

A dramatic landscape with a path leading to a bright light source, with rays of light shining down. The scene is set in a dark, wooded area with a path leading towards a bright light source in the distance. The light creates a strong lens flare effect, with rays of light shining down the path. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall atmosphere is one of mystery and divine presence.

# The JESUS Series

Part 3 –The Angel of The Lord

# Introduction...

- Our new series has begun with reflections on the pre-incarnate Jesus.
- John begins his gospel from 'the beginning' which we presented as that which was before the beginning of Genesis 1:1
- We also noted that based on Scripture, it is clear that Jesus as God has been in existence long before His creation





# Introduction...

---

- *Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the Earth and the World. Even from Everlasting to Everlasting You are God.  
Ps 90:2*
- *Before the mountains were settled, before the hills were brought forth. 26 While as yet He had not made the Earth, nor the fields nor the highest part of the dust of the Earth  
Prv 8:25,26*



# Angel of the LORD

- Throughout the OT, we frequently encounter the “angel of the Lord” (or, “angel of God”—as used interchangeably[1]).
- The term translated “angel” in both Hebrew (malak) and Greek (*aggelos*) simply means “messenger.”
- Although, we find many occurrences and classes/ranks of “angels” in both the OT and NT
- (some by name/description such as Michael, Gabriel, Satan, sons of God, cherubim, seraphim, etc.),
- the angel of the Lord in the OT was not a mere “created” angel (as asserted by the JWs). Rather,



# Hagar...

- In Genesis 16, Hager encountered the angel of the Lord in the desert. In verse 10, the angel of the Lord said to her:
- “I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.” In verse 11, the angel of the Lord refers to YHWH in third person:
- “Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction.” However, note Hager’s words to the angel of the Lord in verse 13:
- ““You are a God who sees’; for she said, ‘I even remained alive here after seeing Him?’” First, she addresses the angel as “a God who sees.”
- And second, she acknowledges that she “remained alive here after seeing Him,” thus echoing Exodus 33:20, where YHWH says, “no man can see Me and live!”





# Abraham...

---

- **Abraham:** In **Genesis 18:1-2, 8**, we read that “the LORD [YHWH] appeared” to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre.
- And “when he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him. . . .
- He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them;
- and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate” (emphasis added)



# Abraham...

---

- ). When we look at chapters 18-19, we find some interesting things pertaining to the preincarnate appearance of Christ as the angel of the LORD, YHWH Himself.
- First, in Genesis 18:1-2, we read that YHWH had appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre. Second,
- when Abraham “lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him,” which Abraham prepared food and they ate.





# Abraham...

- Third, one of the visitors had told Abraham:
- “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son,”
- which Sarah laughed since she “was old advanced in age . . . past childbearing” (vv. 10-12).
- **Lastly, verses 13-14 identify one of the visitors as YHWH:** “And the LORD [YHWH] said to Abraham,
- “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?’ Is anything too difficult for the LORD [YHWH]?”







# Abraham...

---

- Again, note verses 16-17, where the men spoke of Sodom and Gomorrah:
- “Then the men rose up from there and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off.
- **The LORD [YHWH] said,** “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do.



# Moses...

- **MOSES:** We all are familiar with Moses's encounter with the angel of the Lord in Exodus 3:1-6:
- "Then the angel of the LORD appeared to him" (v. 2). Yet verse 4 indicates that it was "God" who "called to him from the midst of the bush."
- Throughout the account, the angel of the Lord is used interchangeably with "God."
- Further, in verse 14 (in the LXX), the angel of the Lord claimed that He was the Eternal One—*egō eimi ho ōn* (lit., "I Am the One/Being");
- and in verse 6, He affirmed to Moses: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Notice Moses' response to Him:
- "Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God."



# Gideon...

- **GIDEON:** In Judges 6:11-24, Gideon also encountered the angel of the Lord[4]:
- “The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, ‘The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior’” (v. 12).
- However, because “the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD” (6:1), the “LORD gave them into the hands of Midian seven years” (v. 1),
- which prompted Gideon to ask the angel of the LORD: “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?”
- And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian” (v. 13)



# Gideon...

- ). However, the response of the angel of the Lord in verse 14 clearly identifies Him as YHWH:
- “The LORD looked at him and said, ‘Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian.
- Have I not sent you?’” As in other places, the angel of the Lord is referred to as YHWH (“LORD”).
- After “the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight” (v. 21), Gideon reveals his understanding that the “angel” to whom he was speaking was not a mere angel, rather, as he stated: “
- Alas, O Lord God! [Adonai YHWH]. For now, I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face” (v. 22).
- And the Lord Himself said: “Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die” (v . 23; see Exod. 33:20).





# Manoah...

- **MANOAH:** In Judges 13, we find the angel of the Lord announcing to Manoah and his wife of their coming son, Samson, a “Nazirite to God.”
- Verse 16 (and v. 21) indicates that Manoah knew that this angel was not an ordinary angel, but the angel of the Lord, YHWH Himself.
- Manoah had wanted to prepare some food for Him, but the angel of the Lord said to Manoah: “Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering,
- then offer it to the LORD’ For Manoah did not know that He was the angel of the LORD.”



# Manoah...

- Attesting even more as to the identity of the angel of the Lord, not only as YHWH, but as the preincarnate Christ,
- is the response the angel of the Lord gave after Manoah had asked of His name in verse 17:
- “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful [Heb. **piliy/paliy**]” (v. 18).
- In Isaiah 9:6, the name of the coming Messiah will be called
- “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father [or father/possessor of eternity], Prince of Peace.”





