

**Yahweh and the Angel of Yahweh  
Two Powers in Heaven?  
The Trinity in The Old Testament**

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So where have we been so far?

We learned from Psalm 82, Psalm 89, Genesis 1, Genesis 11 and other locations, that God has a divine council.

We have also learned that the members of that council will be replaced in the future with believers. See Revelation 4.

We have discovered that the book of Genesis has not one rebellion, but three rebellions in it. The rebellions involve God's creation in the divine realm as well as in the earthly realm. One rebellion was so bad with it's the outcome, that God had to destroy the world and start over again with 8 people.

The third rebellion in Genesis 11 resulted in the divorcing, by God, of mankind and then Him turning to some guy named Abram to create a new nation not previously referenced in Genesis 10. This third rebellion has also given us a new viewpoint of the world that is found in Deuteronomy 32.

Deuteronomy 32:1–9

“Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers

upon the herb. For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation. Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you? Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage." (ESV)

God gave up the nations to members of His divine council, who then became corrupted and began to demand worship from those who they were to oversee.

Let's see this in the Septuagint.

Deuteronomy 32:1–9

“Give heed, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth listen to the words from my mouth. Let my hymn be expected like rain, and let my words come down like dew, like a rainstorm upon the grass and like a snowstorm upon the grass. For I called on the name of the Lord. Give greatness to our God! God, his works are true, and all his ways justice. God is trustworthy, and there is no injustice; righteous and holy is the Lord. Disgraced children who are not his have sinned— a rebellious and perverted generation. Do you repay the Lord in this way with these things, foolish and unwise people? Did not he, this one, your father, acquire you and make you? Remember days of old; consider years of generations upon generations; ask your father, and he will say it to you, your elders, and they will tell you. When the Most High distributed nations as he scattered the sons of Adam, he set up boundaries for the nations according to the number of the angels of God. And his people Jacob became the portion of the Lord, Israel an allotment of his inheritance.” (Lexham Press 2020, Deut 32:1-9)

Deuteronomy 4:19–20

“And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.” (ESV)

We have learned that Jesus Christ, who is also Yahweh, came to planet earth as a man in order to reverse the rebellion and provide for a way out for the predicament man was in. We have also learned that the spiritual warfare, which at times has bubbled into the physical realm from the unseen one, is still very real and active today. It will bubble up into the physical world at a future date.

Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord, relying on his mighty strength. Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the devil's strategies. For our struggle is not against human opponents, but against rulers, authorities, cosmic powers in the darkness around us, and evil spiritual forces in the heavenly realm. For this reason, take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to take a stand whenever evil comes. And when you have done everything you could, you will be able to stand firm. Stand firm, therefore, having fastened the belt of truth around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and being firm-footed in the gospel of peace. In addition to having clothed yourselves with these things, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one, also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times with every kind of prayer and request. Likewise, be alert with your most diligent efforts and pray for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that, when I begin to speak, the right words will come to me. Then I will boldly make known the secret of the gospel, for whose sake I am an ambassador in chains, desiring to declare the gospel as boldly as I should.” (ISV)

The Old Testament therefore describes a world where cosmic-geographical lines have been drawn. Israel was holy ground because it was Yahweh's "inheritance," in the language of Deuteronomy 32:8–9. The territory of other nations belonged to other elohim because Yahweh had decreed it. Psalm 82 told us that these lesser elohim were corrupt. We aren't told how the elohim Yahweh assigned to the nations became corrupt, only that they were. (Heiser 2015, 116)

God wasted no time to move onto the next phase of His plan. He moved to initiating contact with an idolater who lived in the general area of Babel.

We do have to back up into chapter 11 to find out when the first contact actually took place, as it was before Genesis 12.

Genesis 11:27–32

"Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. Haran died during the lifetime of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. Sarai was unable to conceive; she did not have a child. Now Terah took his son Abram, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they departed together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran and settled there. The days of Terah were 205 years; and Terah died in Haran." (NASB 2020)

Abram came from Ur, but then moved to Haran. When did God first talk to him? It is not in Genesis 12

Acts 7:2–4

"Stephen replied: "Listen, brothers and fathers! The glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. God told him, 'Leave your country and your relatives and go to the land I will show you.' So he left the country of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. Then after the death of his father, God had him move to this country where you now live.'" (ISV)

Did you catch it? Yahweh appeared to Abram, physically. The first contact with Abram was a face to face encounter, Genesis 12 is simply a follow up.

Genesis 12:1–4

"Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you into a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." So Abram went away as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran." (NASB 2020)

If we go a bit further into Genesis 12, we see another in person contact.

