

A Study of Angels and Demons
Lesson 5 – The Angel of the Lord
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Introduction: We will examine a challenging subject that will bring encouragement.

- A. We have seen that our God has complete mastery over Satan.
 - 1. His angels are a part of His overall plan to save and deliver His people to His eternal kingdom. **(Heb 1:14)**
 - 2. Satan, while allowed some power, is nothing when compared to the wisdom and power of God.
- B. Our study of “the Angel of the Lord” involves questions about how God manifested Himself in the Old Testament.
 - 1. Depending on the translation “angel” may be capitalized or not. Why?
 - 2. There is debate as to if this is God manifesting Himself in this way. We will continue to see the presence and providence of God in this study!

I. Appearances during the life of Abraham

- A. The appearance to Hagar, the handmaiden of Abraham and Sarah. **(Gen 16:7-10)**
 - 1. This situation was a result of Abraham trying to “help” God.
 - 2. The promise “I will multiply” speaks as if God Himself was speaking.
 - 3. Hagar concludes that she has spoken to God Himself. Moses also seems to confirm this. **(Gen 16:13)**
 - 4. We would also do well to understand that we serve “a God who sees!”
- B. The appearance to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre. **(Gen 18)**
 - 1. Moses affirms it was the Lord but the appearance was of 3 men. The term “the Angel of the Lord” is not found in this text. **(Gen 18:1-3)**
 - 2. No man could see God in His glory. **(Ex 33:20)**
 - 3. Two were indeed angels but one appears to be God. **(Gen 18:22)**
 - 4. This is an example of one “entertaining angels.” **(Heb 13:2)**
 - 5. The language continues to indicate that the Lord was speaking about what He would do. **(Gen 18:13-17)**
 - 6. God affirms “I have chosen him.” Also He knows how he will raise his children! **(Gen 18:19 NASV)**
 - 7. Abraham is said to be left “before the Lord” and repeatedly speaks and “the Lord” replies! **(Gen 18:20-33)**
 - 8. We can learn much from Abraham’s relationship with God!
- C. The Angel of the Lord appears at the offering of Isaac. **(Gen 22)**
 - 1. It is the Angel of the Lord that calls out and restrains Abraham. **(Gen 22:11-12)**
 - 2. Again the pronouns indicate that this is the Lord.
 - 3. The Angel of the Lord now takes an oath before Abraham. **(Gen 22:15-18)**
 - 4. “By Myself” indicates that this is God speaking! The Hebrew writer plainly affirms that this is God speaking. **(Heb 6:13-17)**
 - 5. We learn how God tests us to bring out good in us. We also learn that God’s promises are sure, he cannot lie!

II. Appearances during the life of Jacob

- A. When Jacob wrestled with an angel. **(Gen 32)**
 - 1. Could this have been the Angel of the Lord? **(Gen 32:24-30)**
 - 2. Jacob thought he had wrestled with God. Hosea affirms this. **(Hos 12:3-4)**
 - 3. God allowed this struggle to teach Jacob an important truth.
- B. He later speaks of “the Angel” that redeemed him. **(Gen 48:15-16)**

III. Appearances to Moses and Israel

- A. He appeared at the burning bush. **(Ex 3)**
 - 1. The Angel of the Lord is identified, but the ground is holy ground as one is in the presence of God. **(Ex 3:1-6)**
 - 2. The holiness of God in fellowship with man is a great lesson learned.
- B. He appeared continually during the exodus.
 - 1. The Angel of the Lord and the Lord are used to describe the appearance. **(Ex 14:19; 13:21)**
 - 2. The Angel of the Lord was to be heard and He was credited with the victories over the inhabitants of the conquered land. **(Ex 23:20-23)**
 - 3. This is described as “My presence.” **(Ex 33:14)**
- C. He appeared to Israel and reminded them about what He had done. **(Judges 2:1-4; Isa 63:9)**
 - 1. Again we see the Angel of the Lord and the Lord used interchangeably.
 - 2. We serve a God who will provide!

IV. His appearance to Joshua

- A. The Angel of the Lord appears as a man with a drawn sword. **(Josh 5:13-15)**
 - 1. He is the captain of the hosts of the Lord.
 - 2. Joshua bows down and worships Him without rebuke.
 - 3. He is told he should remove his sandals because he is on holy ground.
- B. The account continues and says the Lord is speaking! **(Josh 6:1-2)**

V. His appearance to Gideon

- A. Again we see the Lord and the Lord used interchangeably. **(Judges 6:11-16)**
- B. It is the Lord who wins the battle!

Questions

1. Why is it important that we know who “the Angel of the Lord” is?
2. How does the Angel of the Lord speak and identify Himself to Abraham?
3. How does the Hebrew writer in the NT identify the One who gave an oath to Abraham?
4. Why could angels not accept worship?
5. How did the Angel of the Lord appear to Moses and Israel?
6. What lessons can we learn from these appearances?