

## Jesus Was The Angel Of The Lord

'He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed Heir of all things, through Whom He created the universe' (Hebrews 1:2).

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He (Jesus) was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made, that has come into being' (John 1:1 to 3).

'He (Jesus) came into the world, and the world was made through Him, but the world did not recognise Him. They did not know Him. He came to His own and they who were His own did not receive Him' (John 1:10 & 11).

'And the Word (Jesus) became flesh (human) and lived among us and we saw His glory, such glory as an only begotten Son receives from His Father, full of grace and truth. John (the Baptist) testified about Jesus and cried out: "This was He of whom I said 'He Who comes after me has priority over me, for He was before me'" (John 1:14 & 15).

'He is the exact image of the unseen God; He is the Firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, principalities and powers; all things were created through Him and for Him; and He existed before all things, and in Him all things are held together' (Colossians 1:15 to 17).

Our Messiah is the Only Begotten Son of God; Firstborn of all creation; one third of the tri-une God. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit made up the First Family ever in the history of the heavens. Before Jesus came to earth as a baby, He was already in the same form as man. How do we know Jesus was the human shape as we are? Because we were created in His image and when He was on earth He was a Man, and every time the Angel of the Lord was seen, He looked like a Man, He acted like a normal Man. 'The Angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak tree' (Judges 6:11). God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). Who was talking to Whom? God the Father was talking to Jesus (or in Hebrew, Yeshua which translates as Saviour) about us, the humans who have been created in Our Father's image. Since we were made in His image and His likeness, then logically we are in the same shape or form Jesus already was; head up top, body in the middle, feet down at the end of legs. God has a head, eyes, ears, arms, hands, feet and fingers just like we have. He is not a blob without any shape. When He said we were made in His image and likeness, He meant just that. We are in His image just as any child can be referred to as 'being the living image' of his/her father. Together They created the heavens, every angel, every heavenly being, every universe, every galaxy, every sun, every planet, this earth and everything that is on it. Everything was created and exists through the spoken Word of God. They also created love, music, worship and harmonious order. Scripture tells us Jesus played a huge role in the creation of the earth and everything on it, so we know from that, that He was around long before He was born as a baby.

The Angel of the Lord or the Angel of God or the Angel of His Presence is readily identified with the Lord. It is obvious the Angel of the Lord is a distinct Person in Himself, from God the Father. He is one of the Three-in-One Godhead and is the visible Lord God of the Old Testament, just as Jesus is Lord in the New Testament. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came down from heaven to die for us, and then returned to the Father who sent Him, so He was already there. Jesus said, "My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I came from nor where I am going ... My judgement is true for I am not alone, but there are two of Us, I and the Father Who sent Me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two persons is valid; I am One of the Two bearing testimony concerning Myself, and My Father Who sent Me, also testifies about Me ... You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world. I am not of this world" (John 8:14 to 23). Where are we from? Below; from the dust of the earth. Jesus was never made from dust. He came from heaven and returned to heaven.

Before Jesus our Creator, Lord and Messiah was born in Bethlehem, He was alive and already actively involved with humans and He showed up many times in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) but was referred to as The Angel of The Lord. He visited Hagar, Abraham, Balaam, Moses, Gideon, Samson's parents and in a mighty way in the book of Daniel as well as to several others. 'The Angel of the Lord appeared to him (Moses) ... When the Lord saw that he turned aside, God called to him ... God said, "I am the God of your father ..." (Exodus 3:2 to 6). In these three verses taken together, we can see how the Angel of the Lord is God Himself. Note also in verse 4, when it says, 'When Yahweh (God the Father) saw Moses had turned aside, God (the Son) called to him'. 'The Angel of God went before the host of Israel ... And in the morning watch, Yahweh looked through the pillar of fire and cloud' (Exodus 14:19 & 24). 'The Lord spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend' (Exodus 33:11). In the New Testament, we see once again where the Lord was talking to Moses face to face within a shining cloud (Matthew 17:3 & 5; Mark 9:4 & 7; Luke 9:30 & 34).

The Angel of the Lord appeared to and spoke to Hagar regarding Ishmael her son. Hagar's response was, "You are a God of seeing. Have I even here in the wilderness looked upon Him Who sees me and lived?" (Genesis 16:7 to 13). Hagar did not say her Visitor was an angel, but God Himself.