Genesis 12:6–7

"Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanites were in the land at that time. And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him." (NASB 2020)

Again, the Septuagint makes things a bit clearer.

Genesis 12:6–7

"And Abram traveled through its length to the place of Shechem at the high oak. But the Canaanites at that time were residing in the land. And the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I will give this land to your seed." And Abram built an altar there to the Lord, who appeared to him." (Lexham Press 2020, Gen 12:6-7)

God is going to have a people, and we see in Genesis that He routinely meets face to face with them. Let's move further into Genesis as to who, exactly is this person Abram is meeting. Is it possible for man to actually see God?

Just as God had come to Adam and Eve in person, He would also come to the Patriarchs in person. His goal of Eden on earth has not changed.

The contact was personal because the interest was personal. Yahweh's kingdom rule would be built on covenant loyalty. He would remain faithful, and beginning with Abraham, all who wished to participate could do so, if they, like Abraham, believed the covenant promises and turned away from the other gods. (Heiser 2015, 179)

Exodus 33:18–23

"Then Moses said, "Please, show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion to whom I will show compassion." He further said, "You cannot see My face, for mankind shall not see Me and live!" Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."" (NASB 2020)

Moses lets us know that mortal man cannot see God. Yet we have a face to face conversation with God in the garden of Eden after man fell. We also see that Yahweh met with Abram face to face as well as all of the patriarchs. What is this all about?

Genesis 15:1–6

"After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield and the one who will reward you in great abundance." But Abram said, "O sovereign LORD, what will you give me since I continue to be childless, and my heir is Eliezer of Damascus?" Abram added, "Since you have not given me a descendant, then look, one born in my house will be my heir!" But look, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but instead a son who comes from your own body will be your heir." The LORD took him outside and said, "Gaze into the sky and count the stars—if you are able to count them!" Then he said to him, "So will your descendants be." Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD considered his response of faith as proof of genuine loyalty." (NET)

Who came to Abram here in chapter 15? The "word of the Lord" did. Who is called that? We have to go to the New Testament to find out the answer. Jesus.

John 1:1–5

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God. The Word was with God in the beginning. All things were created by him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it." (NET)

In Genesis, the word comes to Abram in a vision and then the word physically takes him outside. This is not a disembodied voice. Jesus provides us additional information regarding who this is who meets with and talks with the patriarchs.

John 8:56–59

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." (NKJV)

What we are talking about here and in other places in the scripture is a visible appearance of God.

This is called a theophony.

THEOPHANY (θεοφάνια, theophania). A visible appearance of God to humans. (Montonini 2016)

Theophanies involving a divine “appearance” are frequent in the patriarchal narratives (12:7; 17:1; 18:1; 26:2, 24; 35:1, 7, 9; 48:3; cf. Exod 3:16; 4:5; 6:3). The signature formula for prophetic revelation, “the word of the LORD,” may here by itself indicate that an appearance accompanied the message. (Mathews 2005, 162)

Because there are “others” in the business, God wants to make certain that when He makes contact, there is a clear understanding of who He is.

Let’s review –

- The Patriarchs physically see God over and over.
- We will see the term the Angel of the Lord used.
- We see the term used with Abram, the word of the Lord.
- And we clearly see in John that not only is Jesus the word but Jesus Himself takes us back to Genesis 15 in one of the seven I AM statements in John.

Genesis 15:7–21

“Then He said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.” And he said, “Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?” So He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”” (NKJV)

Remember, at the beginning of chapter 15 we saw that this was the Word of the Lord who came to see Abram. The Word of the Lord led him outside. The Word of the Lord is the one who establishes the covenant. And we know the Word was with God and was God and we also know that Jesus personally identifies with the Word.

In 1 Samuel 3, the young Samuel keeps hearing someone call out his name during the evening while he was trying to sleep at the Holy Place of the Tabernacle. Eli picks up on the fact it is Yahweh who is calling, we pick up in verse 10.

1 Samuel 3:10

“Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”” (NRSV)

Exodus 40:34–38

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out on each stage of their journey; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day that it

was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey.” (NRSV)

Who is in the cloud? The same person who came out to talk to Samuel.

Exodus 14:19

“The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.” (NRSV)

We will see that the Angel of God is Yahweh in the person of Jesus Christ. A theophony.

Back to Abraham, how did Abraham know that Yahweh was one of the three people coming to call on him in Genesis 18?

