UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE
Week 10 – "The Man"? Who Is "The Man"?
November 10, 2026

We left Jacob alone last week in Gen. 32:24 – waiting for Esau and his 400 men to come to Jacob's camp. *...and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day....* How do we know who this "Man" is who wrestled with Jacob? Cross reference!!

Hosea 12:3-4 – *He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God. 4 Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed;* Who is "he"? Who is this Angel?

In Scripture we come face-to-face with God's glory. God's divine manifested/visible presence is the way the invisible God makes Himself known in a physical, clear, or unmistakable way that humans can see or experience. Most of these visible manifestations of God took the form of light, fire, or cloud or a combination of these. AND, at times in Scripture we SEE God taking on a physical form. The Prophet Hosea exclaimed that Jacob struggled with GOD...Jacob struggled with the Angel!

In Hebrew, the word for "angel," is *malakh.* A *malakh* is "one who is sent," or "a messenger,' either human (prophets or priests) or non-human (angels who bear messages for God). Their identity is determined by the CONTEXT in which the word *malakh* is used.
There is one *malakh* who stands out from all the rest. He is "the Angel of the LORD." Of the 214 references to *malakh* in the OT, 33% are best translated as "the Angel of the LORD" Who is distinguished from all other angels.

The Angel of the LORD represents God. Yet, this messenger, the Angel of the LORD, appears to have powers and abilities reserved only for God Himself. The Angel of the LORD speaks as God. The Angel of the LORD promises to deliver to the one with whom He's communicating only what God can deliver. The Angel of the LORD is also revealed as a distinct Person from the LORD. In Gen. 24:7 Jehovah is described as sending "His angel." How can the Angel of Jehovah speak as God and at the same time speak on behalf of God?

The Angel of the LORD has been referred to as a rather mysterious figure Who appears suddenly, dramatically, and frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Angel of the LORD does NOT appear in the NT!! HMMM!

That the many appearances of God throughout the OT are indeed always appearances of the Son is made clear by John's pointed statement at the beginning of his gospel. John 1:18 - *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.* John's point is that the triune God is made known to man—whether in the past, present, or future—always and only by the manifestation of the Son.

The Angel of the LORD supports the Trinity! The one divine essence of God belongs equally to three distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The Angel of the LORD speaks as God,

accepts worship, and possesses divine authority and names (such as "I AM" – Ex. 3:1-5). At the same time, the Angel of the LORD is described as being sent by Yahweh, the LORD.
Ex. 23:20-23 - *Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.* **21** *Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.* **22** *But if you indeed obey His*

voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. **23** *For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and* ***I will cut them off*** (I will destroy all the "ites").

The Angel of the LORD assures us of Jesus' pre-existence...prior to Jesus' incarnation...coming in the flesh...to Bethlehem...**from eternity past** - of God the Son, Jesus

The Angel of God's presence (Isa. 63:9)

We SEE Him as our PERSONAL God Who desires to communicate and come alongside us!

The Angel of the LORD spoke as God, acted as God, and accepted worship due only to God.

The Angel of the LORD is the transcendent Creator (Col. 1:16-17), above time and space and humanity. AND, He is immanent...He is near. And, when we come to faith in Jesus as our salvation...He abides in us. (John 15). God manifests Himself...appearing visibly in the physical world without losing His divine essence.

The Angel often appeared precisely when people were at their lowest points—fleeing in a desert (Hagar), hiding in a winepress (Gideon), or trapped in slavery (Moses at the burning bush). Sacred Spaces: Wherever the Angel stands becomes holy ground. His presence sanctifies ordinary physical spaces, proving that the material world matters to God and can host His glory.

The Angel of the LORD took the obligation of delivering God's promises upon Himself (Ex. 3).

I'm strongly suggesting that the Angel of the LORD is God the Son, taking on a physical form prior to His being born in Bethlehem. Who within the Godhead has come in the flesh – as Emmanuel – God with us? God the Son. He is the only Person in the Trinity Who appears in the flesh! The Angel of the LORD appears most of the time in the flesh. At times His voice alone was heard (Gen. 22; Ex. 3).

When we read of God appearing in human form prior to Jesus' incarnation, prior to His birth in Bethlehem Ephrathah...about Whom are we reading? Jesus! A "pre-incarnate appearance" of Jesus. Why wouldn't we have a pre-Bethlehem appearance of the Messiah? Jesus existed before Bethlehem. Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God is ETERNAL! Jesus declared Himself to be preexistent, John 8:58: - *Before Abraham was I AM!*

In Scripture we first read about the Angel of the LORD visiting Hagar, abused by Sarah, Abraham's wife (Gen. 16). The Angel told Hagar, *I will surely multiply your offspring,* a power belonging solely to God. The Angel of the LORD comforted her in her misery, directed her to

return and submit to Sarai, and deliver a promise that she would bear a son named Ishmael with descendants too numerous to count. Hagar named the Angel of the LORD **El Roi** (meaning "The God Who Sees Me"). Hagar realized that this Angel is GOD! She named the oasis Beer Lahai Roi ("Well of the Living One Who Sees Me").

Moses at the Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
This passage provides one of the clearest examples of the text using "the Angel" and "God" interchangeably.

- Ex. 3:2 - states that the Angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. But by verse 4, the text says, *When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush.*
- The text shifts from the Angel to the LORD (Yahweh) and God (Elohim) instantly. Furthermore, this "Angel" is the One who declares, *"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"* (Ex. 3:6).

"You have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?" (Judges 2:1-5)
Judges 2:1-5 - *Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal* (the first camp in the land of Promise; it seems as if the Angel of the LORD was waiting for His people to gather at that place) *to Bochim* (lit. "weepers") *and said: 'I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you. 2 And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? 3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you'* (Num. 33:55-56).' *4 So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the Lord.*

"And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him" (Judges 6:11-23; Judges 7)
To hide from the Midianites, Gideon, one of the Judges, threshed wheat in the winepress!? People threshed wheat in the wide-open spaces so that the wind would carry away the chaff, and the good grain would fall to the ground. *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him , and said to him, 'The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!'* Gideon's faith was weak. Before entering battle, Gideon's troops numbered 32,000, but in obedience to God he reduced by them by 22,000 (Judges 7:2-3). In obedience to God, Gideon decreased the remaining 10,000 by 9,700 leaving him with 300 men (vss. 7-8). This was against an enemy that was described as *thick as locusts* with *camels as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore* (v. 12). When the 300 men blew the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and broke pitchers that held torches, and shouted, *The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!* The Lord set every man's sword within the Midianites camp against his companion! We see the power of God with the obedience of man!*

The Angel of the LORD appeared to Samson's parents (Judges 13:1-22)

The Angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah and his wife to announce the birth of Samson.

- When Manoah asked the Angel for his name, the Angel replied, *"Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"* (verse 18). In Hebrew, this word (*peli*) shares the same root as the messianic title "Wonderful Counselor" in Isaiah 9:6.
- After the Angel ascended to heaven in the flame of their burnt offering, Manoah said to his wife, *We shall surely die, for we have seen God* (verse 22).

QUESTIONS

What have you observed about the Angel of the LORD? What are your questions? Impact?
Why did God send the Angel of the LORD to the children of Israel?
How are you marveling at God?
SUGGESTED HOMEWORK: reread Week 10 w/ Bible references. Share the Angel of the LORD with some. Read Week 11 when it arrives.