

~The Angel of the Lord~

Many times the word 'angel' can mean more than the oft thought of creature with wings. In many 'Theophanies' (appearances of God to men) the Lord disguised Himself as a man, angel, etc. He was called the 'Angel of the Lord'. Many think this to be a pre-incarnate Theophany of Jesus.

The definition of angel is: New Testament: #32 aggelos-a messenger, an envoy, one who was sent, an angel, a messenger from God

Old Testament: #4397 mal'ak (mal-awk'); from an unused root meaning to dispatch as a deputy; a messenger; specifically, of God, i.e. an angel (also a prophet, priest or teacher):

KJV-- ambassador, angel, king, messenger.
4397 mal'ak-
a messenger, a representative
a) a messenger
b) an angel
c) the theophanic angel

Gen 16:7-10

7 The *angel of the LORD* found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

9 Then the *angel of the LORD* told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."

10 The angel added, "**I** will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count."

Only God can increase descendants.

Gen 16:11-13

11 The *angel of the LORD* also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery.

12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

13 She gave this name to the *LORD who spoke to her*: "*You are the God who sees me*," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me.

She addresses the Angel of the Lord as 'You are the God...'!

Gen 22:11-12

11 And the *angel of the LORD* called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

12 And he said, Lay not your hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fear God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, your only son from *me*.

Notice the Angel of the Lord speaks of Abraham as not withholding His son from me (God)

Gen 22:15-18

15 The *angel of the LORD* called to Abraham from heaven a second time
16 and said, "I swear by myself, *declares the LORD*, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,
17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,
18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Gen 31:11-13

11 The *angel of God* said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.'
12 And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.
13 *I am the God of Bethel*, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land."
The Angel of the Lord calls himself the "God of Bethel"

Gen 48:15-16

15 Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, *the God who has been my shepherd* all my life to this day,
16 the *Angel who has delivered me* from all harm may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth."
Here, in Genesis 48:15-16, He is clearly called God!

Exod 3:2-6

2 And the *angel of the LORD* appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.
3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.
4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.
5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.
6 Moreover he said, *I am the God of thy 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.
Again, we see the Angel of the Lord speaking to Moses and calling Himself-God.

Exod 23:20-21

20 Behold, I send *an Angel* before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.
21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. ***Who has the power to forgive sins other than God?***

Judg 2:1

1 The *angel of the LORD* went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, I will never break my covenant with you"
The Angel of the Lord says that "He brought them up out of Egypt..."

Judges 6:20-23

20 The *angel of God* said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so.

21 With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the *angel of the LORD* disappeared.

22 When Gideon realized that it was the *angel of the LORD*, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

23 But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. *You are not going to die.*"

Remember that, in the OT, one could not look upon God and live. Here, God reassures Gideon that, although he had seen God (in angelic form) he would not die.

Judges 13:8-22

8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: "O Lord, I beg you, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born."

9 God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her.

10 The woman hurried to tell her husband, "He's here! The man who appeared to me the other day!"

11 Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he said, "Are you the one who talked to my wife?" "I am," he said.

12 So Manoah asked him, "When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule for the boy's life and work?"

13 The angel of the LORD answered, "Your wife must do all that I have told her.

14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her."

15 Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "We would like you to stay until we prepare a young goat for you."

16 The angel of the LORD replied, "Even though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD." (*Manoah did not realize that it was the angel of the LORD.*)

17 Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that we may honor you when your word comes true?"

18 He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding."

19 Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched:

20 As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground.

21 When the angel of the LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of the LORD.

22 "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "***We have seen God!***"

Manoah fears that he and his wife will die for they have seen God (in the form of the Angel of Jehovah). It was impossible for people to see God- AS HE IS- but when disguised as an angel, they would live.

Zech 12:8

8 On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the *Angel of the LORD* going before them.

When dealing with the Angel of Jehovah, people recognized that He was something different from an ordinary angel. They believed, and rightly so, it to be God in a Theophanic form!