Genesis 18:1–5

“God appeared to him near the oak of Mamre while he was sitting at the door of his tent during midday. Upon looking up, he saw with his eyes, and look, three men had stood over him, and upon seeing them, he ran up from the doorway of his tent to meet them and he bowed down to the earth, and he said, “Lord, if perhaps I have found favor before you, do not pass by your servant. Let water now be taken, and wash your feet, and rest under the tree. And I will take bread, and you will eat, and after this you will go on your journey, on which account you turned aside to your servant.” And he said, “Do so, just as you have said.”” (Lexham Press 2020, Gen 18:1-5)

Could it be by this point that there was a recognition of who Yahweh was? Did Abraham recognize His voice? Or did he recognize Him since they had developed a relationship.

John 10:24–30

“The Jews then surrounded Him and began saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”” (NASB 2020)

Other than the fact that Jesus just told them He is Yahweh, what else did we see? His sheep know His voice. Abraham is one of His sheep, just as you and I are. Abraham is walking before Yahweh, he belongs to Him.

Genesis 17:1–5

“When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and announced, “I am God Almighty. Live in constant awareness that I’m always with you, and be blameless. I’ll establish my covenant between me and you, and I’ll greatly increase your numbers.” Then Abram fell to the ground as God continued speaking to him. “Look, I’ve made a covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. Your name is no longer to be Abram. Instead your name will be Abraham, since I’ll make you the father of many nations.” (ISV)

John 10:1–7

“I tell you the solemn truth, the one who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own sheep out, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not recognize the stranger’s voice.” Jesus told them this parable, but they did not

understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus said to them again, “I tell you the solemn truth, I am the door for the sheep.” (NET)

Abraham recognized the voice of Yahweh. He knew who was talking to him. He was talking to the pre-incarnate Christ. This shows up over and over again in the Old Testament. At times, the Father and the Son, Yahweh and the Word of Yahweh or the Angel of Yahweh, also show up together.

Genesis 22:1–2

“Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”” (NASB 2020)

Yahweh has provided Abraham a command which Abraham, at this point in his walk, does not question at all but moves immediately into obedient action.

Genesis 22:11–12

“But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”” (NASB 2020)

Abraham started off his journey as the result of a command from Yahweh, but he is told to stop by the Angel of Yahweh. How did he know? Simple he recognized His voice. He is one of His sheep. Abraham will not listen to anyone else, just Yahweh.

How close is our walk? Do we clearly recognize the voice of the Lord? Do we follow Him only?

Something else to notice about the Angel of Yahweh, He is Yahweh.

Genesis 22:12

“He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”” (ESV)

He goes from third person to first person in the same sentence.

Appearances continue with Isaac, twice in Genesis 26.

With Jacob, things get more interesting.

Genesis 28:12–15

“Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”” (NKJV)

Jacob sees angels going up and down the ladder, an indication of the presence of the divine council. He also sees the visible Yahweh standing beside him and hears the now familiar terms that started with Abraham.

Genesis 31:11–13

“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.' ” (NKJV)

If you have studied the life of Jacob, then you know he is in and out of trouble continuously, but Yahweh is with him. If God hangs in there with someone like Jacob, then I have complete confidence in Jesus fulfilling His promises and being with me always.

Hebrews 13:5–6

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”” (NKJV)

John 14:16–18

“I will ask the Father to give you another Helper, to be with you always. He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. But you recognize him, because he lives with you and will be in you. I am not going to forsake you like orphans. I will come back to you.” (ISV)

Jacob is about to encounter his brother Esau, the same one who wanted to kill him. Remember, Yahweh is with him, so what does God do to encourage Jacob?

Genesis 32:1–2

“As Jacob went on his way, angels from God met him. As he was watching them, Jacob said, “This must be God’s camp,” so he named that place Mahanaim.” (ISV)

Psalms 34:7

“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.” (NASB 2020)

2 Kings 6:15–17

“The servant of Elisha awoke, arose, and went out. Look, an army was surrounding the city, along with horse and chariotry. The servant said to him, “O master, what will we do?” Elisha said, “Do not fear because those who are with us are more numerous than those who are with them.” Elisha prayed and said, “Lord, open the eyes of the servant and let him see.” The Lord opened his eyes, and he looked, and look, the mountain was full of horses and chariotry of fire all around Elisha.” (Lexham Press 2020, 4 Kingdoms 6:15-17 (2 Kings 6:15-17))

God still is in the business of taking care of His own. We may not see it, but they are there. Our rationalism discounts it, but they are still there. No matter where we fall on the scale of accepting the supernatural, He is still there.