# Manoah...

- The Hebrew term translated “Wonderful” (pele) is from the same root word (both from pala) as in Judges 13:18: “seeing it is wonderful.”
- No created angel can claim this name of Himself. This claim is certainly consistent to the many claims Jesus made and titles ascribed to Him in the NT,
- which were claims that only YHWH made, and titles ascribe to YHWH alone in the OT (e.g., “First and Last”[5]; egō eimi [
- “I am”][6]; “Lord of glory”[7]; “only Lord”[8]; etc.).
- When Manoah discovered that it was the “angel of the Lord,” he declared to his wife, “We will surely die, for we have seen God” (v. 22)—seeing that the angel of Lord was God.



# Angel of the LORD

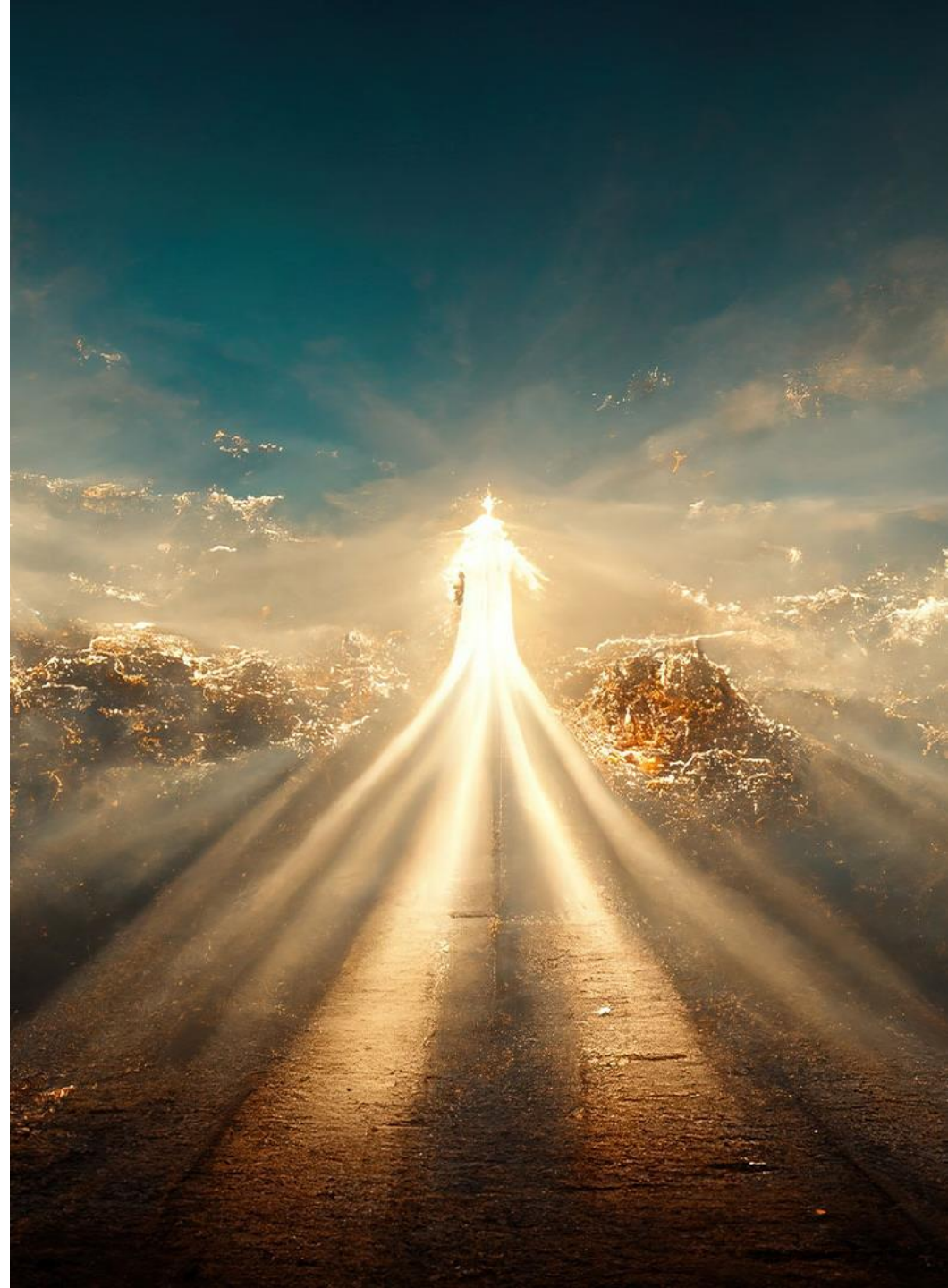
- There are many other angel of the Lord references in the OT
- (cf. Josh. 5:13-15;[9]
- Num. 22:22-35;
- 2 Kings 19:35; etc.).
- However, the examples mentioned above are more than sufficient in showing that the angel of the Lord was identified as YHWH Himself
- and as the preincarnate Christ. This view has been concurred by early church Fathers and most biblical commentators throughout church history.
- Edward Dalcour





# Hmmm....

- <sup>5</sup> Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, **“Arise and eat.”**
- <sup>6</sup> Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank, and lay down again.
- <sup>7</sup> And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise *and* eat, because the journey *is* too great for you.”
- <sup>8</sup> So he arose and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.





# Hmmm....

- <sup>9</sup> Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.
- <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come *and* eat breakfast.”
- Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord.
- <sup>13</sup> Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.



# Transfiguration...

- <sup>2</sup> Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves;
- and He was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.
- <sup>4</sup> And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus





# Reflection

- What have you learnt in the last two sessions?
- Who is Jesus to you based on these two studies?
- How will you apply the knowledge from this series so far?
- Any other thoughts...?