

Lesson 45

9.5. Apparitions of Jesus in the OT as the Angel of the Lord

- We have studied Jesus in the Old Testament (OT) as both Jehovah and Elohim. Now, we're going to see Jesus appear in the OT. This is called Theophany or Christophany. 'Theos' means God, and 'Phany' means to appear. Therefore, Christophany refers to the appearances of Christ before his incarnation. Jesus appeared as an Angel in the Old Testament.
- In previous lessons, we studied angels, who are spirits that appear in human form when God deems it necessary. We examined several passages:

⇒ **Hebrews 1:14**

⇒ **Psalms 103:20**

⇒ **Hebrews 13:2**; '*Some have unwittingly entertained angels*'.

God sends angels when needed. Often, angels appear so natural and similar to human beings that you don't suspect they are angels; you think they are people: ⇒ **Daniel 10:5**.

- Angel of the Lord, Angel of God, Angel of Jehovah, and Angel of Elohim were titles that appeared in the Old Testament. The word 'angel' means 'messenger'; it is a transliteration of the Greek word 'aggelos'. Translating this word from Greek into Portuguese yields 'messenger'. This word is also applied to men, as in the case of John the Baptist, who was called a 'messenger'. The office of messenger is one of the main Theophanies in the Old Testament.

⇒ **John 1:18**; '*No one has seen God at any time*'

⇒ **John 6:46**

- All Theophanies in the Old Testament refer to the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ himself. The Bible states that no one has ever seen God the Father. The Bible states that the only way we can know God is through Jesus Christ. Because of this principle, we can conclude that all Theophanies in the Old Testament refer to appearances of Jesus Christ.

⇒ **Exodus 33:12~23**; Moses wanted to see the glory of God

- God the Father does not appear; '*No one has seen God at any time*'. When Moses wanted to see God's glory, God said, '*No one can see my face and live*.' However, in **V.23**, it says that Moses saw God '*from behind*.' Moses saw the second person of the Trinity. The text shows that Jehovah is Jesus himself.

- The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, appeared in bodily form only once, when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. This was God the Father's way of showing John the Baptist that Jesus was the Messiah.

⇒ **Matthew 3:13~17**; Here, we see a clear manifestation of the Trinity: God the Father in heaven, God the Son being baptized, and God the Holy Spirit in the form of a Dove.

⇒ **Luke 3:21~22**

⇒ **John 1:32~34**; The sign for John the Baptist.

- To understand the expressions in the Old Testament, such as '*Behold, I am sending the Angel of the Lord*' and '*I will send my Angel*', we must understand the order of sending and the order of manifestation of the Trinity to the human race in God's plan. This refers to Jesus Christ himself, who is sent by God. In the Old Testament, the emphasis is on God the Father, the first person of the Trinity. The four Gospels show the direct action of Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity. The Acts of the Apostles show the action of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. '*Paul's letters show the action of all three together*'.
- In the Old Testament (OT), the Angel of Jehovah is a messenger sent from God the Father to man. Every time God says in the OT: '*I will send my Angel*' or '*my Angel will go before you*', he is referring to the direct actions of the second person of the Trinity, sent by God the Father. In the Gospels, Jesus says that he will send the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the second person on the Trinity is sent by the first person on the Trinity, and the third person on the Trinity is sent by the second person.

⇒ **John 16:7**

- The Trinity refers to one God; there is no hierarchy among the persons of the Trinity. However, the manifestation and emphasis on revelation to humans within God's plan were carried out in different phases by each person of the Trinity.

⇒ **Genesis 16:7~14; 'Jesus as the Angel of the Lord'**.

- Who is talking to Hagar? **V.7; V.9; V.10**; '*the Angel of the Lord*'.
- **V.13**: She called Hagar the '*name of Jehovah, with whom she had spoken*'. Hagar spoke to the Angel of the Lord, who is Jehovah. If she saw the Angel and he was Jehovah, then He could only be the second person of the Trinity.

⇒ **Genesis 22:15**; The Angel of the Lord appears to Abraham.

⇒ **Genesis 31:11~13**

- **V.11**; the Angel of Elohim in this passage.
- **V.13**: '*I am Elohim*'; The Angel of the Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ himself, in a manifestation of the pre-incarnate God.

⇒ **Judges 6:11~24**

- **V.16**: '*Jehovah said to him*', nor is it written that it is the Angel who speaks, it is Jehovah himself.
- **V.17**: '*show me a sign that it is You (Jehovah) who talk with me.*'
- **V.21**: '*he touched the meat*', see that it is real, that it is visible.
- **V.22**: '*Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face*'.
- **V.23**: '*do not fear, you shall not die*', was the second person of the Trinity because '*no one can see God the Father and live*'.
- **V.24**: '*and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace (Jehovah-Shalom)*'.

⇒ **Judges 13:1~25**

⇒ **Exodus 23:20~21**

- In the New Testament, the Angel of the Lord does not appear as he does in the Old Testament. This fact confirms that the Angel of the Lord who appears in the OT is Jesus himself. If the Angel of the Lord was so important in the Old Testament and was sent by God to perform many actions, why doesn't He appear in the New Testament? The answer is that He is now Jesus Christ himself, God incarnate. In the Old Testament, He appeared as an Angel, but now He appears as a man—God himself who has taken on flesh.

- ⇒ **John 10:30;** ‘*I and the Father are one.*’
- ⇒ **John 12:45;** ‘*And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.*’
- ⇒ **John 14:9;** ‘*He who has seen Me has seen the Father*’
- ⇒ **Genesis 18:1~8,**
- ⇒ **Genesis 18:16~22,**
- ⇒ **Genesis 19:1~11**

- In this episode, we see Jehovah and the Lord Jesus speaking to Abraham, accompanied by two angels. We also see Abraham instructing Sarah to prepare food: a roast calf, bread made with three measures of flour, and cakes. The three of them then eat together. Thus, we see two angels and the Lord Jesus before his incarnation as a man. The Bible shows that this was the case. Angels are spirits, but they have ‘*spiritual*’ bodies. When necessary and at God’s command, they appear, materialize, speak, eat, and perform other actions. This still happens today. This is why the Bible teaches us to be hospitable—because we could be hosting angels without knowing it.

9.6. Other Theophanies

- Jesus appeared in the Old Testament (OT) as the Angel of the Lord, as we have already seen. However, there are other Theophanies in which the Lord appeared as a man other than ‘*the Angel of the Lord.*’ The last passage we read with Abraham is an example because it clearly states that ‘*the Lord appeared to Abraham*’ (⇒ **Genesis 18:1**).

- ⇒ **Genesis 32:22~31;** Jacob wrestled with Jesus himself. According to the Bible, Jacob saw God face to face (**V.30**), and Jesus is the only visible manifestation of God.
- ⇒ **Exodus 24:1~11;** Jesus appears to 70 elders.

- Only God can be worshipped.

- ⇒ **Joshua 5:13~15;** Only God can accept worship like this, and the Angel asks them to ‘*take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.*’ Here, the Lord Jesus is depicted as a soldier with a sword in his hand.

➤ It couldn’t have been a man because men cannot be worshiped.

- ⇒ **Acts 10:25~26;** Man is not to be worshiped. Peter did not receive worship from Cornelius.

- ⇒ **Acts 14:13~15**

➤ It couldn’t have been an angel because angels cannot be worshiped.

- ⇒ **Revelation 19:9~10;** An angel spoke to John. John wanted to worship the angel, but the angel did not receive worship.

- ⇒ **Revelation 22:8~9;** ‘**Worship God**’.