God is still as active in the world as He has always been, and His angels are certainly still at work. Just as angels protected God’s people in the past, we can be assured that they are guarding us today. Hebrews 13:2 says, “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” As we obey God’s commands, it is quite possible that we may encounter His angels, even if we do not realize it. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

2 Corinthians 11:14–15

“And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” (ESV)

Spiritual warfare is very real and still going on today. We are not to worship angels. Fallen angels have been instrumental in the beginnings of at least two current false religions, Mormonism and Islam. Probably more.



It is claimed that the Qur'an was dictated in Arabic by the angel Gabriel to Muhammad and were God's precise words. (Cameron and Comfort 2004, 518)

Behold, this is wisdom in me; wherefore, marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, and with Moroni, whom I have sent unto you to reveal the Book of Mormon, containing the fulness of my everlasting gospel, to whom I have committed the keys of the record of the stick of Ephraim; (Farkas and Reed 1995, 139)

For Jacob, things get stranger yet as he has a wrestling match.

Genesis 32:24–30

“Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.”” (NRSV)

It appears that Jacob wrestled with the Angel of the Lord. Do we know that he did? Elsewhere in the OT, it is confirmed for us.

Hosea 12:3–5

“In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us—the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is his memorial name:” (Hosea 12:3–5, ESV)

The wrestling match did not take place at Bethel, but a meeting did. Jacob wrestled with God, physically embodied. The Angel of the Lord is Yahweh.

Genesis 48:14–16

“And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). And he blessed Joseph and said, “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” (ESV)

In Hebrew, the verb “bless” in this passage is not grammatically plural, which would indicate two different persons are being asked to bless the boys. Rather, it is singular, thereby telegraphing a tight fusion of the two divine beings on the part of the author. In other words, the writer had a clear opportunity to distinguish the God of Israel from the angel, but instead merges their identities. (Heiser 2015, 140)

When Jacob says the angel is his redeemer, he is saying the angel is his goel. Later the goel is tied up into the kinsman redeemer, a clear picture of Jesus Christ.

Job 19:25–26

““Yet as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last, He will take His stand on the earth. “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I will see God,” (NASB 2020)

### **Five Requirements for the Kinsman Redeemer**

1. Near kinsman and blood relative
2. Willing to pay the price

3. Able to pay the price
4. Must be free himself
5. Must have the price of redemption

One more place to look and here, as in other places in the scripture, the confusion is deliberate. We shall see the Angel of Yahweh and Yahweh in the same place at the same time.

Exodus 3:1–6

“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. 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.” (NKJV)

mal'āk yahweh is grammatically appositional and best translated as “the angel that is Yahweh” or “the Angel Yahweh” or “Angel Yahweh.” (Stuart 2006, 111)

When Abraham encountered Yahweh in the burning bush, it was the Angel of Yahweh (Exodus 3:2) who appeared to him. Elohim spoke to him (Exodus 3:3) and then Yahweh spoke to him (Exodus 3:7). (Barker 1992, 34)

Let's take a look at one more double appearance.

Judges 6:11–24

“Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. 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 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?” So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.” And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” Then he said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.” And He said, “I will wait until you come back.” So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. The Angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so. Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.” Then the LORD said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.” So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” (NKJV)

The Angel of Yahweh is the physical manifestation, yet it is Yahweh who speaks at the end.

The patriarchs, Moses and others throughout the old testament had dealings with Yahweh as well as the Angel of Yahweh or the Word of Yahweh.

Hebrews 1:1–14

God, having spoken in former times in fragmentary and varied fashion to our forefathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by a Son whom he appointed to be the heir of everything and through whom he also made the universe. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact likeness of his being, and he holds everything together by his powerful word. After he had provided a cleansing from sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Highest Majesty and became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is better than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Now about the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is a righteous scepter. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. That is why God, your God, anointed you rather than your companions with the oil of gladness." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will come to an end, but you will remain forever. They will all wear out like clothes. You will roll them up like a robe, and they will be changed like clothes. But you remain the same, and your life will never end." But to which of the angels did he ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? All of them are spirits on a divine mission, sent to serve those who are about to inherit salvation, aren't they?" (ISV)

We saw how Jesus identified Himself as being the Word of Yahweh and the Angel of Yahweh. Here in Hebrews, we see some of the why.

- He is the creator
- He reflects the glory of God
- He is the exact representation of His being and nature
- His word holds everything together
- He is the redeemer, the one who cleanses from sins
- He is currently the occupant of the throne to the right-hand side of Yahweh
- He is these things

Next week we take a look at spiritual warfare manifested in the physical world.

We will take a look a how God deals with some of those fallen ones who were appointed to oversee Egypt but decided instead to be worshiped.

Exodus 12:12

"For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and fatally strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the human firstborn to animals; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD." (NASB 2020)

For next week – read Exodus 1 – 14

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