

## ANGEL OF THE LORD

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This study was originally written in January 1999 to address the word “angel” and how it applies to Christ.

While sharing a study on Michael the archangel, the person with whom I was sharing stated that they had a problem with Christ being referred to as an angel. The word “angel” in Hebrew and Greek is a transliteration of the language. The English translation means “messenger” in both languages. Is the Son of God called an angel? If He is, of what significance is it?

**Ex 3:1-6:** *2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush:... 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. The testimony of the angel was that he himself was God, or Elohiym. Stephen, in his testimony before the Sanhedrin referenced this incident. **Act 7:30-34:** *30. And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. 31. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him, 32. Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and did not behold. 33. Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou stand is holy ground. 34. I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.* Stephen, in recounting the this same incident said that the “Angel of the Lord” was the Lord, and the Lord is Christ (Act 2:36). So the Angel (messenger) at the burning bush was the Son of God.*

Stephen also refers to an angel speaking from Mt Sinai. **Acts 7:38:** *This is he (Moses), that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:* Here is the Old Testament Stephen is quoting: **Ex 19:11, 18, 20:** *11. And be ready against the third day: for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai... 18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly... 20. And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.* The Angel that spoke to Israel from Mt Sinai was Yahweh, or Christ. Yahweh is like a family name, much the same as me and my son are called Oliver.

**Jude 9:** *Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, did not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.* The Greek word “arch” means “chief”. Therefore Michael is being referred to as “chief messenger”. **1 Thes 4:16:** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:* This is the voice of the Son of God, the Archangel, the chief Messenger. **Rev 1:1:** *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he (Jesus) sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:* The light of truth comes from Father to Son, from Son to the heavenly angel, from the angel to the prophet, and from the prophet to the church. The Father always speaks through the Son. The Son speaks directly to us via His spirit, and often through a heavenly messenger. Everything coming through the Son of God would make Him the chief messenger, and, it can also be concluded that Michael is the Son of God.

**Ex 13:21:** *And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:* In this verse Christ is said to be in the pillars of cloud and fire. **1 Cor 10:4:** *...they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.* In another place He is called the Angel of God: **Ex 14:19:** *And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:* Now notice what Isaiah has to say: **Isa 63:9-10:** *9. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence <sup>6440</sup> saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. 10. But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.* Isaiah refers to Christ as the *angel of his presence* <sup>6440</sup>, and goes on to say when they rebelled, they vexed His holy spirit. The Father and Son share the same spirit or way of thinking. *Paneh* <sup>G6440</sup> is translated “face” 390/2109 times; “countenance”; 30; “me” 18 and “person” 21 times. The word is used to express the inward, as well as the outward form. **Ps 51:11** *Cast me not away from thy presence* <sup>6440</sup>; *and take not thy holy spirit from me.* **Ps 139:7:** *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence* <sup>6440</sup>? The presence of God today means the presence of His Spirit, which means to have His spirit or thoughts in our minds, or to stand in His way of thinking (See Eze 2:1-2).

**Ex 23:23:** *For my Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.* The purpose of the Angel (Christ) going before them is to *bring thee into the place which I have prepared.* And the place He is preparing is the land of Canaan, literally the promised land, but which is a figure of the place of man abiding in Christ so the enemies (carnal thoughts) in our land can be driven out. **Ex 23:27-30:** *27. I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. 28. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. 29. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. 30. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.* The Angel that shall go before us is Christ. The promised land is our mind which God has promised to restore because it is corrupted by the sin, represented by the nations of Canaan. It is important to notice two things: 1) God is the one that will drive out the enemy (sin problems). 2) He will not drive them out instantly, but little by little. We MUST wait upon the Lord. God has promised to give back to us a mind restored in righteousness.

**Acts 3:19:** *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;* The times of refreshing are when *the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely,* Rev 22:17. The Spirit of Christ is the living water from His Father, the fountain of living water (Jer 17:13). It is by the spirit of the Lord we are changed from man’s glory to God’s glory (2 Cor 3:17-18), which glory emanates from His thoughts.

**Rom 8:14:** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* **Gal 4:6:** *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.* The presence of God that distinguishes His people from the world is the spirit, or mind of Christ we receive by receiving His thoughts (Isa 55:7-8; Jn 6:63). The Father and Son are one because they are of the same mind (Phil 2:5) or same spirit. Jesus Christ is the truth, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, having come to this earth with the mind of the Father, living as a human being, and as a man depended totally on the Father for guidance and help. Therefore His new name (Isa 62:2; Rv 3:12), or new character became Holy Spirit!

Zephaniah 1:7 *Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.* To hold one's peace is to be swift to hear, and slow to speak (Jam 1:19). This concept is called 'abiding in Christ', hearing and doing the Father's will.

**Ex 23:20-22:** *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. 22. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.* It is the Father who sent his only son to keep us in the way. The Angel of His presence is the messenger of His spirit. It is the guiding voice of the Father & Son (John 14:23). Notice: *Beware of him and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions...* **Matt 12:30-32:** *30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. 31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy [Spirit] shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy [Spirit], it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.* It is the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Christ that shall teach us all things (Compare Jn 14:26; 1 Jn 2:20, 27). To reject the Spirit of God, or the voice of God through the Son, is to reject the only means God has provided to transform our minds. This is why it is called an "unpardonable sin". It can be forgiven if we blaspheme the vehicle (Son of Man) by which the Spirit comes. But do not reject the Spirit, which is the voice of God in the heart.

Summery: To refer to the Son of God as an angel (messenger) does not take away from his divine power, nor does it make him a created being. These verbal attacks come because those refusing to accept the truths of the Bible cannot refute from the Bible this teaching, just as they cannot Biblically support the teachings of three Gods, or a triune God. To cling to the teachings of man is the blatant denial of the Father and Son. The Son is to be worshiped, and by doing so we are worshiping the Father. The Son's life and sacrifice reveal the mercy and love of an infinite God who create humanity for his pleasure and fellowship.

Therefore, if we hear and do all the Lord speaks, then will He be an enemy to our enemies (sins) and afflict them that afflict you. **Isa 51:22-23:** *22 Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: 23 But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.*

May the Angel of the Lord be the Messenger of your life. AMEN!