

Title: Angels: God's Ministering Spirits

The Angel of The Lord – Lesson #7 October 06, 2019-PM

Category: *Angelology.* Springhill church of Christ – Mike Hughes

Introduction:

1. Hebrews 1:14
2. Angels! We read about them in the Bible. But who and what are they? What do they do?
 - A. The number of questions that might be asked about angels is almost endless.
 - B. Some of the questions about angels are mere curiosity questions. But some may be critical.
3. How much do you know about angels? The subject is large and expansive as angels are found throughout the Bible; they are seen as early as Genesis 16:7 and as late as Revelation 22:16
4. We want to study about “the Angel of the Lord” with a view toward identifying who it is Scripture is referring to when that phrase is used.
5. Ref. to S, T, P, O and A

Lesson:

I. Biblical (Old Testament) Testimony.

A. *The Testimony of Genesis*

1. Genesis 16:7-13
 - a) Found Hagar near a spring in the desert
 - b) Running away from Sarai
 - c) Told her “Go back . . . I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count.”
 - d) Genesis 17:19-20
 - e) In Genesis 16:10 vs. 17:20
2. Genesis 18:1-19:29 – Appearance of Lord to Abraham.
 - a) Three men appear to him.
 - b) V. 1 – The Lord appeared to Abram.
 - c) Vv. 13-14 – The Lord says.
 - d) V. 22 –

- e) Vv. 26-33 – Abraham bargaining with the Lord.
- 3. Genesis 22:1-19
 - a) V. 9 - to your only son.
 - b) V. 15 – “The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham.
- 4. Genesis 28:10-17 – Jacob’s vision of the ladder with angels of God ascending and descending.
 - a) V. 13 –
- 5. Genesis 31:11-13 - The angel of the Lord appearing to Jacob in a dream.
- 6. Genesis 32:9-12, 24-30
- B. ***The Testimony of Exodus***
 - 1. Exodus 3:1-4:5
 - a) Moses’ commission to deliver Israel is found.
 - b) 3:1 – There the angel of the Lord appeared 3:2-6
 - c) First The Angel of the Lord appears then it is the Lord Himself.
 - d) Ex. 4:1-5 – The Lord gives Moses signs to show the people.
 - 2. Ex. 13:21-22 – As they left Egypt, the Israelites had special guidance.
 - a) Ex. 14:19 – The angel of God
 - b) Ex. 23:20 – Sending an angel ahead of you.
 - c) Ex. 33:14 – My presence
 - d) Ex. 40:34-38 – Cloud is again specified to be the Lord Himself.
- C. ***The Testimony of Numbers***
 - 1. Numbers 22:21-23:16 – Balak, king of Moab, trying to get the prophet Balaam to curse Israel.
 - a) 23:5 – says the Lord put message in Balaams mouth.
 - b) V. 12 he says Must I not speak what the Lord puts in my mouth?

- D. ***Testimony of Joshua***
 - I. Joshua 5:13-15
 - a) Person identified as “commander of the army of the Lord not the Lord himself yet was deity.
- E. ***The Testimony of Judges***
 - I. Judges 6:11-16
 - a) Person appearing to Gideon identified as both the Angel of the Lord and as the Lord.
 - 2. Judges 13:22 – Appearance to the parents of Samson, Manoah and his wife.
 - a) Referred to throughout as “the angel of the Lord”
 - b) Manoah later said “We are doomed to die! Tells his wife we have seen God.

II. The Identity of “the Angel of the Lord”

- A. ***Keil and Delitzsch Commentary***
 - I. Keil, CF and Delitzsch, F. Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament: The Pentateuch (James Martin, translator, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company reprint, 1991, p. 185
 - 2. The question arises, therefore, whether the angel of the Lord, or of God, was God Himself in one particular phase of His self-manifestation or a created angel of whom God made use as the organ of His self-revelation.”
- B. ***Who is the Angel of the Lord.***
 - I. Was the angel of the Lord God himself manifested in human form?
 - 2. Was the angel of the Lord a special angel, created for special purpose?

C. ***Identified with God***

1. Is identified with God Himself, so He must be a manifestation of God, not just a created angel.
2. Grammatical construction of the expression “the angel of the Lord” – Special significance.
 - a) Weingreen’s Grammar of Hebrew Language – a noun in the construct state never takes an article. The White House vs. White House.
 - b) “Malach Elomin” – angel of the Lord without the article – “an” angel of the Lord.
 - c) Scripture has “Malach Ha Elohim” Ha being the article means “the” angel of the Lord.
 - d) Therefore a reference is to one specific angel.
3. The person to whom the angel of the Lord appears acknowledges him as the Lord. – Genesis 16:13; Judges 6:22; Josh. 5:14-15; Judges 6:19; 13:19.
4. Created angels do not accept worship – Revelation 19:10
5. The Old Testament writers identified “the angel of the Lord” with God – Judges 6:12-16; Exodus 14:19; 13:21
6. So the angel of the Lord is identified with God.

D. ***Differentiated From God***

1. Not only is there identification with God, there is a differentiation from God.
 - a) Judges 6:11-16
 - (1) The Angel of the Lord – v. 11
 - (2) The Lord – V. 14
 - (3) Thus Deity
 - b) Ex. 14:19 – the Angel of God traveled in front of Israel’s Army.

- c) Ex. 13:21 – Says the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.
- d) Ex. 23:20-21 – This angel being sent by God so not God himself.
 - (i) Only God can forgive sins.

Conclusion

1. Who, then is the Angel of the Lord?
 - A. Angel is simply an angel with a special commission.
 - B. A momentary descent of God into visibility.
 - C. The Logo, John 1:1, a kind of temporary preincarnation of the second person of the Godhead.
2. Difficulties can be seen with each. The last is certainly the most plausible.
3. The angel of the Lord was a manifestation of the eternally preexistent Logos, who was with God from the beginning – 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.
 - A. Was sent by God – John 3:17
 - B. John 8:56-58
4. Two problem if the angel of the Lord is not identified with the Lord himself or with the pre-incarnate logos.
 - A. How is it to be explained that the angel is called the Lord in some passages.
 - B. How is it to be explained that the angel accepted worship? Must have been deity.
5. Our conclusion is that He is the pre-incarnate Logos.

*Sermon by
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