

**THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE**  
**Session 6: 'The Word, the Name, and the Angel'**  
**13 November 2022**

**OBJECTIVES**

**Identify:** Who the Angel of the LORD really was.  
**Describe:** What God's appearances looked like.  
**Explain:** How the Son of God appeared on the OT.

**DOWNLOAD**

**Images:** PowerPoint slides  
**From:** [www.galencurrah.online](http://www.galencurrah.online)

**LESSON THEME**

"God appearing as a man is actually a pattern in the Old Testament, long before his arrival as Jesus of Nazareth." M S Heiser, *Supernatural*, p. 58

**The Word, the Name, and the Angel in the First Testament**



**Deuteronomy 32:8-9 NIV**

**8** *When the Most High gave the nations [goyîm] their inheritance,  
when he divided all mankind [bneî 'adam],  
he set up boundaries for the peoples ['amîm]  
according to the number of the sons of [God].*  
**9** *For the LORD's portion is his people ['am],  
Jacob his allotted inheritance.*

Yahweh forsook the nations to start a new one.

**Genesis 12:1-3**

**1** *The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*  
**2** *"I will make you into a great nation [gôy],  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.*  
**3** *I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples [mišpəḥot] on earth  
will be blessed through you."*

## Session 6: 'The Word, the Name, and the Angel'

### Genesis 12:6-7

**6** At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** The LORD appeared\* to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared\*\* to him.

\*Passive verb 'to see'. \*\*Passive participle

### Genesis 18:1, 7

**1** After this, the **word** of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." **7** He also said to him, "I am the LORD..."

The Word appears and speaks to Abraham, calling himself Yahweh.

### Genesis 18:1-2, 10

**1** The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. **2** Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby.

**10** One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

God and angels appear as men.

### Genesis 18:16-18

**16** When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. **17** Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? **18** Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him."

One of the three 'men' is Yahweh himself.

### 1 Samuel 3:10, 21

**10** The LORD came and **stood** there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ... **21** The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his **word**.

### Genesis 32:27-28, 30

**27** The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. **28** Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." ... **30** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

Yahweh dealt with Jacob as man to man.

## Session 6: 'The Word, the Name, and the Angel'

### Genesis 48:15-16

*15 Then he blessed Joseph and said,  
"May the **God** before whom my fathers  
Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully,  
the God who has been my shepherd  
all my life to this day,  
16 the **Angel** who has delivered me from all harm  
—may he bless these boys.*

Jacob equates God with that divine Angel he met at Beth-El.

### The Angel of the LORD

Hagar: Genesis 16:7-9, 13

Jacob: Genesis 28:10-13

Moses: Exodus 3:1-5

Joshua: Joshua 5:13-15

Gideon: Judges 6:20-24

Form a tiny group. Choose a passage. Read it aloud. Observe details about **the angel**, his appearance, his identity. You have three minutes...

### Exodus 23:20-21

*20 "See, I am sending an **angel** ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. 21 Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; [for] he will not forgive your rebellion, since my **Name** is in him.*

This angel led humans, demanding obedience, carrying the Name of Yahweh.

### Joshua 24:17

*27 It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.*

The angel of the LORD is Yahweh himself, in human form, doing the works of God.

### Isaiah 30:27

*27 See, the **Name** of the LORD comes from afar,  
with burning anger and dense clouds of smoke;  
his lips are full of wrath,  
and his tongue is a consuming fire.*

The **Name** of Yahweh will come, angry, pouring out wrath. The name (ha-Šem) = G-d amongst Jews.

## Session 6: 'The Word, the Name, and the Angel'

### A better definition of "angel"

Angels = created divine beings (*'elohîm*) who perform service or deliver messages on behalf of Yahweh, sometimes appearing in human form.

### A better definition of "the Angel of the LORD"

Yahweh himself, appearing in human form, commissioning leaders, guarding his people, or wreaking vengeance on his enemies.

### MEMRA (= "Ma'amar" or "Dibbur," "Logos")

'The creative or directive word or speech of God manifesting His power in the world of matter or mind; a term used especially in the Targum as a substitute for "the Lord" when an anthropo-morphic expression is to be avoided.' [www.jewishencyclopedia.com](http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com)

"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth." Psalms 33:6

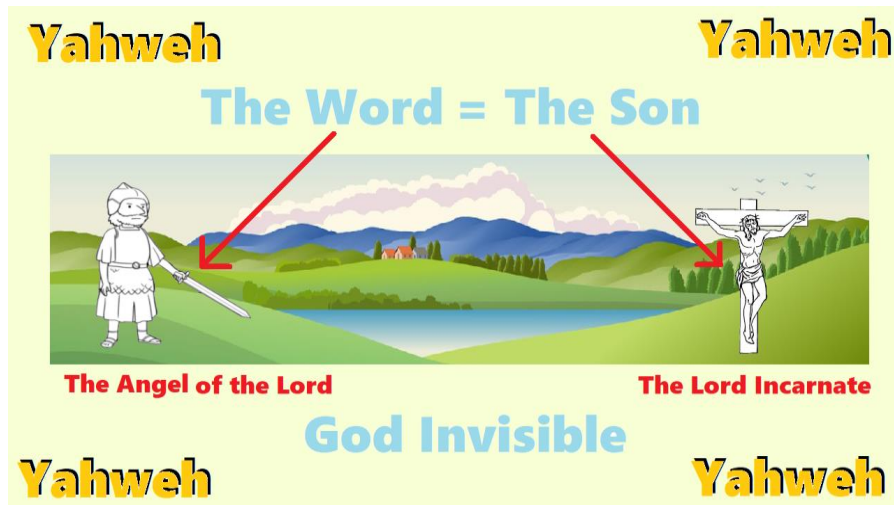
### The Word, the Name, and the Angel in the New Testament



### John 1:1-2, 14

**1** In the beginning was the **Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. ... **14** The **Word** became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word that appeared in the First Testament was the second Person of the Godhead.



Yahweh used to come as his Angel; he has now come once as his Son.

## Session 6: 'The Word, the Name, and the Angel'

### John 17:5-6

**5 Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. 6 I have revealed you [Greek your *name*] to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.**

Jesus reveals the Name Himself, being the Word who came into the world.

### Colossians 1:15-16

**15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.**

Jesus rules as the Image of God, having pre-eminence over all other divine beings.

### Ephesians 6:11-12

**11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

Although the spiritual battle still rages, we have effective resources by faith in Christ.

### 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

**7 We declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

The evil spiritual rulers knew that Jesus was the Messiah, but not that his death would free us from their dominion, thereby nullifying their authority.

### Hebrews 2:14-15

**14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil — 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.**

The lord of the underworld seeks to kill human beings before they can hear and believe the Good News.

### Test

1. Who was the Angel of the LORD?
2. What did divine beings look like in the OT?
3. What form did God take in the New Testament?