

**Angels and Demons**  
**Lesson Five: The Angel of the Lord**  
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**Introduction: Who is the Angel of the Lord?**

- A. The designation “angel of the Lord” is found almost seventy times in the Bible. Is this an extraordinary angel set apart from all the rest?
1. Of course, all of the millions or myriads of angels are angels of the Lord who belong to Him and carry out His will.
  2. Yet, there is enough evidence from Scripture to support the strong possibility that “the angel of the Lord” is someone quite exceptional!
- B. Different assertions have been made as to who the angel of the Lord is.
1. God’s special representative
  2. God Himself (visibly manifested as an angel)
  3. Jesus the Son of God
  4. The Holy Spirit
  5. Michael the archangel
  6. Others insist that the phrase “angel of the Lord” *always* refers to a general description for any angel sent by God, nothing more.
- C. Who *exactly* the angel of the Lord is in *every* place in Scripture he is found cannot be determined with absolute certainty.
- D. It appears in most cases that the angel of the Lord is at the very least a special representative while in other cases just one of many angels sent by the Lord.

**I. Did God Himself Appear as the Angel of the Lord?**

- A. The angel of the “Theophany” (i.e. a visible manifestation of God to man).
1. God is “invisible” (1 Tim. 1:17); “No man has seen or can see” God (1 Tim. 6:16b; cf. Jn. 1:18). “No man can see Me and live” (Ex. 33:20).
  2. Some suggest that God visibly appeared as the angel of the Lord, yet as a limited outward manifestation of His greatness.
    - a. Compare this to Jesus who being God “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14; cf. Col. 2:9).
- B. Possible, but certainly not conclusive examples:
1. There are several places in Genesis where the angel of the Lord appears to be God Himself (Gen 16:7-13; 18:1-33; 22:11-18; 31:11-13; 32:24-30)
    - a. Jacob refers to God and the angel as being one in the same (Gen. 48:15-16).
  2. God’s appearance to Moses at the burning bush was as “the angel of the Lord” (Exodus 3; cf. Acts 7:30-34).
  3. “The angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn” (Num. 22:31) stood in the way of Balaam the prophet (Num. 22:22-35).
  4. The angel of the Lord is otherwise be referred to as “the captain of the Lord of hosts” when the Lord spoke to Joshua (Josh 5:13-6:2).
    - a. It is interesting to note that Joshua worshipped this angel and the angel did not rebuke him for doing so (Josh. 5:14; cf. Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9).

b. Also, the angel commanded Joshua “*Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy*” (v. 15).

(1) This is what the angel of the Lord said to Moses (Ex.

3:1-55), an indication that this angel was the same person.

5. The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, calling him to deliver His people from the Midianites and Amalekites (Judges 6:11ff.).

6. This angel also appeared to Samson’s parents declaring that Samson would deliver Israel from the Philistines (Judges 13).

7. The angel of the Lord announced God’s plan to the prophet Zechariah to have His temple rebuilt (Zech. 1-6; cf. Zech. 12:8).

## II. The Angel of the Lord is a Representative of God.

### A. “The Angel of His Presence”

1. The angel of the Lord is “*the angel of His presence*” (Isa. 63:9),

meaning representative of His face (“Presence” from PANIYM = face).

2. The Lord promised Moses: “*My presence (face) shall go with you and I will give you rest*” (Exod. 33:14; cf. 20-23).

### B. The Lord *through* His angel led Israel out of Egypt to the promise land.

1. The Lord (Ex. 13:21) through the angel of God (Ex. 14:19) led Israel out of Egypt in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

2. Moses specifically states that the Lord “*sent an angel and brought us out from Egypt*” (Num 20:16).

3. This same angel led Israel to the promise land (Ex. 23:20-23).

a. This angel was sent by God to guard Israel along the way (v. 20).

b. As God’s representative, they were to obey his voice, for His name was in him (the Lord revealed Himself in the angel) (v. 21).

c. Disobedience to the angel was disobedience to God (v. 22).

4. Later during the period of the judges, the angel of the Lord spoke to all children of Israel reminding them of his deliverance of them (Judg. 2:1-5).

## III. “The Angel of the Lord” – A Messenger Sent on a Mission by the Lord.

A. In some places in the Old Testament, the angel of the Lord is clearly distinguished as an angel that the Lord sent to fulfill a mission (e.g. 1 Chron. 21).

B. In the New Testament, *the* angel of the Lord or *an* angel of the Lord appears to be simply a general description for an angel sent by the Lord

1. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph (Mat. 1:20, 24; 2:13, 19).

2. An angel of the Lord rolled away the stone from Jesus’ tomb (Mt 28:2).

3. An angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias (Luke 1:11).

4. An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds to announce the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ (Luke 2:9).

5. Other examples: John 5:4; Acts 5:19; Acts 8:26; Acts 12:7, 23.

**Conclusion: Every “Angel of the Lord” is the Extended Presence of the Lord with a Special Mission. Their Work Demonstrates the Great Power and Wisdom of God.**