

## The Angel of the LORD in the Old Testament The Trinity in the Old Testament

--The word "angel" merely means messenger and the original word is translated "messenger" in almost half of the Bible.

--**Genesis 22:1**: "God tested Abraham and said to him" to sacrifice his son Isaac.

--v.11-12: "The angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven" and praises Abraham because he "did not withhold your only son from Me."

--So the angel of the Lord claims to be God.

--**Genesis 32**: Jacob wrestles with a man all night. It does not call him the angel of the Lord, but it is clear that this is God.

--v.28: hints that the man is God ("you struggled with God")

--He changes Jacob's name, and only God does that in the bible

--v.29: would not give His name to Jacob, similar to the angel of the Lord with Samson's parents.

--**Exodus 3:2**: The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush.

--The burning bush is universally held to be God almighty appearing in the burning bush.

--**Joshua 5:13** – 6:5: does not say "the angel of the Lord" but rather "commander of the army of the Lord" and says it's a man, but the man accepts worship and is said to be the Lord YHWH.

--**Daniel 3:25**: when Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown in the fiery furnace, a fourth man appears in the fire, who the pagan king describes as looking like "a son of the gods".

--This is not directly called "the angel of the Lord" but the concept is there.

--**Judges 2:1**; the angel of the Lord tells Israel "I led you up out of Egypt"

--The only "I" that led Israel out of Egypt is the Lord God Almighty.

--**Judges 6:11**: the angel of the Lord sat down under a tree and spoke to Gideon.

--v.14: the man under the tree is YHWH who spoke to him.

--**Judges 13** a man who is called the angel of the Lord appears to Samson's parents, who describe the man as the Lord YHWH.  
(Judges 13:21-22)

--The angel of the Lord is repeatedly called a man, although he was also called the angel of the Lord, who is God almighty.

--v.11: Samson's father asks the angel "are you the man?" and the angel of the Lord answers "yes."

--v.16c: Samson's father "did not know he was the angel of the Lord"

Therefore this person appeared as a man but was really God in the flesh.

--v.23: The angel of the Lord accepted a burnt offering, which only God can do.

--This is the pre-incarnate Christ.

--**Psalms 34:7**: speaks of the angel of the Lord as a deliverer, in the same Psalm that mainly is praising YHWH.

--**Isaiah 63:7-10**:

"I will tell of the faithful acts of the LORD,  
of the LORD's praiseworthy deeds.

I will tell about all the LORD did for us,  
the many good things he did for the family of Israel,  
because of his compassion and great faithfulness.

<sup>8</sup> He said, "Certainly they will be my people,  
children who are not disloyal."

He became their deliverer.

<sup>9</sup> Through all that they suffered, he suffered too.

The angel sent from his very presence delivered them.

In his love and mercy he protected them;  
he lifted them up and carried them throughout ancient times.

<sup>10</sup> But they rebelled and offended his holy Spirit,  
so he turned into an enemy  
and fought against them."

--Here we have all three persons of the Trinity, and the angel of the Lord is sent from YHWH but is YHWH.

--Therefore the Son is sent from the Father and the Holy Spirit is offended, yet they are all the one God.

--**Zechariah** supports the doctrine of the Trinity:

--1:12: the angel of the Lord speaks to YHWH

--12:1: "thus says the Lord..."

--12:8-10:"...In that day shall YHWH defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of YHWH before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born."

--Here we have more than one person of the Trinity speaking in the same passages. There is more than one person here claiming to be YHWH.

### **Conclusion:**

--We know that God is not contained in a physical body:

--1 Kings 8:27: Solomon, at the dedication of the temple, said about God "heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built."

--John 4:24: God is spirit.

--Yet these verses about the angel of God show that God appeared as a physical human body.

--Jesus claimed to be God and accepted worship.

--John 8:58: Jesus claimed to be the "I Am" of the burning bush in Exodus 3.

--The son is not the father, as shown in Isaiah 63:9 and Zech. 12:8-10

--The angel of the Lord pre-existed as a man in the OT.

--The pre-incarnate Son, the angel of God, YHWH, God almighty, appears in a physical human body as a man in the OT, as distinct

from the Father, for He speaks with the Father and is sent from the Father.

--Denying the Trinity has always been considered heresy even in the earliest years of the church.

--Every group we have seen that deny the Trinity have also developed a heretical view of salvation.

**Brief History of the Trinity:**

--The Trinity is found by name in writing as early as 175 AD and was already in common use at that time.

--In the 200's, a man named Sabelius taught Modalism, which teaches that God appears in different "modes" as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Sabelius who was excommunicated as a heretic in AD 220.

--In the early 300's, a man named Arius began teaching that Jesus was a created being. The Council of Nicea was held in 325 and dealt with the Arian heresy.

--Therefore the Trinity was NOT first developed at Nicea.

--References:

--Schaff, Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 2, 101, 133, 583

--A. Roberts, Ante-Nicene Fathers, 133-134