

## DOCTRINE OF THE ANGEL OF JEHOVAH

### 1. Definition:

- a. The “**Angel of Jehovah**”, an expression found in the Old Testament, is a title for the “**special messenger**” sent from the Godhead to members of the human race.
- b. It is believed by most fundamental Bible scholars that this person is none other than the **Lord Jesus Christ**, the revealed member of the Godhead or the second person of the Trinity, in a **pre-incarnate form**.
- c. This is demonstrated by two lines of evidence:
  - (1) The “Angel of Jehovah/Angel of God” is a **divine person**, part of the Godhead, and not merely one of the heavenly host. (Gen. 16:7-13; 21:17; 22:11, 15, 16; Gen. 31:11, 13; Judges 2:1-4 with Ex. 20:2; Zech. 12:8)  
**NOTE:** The titles “**Jehovah**” (the ineffable name) and “**Elohim**” (God) are applied **only** to Deity and are at no time applied to another.  
(Psa. 83:18; Isa. 42:8; Amos 5:8)
  - (2) The “Angel of Jehovah” **manifests the works** of the Godhead.  
(Gen. 22:11-18; 48:15-16; Num. 22:22; Isa. 63:8,9; Mal. 3:1-3; cf. Col. 1:13-16 (Redemption); 1 Cor. 15:23; 2 Thess.2:1 (Rapture); Matt. 24:30; 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:2; Rev. 1:7, 8; 22:20 (Second Advent))

### 2. Vocabulary:

- a. מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה - MALe’AK YeHOVAH (Jehovah) - (Heb.), **Angel** (Messenger, representative, one sent) **of Jehovah** (Gen. 16:7)
- b. מַלְאָךְ הָאֱלֹהִים - MALe’AK HA ’ELOHIM (God) - (Heb.), **Angel** (Messenger) **of God** (Gen. 21:17; 31:11; 21:17; Ex.14:19; Judges 6:20)
- c. הַמַּלְאָךְ הַגְּאֹל אֹתִי - HA MALe’AK HA GO’EL ’OTHI - (Heb.), **The Angel** (Messenger) **who has redeemed me**. (Gen. 48:16)
- d. מַלְאָךְ פָּנָיו - MALe’AK PANAYV - (Heb.), **Angel** (Messenger) **of His Presence** (Face) (Isa. 63:9)
- e. מַלְאָךְ הַבְּרִית - MALe’AK HA BeRITH - (Heb.), **Angel of the Covenant** (Mal. 3:1)
- f. מַלְאָךְ הַמְשִׁחִית - MALe’AK HA MASHeCHITH - (Heb.), **The Destroying Angel** (Messenger) (1 Chron. 21:15; 2 Sam. 24:16)
- g. מַלְאָכָה - MALe’aKEH - (Aramaic), **His Angel** (Messenger) (Dan. 3:28; 6:22)

3. The Angel of Jehovah is **identified as Jehovah**.  
(Gen. 16:7-13; 22:11-18; 31:11-13; 48:15, 16; Ex. 3:2-6, {in the burning bush} with Acts 7:30-35; Ex. 13:21 and Ex. 14:19, {in the pillar of cloud}; Judges. 6:11-23; 2 Kings 19:32-35, cf. Isa. 37:36; Psa. 34:6, 7)
  
4. The Angel of Jehovah is **distinguished from Jehovah** (God the Father).  
(Gen. 24:7, 40; Ex. 23:20, 21; 32:34; Num. 20:16; 1 Chron. 21:15-18 with 2 Sam. 24:16, 17; Isa. 63:9; Zech. 1:12, 13)
  
5. The Angel of Jehovah is the **Lord Jesus Christ**.
  - a. The Second Person of the Trinity is the **visible or manifest person** of the Godhead in the New Testament. (John 1:18; 6:46; 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 4:12; Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 4:4; Heb. 1:2ff)
  - b. The Angel of Jehovah and the Lord Jesus Christ are **both sent by the Father**.  
(Gen. 24:7; Ex. 23:20; Num. 20:16; Dan. 3:25, 28; 6:22; John 3:17; 6:44 John 17:3, 8, 18, 21, 23, 25; 1 John 4:14)
  - c. The Angel of the Jehovah **never appears after the incarnation**.  
**NOTE:** Acts 12:7, 11 is not a reference to the Angel of Jehovah but to “an angel” from the Lord (Jesus Christ). (cf. Col. 3:1)
  - d. Since neither God the Father nor God the Holy Spirit can be seen by men (John 1:18; John 4:24; 3:8), and since Jesus Christ has been seen (John 1:14, John 18b; 14:9), it is concluded that He is the Angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament.
  
6. There are **other pre-incarnate appearances** of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament not specifically spoken of as the Angel of Jehovah:
  - a. “*...the Lord God* (Jehovah Elohim) *walking in the garden...*” (Gen. 3:8)
  - b. “*...a man wrestled with him (Jacob)...*” (Gen. 32:24-32); “*...the Lord appeared to Abram...*” Gen. 17:1-22; 18:1, 2, 10, 13, 14, 17-33)
  - c. “*...a man (captain of the army, or host, of Jehovah)...with his sword drawn...*” (Josh. 5:13-15; 6:1, 2; compare: 1 Chron. 21:15, “*the destroying angel*”, most likely the Angel of the Lord; and Zech. 1:9-12, “*...a man riding on a red horse...*”)
  - d. “*...a certain man dressed in linen...*” (Dan. 10:5-9; 12:6-13; cf. Ezek. 1:26-28; and Rev. 1:12-20)