lord” is not used, although it refers to the same Being, namely God the Word, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Member of the trinity
- **The Lord God (Jehovah) of the O.T. is the Lord (Kurios) Jesus Christ of the N.T.**

**John 8:54–58 (NKJV)** *Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. 55 Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” 57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*

### **3. The Angel of the Lord appears to Moses in the burning bush**

**Exodus 3:1–6 (NKJV)** *Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 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. 3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” 4 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.” 5 Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” 6 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.***

- The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire in a bush
- Then, God called to him from the midst of the bush
- It is very clear from this text that the Angel of the Lord is the Lord Himself