The Lord Himself, with two angels, appeared to Abraham who bowed to the Lord and stood before the Lord. They all shared a meal together. The Lord said to His two companions, who were angels, that Abraham was His friend. Abraham acknowledged his Visitor as being the Righteous Judge and called Him 'Lord'. Then the Lord went His way (Genesis 18:1 to 33). Reading about this meeting certainly looks as though Abraham was thrilled and excited to have met the Lord, and Jesus confirms this, when Jesus said He met Abraham who rejoiced at their meeting. "Your forefather Abraham at seeing My day, and he did see it and was delighted. I assure you, before Abraham was born, I AM" (John 8:56 & 58). The name I AM was the same name God told Moses (Exodus 3:14).

In the book of Numbers, chapter 22 to chapter 24, God Himself came to Balaam. Jesus appeared as the Angel of the Lord and Balaam not only saw a vision of God, he prophesied about the coming of Jesus (24:17). The story is about the Moabite king Balak, who ordered Balaam to curse the Israelites because Balak was terrified of them. God told Balaam he could not curse the Israelites because they were already blessed by God; at which Balak became angry. Balaam tried to please Balak by disobeying God, but the Angel of the Lord stood in the way. The Angel of the Lord is mentioned ten times in these three chapters. It is written that the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey confirming that the Angel of the Lord is indeed the Lord Himself. When the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey to make it speak to Balaam, it shows what a fool Balaam really was because he argued with it. Most sensible people would be too shocked to argue with a donkey, but argue with it Balaam did, until the Lord opened his eyes, and when he saw the Lord he bowed his head and fell on his face. Balaam ended up blessing Israel.

The Angel of the Lord appeared to the Israelites to remind them they had been disobedient to His voice, at which they lifted their voices and wept in repentance (Judges 2:1 to 4).

'The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valour (or fearless courage)'."

At first Gideon did not realise it was the Lord because he answered, "O Sir. If the Lord is with us, why has all this befallen us and where are all His wondrous works of which our fathers told us? But now the Lord has forsaken us."

The Lord turned to Gideon and said, "Go in this your might and you shall save Israel. Have I not sent you?"

Then Gideon realised he was in the presence of the Lord. "Oh Lord, how can I deliver Israel? ... If I have found favour in your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talks to me."

'Then the Angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in His hand and touched the meat and the cakes, and a fire flared up from the rock and consumed the meat and the cakes, then the Angel of the Lord vanished from his sight.'

'When Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord, Gideon said, "Alas. O Lord God! For now I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face."

We can see from Gideon's last comment that he was telling God the Father, that he had just seen God the Son face to face and was obviously awestruck (Judges 6:12 to 22). Jesus again vanished from the sight of the two men from Emmaus (Luke 24:31) so Jesus did His 'vanishing act' in both Old and New Testaments.

The Lord appeared to Manoah's wife, and then later to Manoah to tell them they were going to have a son whom they named Samson. They both knew their divine Visitor was the Lord and yet He was identified as a Man, as the Angel of the Lord, as the Angel of God, and as the Spirit of the Lord, then Manoah acknowledged they had seen God (Judges chapter 13).

David lifted up his eyes and saw the Angel of the Lord standing between earth and the heavens, having a sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem; then David and the elders fell upon their faces. David was afraid of the sword of the Angel of the Lord, and could not go to inquire of God (1 Chronicles 21:16 & 30). So again we see the distinction between the Angel of the Lord and God the Father.

'Then the angel showed me Joshua the high priest, standing before the Angel of the Lord ... and the Lord said to the devil, the Lord rebuke you' (Zechariah 3:1 & 2). Here again, the Angel of the Lord is identified as the Lord Himself.

The whole book of Daniel speaks about angels, visions, Gabriel and the Lord speaking to Daniel. 'I saw in the night visions, and behold, on the clouds of the heavens came One like a Son of Man and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him and He was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom so all the people, nations and languages should serve Him. His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom which will not pass away; His Kingdom will not be destroyed' (Daniel 7:13 & 14). The vision that Daniel saw was Jesus going to visit

His Father. Jesus called Himself the Son of Man; and God the Father is called the Ancient of Days (Matthew 8:20; Daniel 7:9). We know Jesus is our King and to be a King He would have a Kingdom, and His Kingdom is the same one as Jesus spoke about while on earth (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus is God and He is the Son of God. Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and My God" (John 20:28). Jude said Jesus is our Master, God and Lord (Jude 4). Peter said Jesus is our God and our Saviour (2 Peter 1:1). It is clear by these verses that Jesus is our God, Master, Saviour and Lord. The same principle applies to the Angel of the Lord. The Angel of the Lord is distinguished from other angels and is identified with the Lord God, and in other passages, He is distinguished from God the Father, thus His deity is clearly portrayed in the Old Testament. Clearly, Jesus was the Old Testament Angel of the Lord, and now He is the New Testament Messiah. The Angel of the Lord did not appear again after our Messiah Jesus came to earth in human form.

Amen and God bless you.

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