

Unseen Realm: Session 29- The Angel of the LORD (Yahweh) in the OT

Angel of Yahweh occurrences (*malakh Yahweh*)

Genesis 16:7, 9, 10, 11; 22:11, 15; Ex 3:2; Numbers 22:22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 34, 35; Judges 2:1, 4; 5:23; 6:11, 12, 21, 22; 13:3, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21; 1 Kings 19:7; 2 Kings 1:15; 19:35; 1 Chronicles 21:16, 30; Psalm 34:8; Isaiah 37:36; Haggai 1:13 (reference to Haggai the prophet as “messenger of Yahweh”); Zechariah 1:11, 12; 3:1, 6; Malachi 2:7 (referring to priests as “messengers of Yahweh”)

Angel of God (*malakh elohim*) often seen as synonym for Angel of Yahweh

Genesis 21:17; 31:11; Exodus 14:19; Judges 6:20; 13:6, 9

A Sampling of Angel of Yahweh Passages

^{ESV} **Genesis 16:7** The **angel of the LORD** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." ⁹ The **angel of the LORD** said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel of the LORD also said to her, "**I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.**" ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, **because the LORD has listened to your affliction.**" ¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen." ¹³ So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "**You are a God of seeing,**" for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

^{ESV} **Genesis 22:1** After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

^{ESV} **Genesis 22:9** ¶ When they came to the place of **which God had told him**, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ **But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven** and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² **He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."** ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵ ¶ **And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven** ¹⁶ and said, "**By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,** ¹⁷ **I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,** ¹⁸ **and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."**

^{ESV} **Exodus 3:1** Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the **mountain of God.** ² **And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of the bush.** He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the **LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of midst of the bush,** "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are **standing is holy ground.**" ⁶ And he said, "**I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**" And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

^{ESV} **Joshua 5:13** ¶ When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **a man** was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ And he said, "No; **but I am the commander (prince) of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.**" And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his

servant?" ¹⁵ And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "**Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.**" And Joshua did so.

^{ESV} **Exodus 23:20** "Behold, I send **an angel** before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ²¹ Pay careful attention to him and **obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.** ²² "But if you carefully **obey his voice and do all that I say**, then **I will be** an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. ²³ "When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out, ²⁴ you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces. ²⁵ You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you.

^{ESV} **Judges 2:1** Now **the angel of the LORD** went up from Gilgal to Bochim. **And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you,** ² and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not **obeyed my voice.** What is this you have done? (see also Lev 26:44-45)

^{ESV} **Judges 6:11** ¶ Now the **angel of the LORD** came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." ¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ **And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"** ¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." ¹⁶ And **the LORD said to him,** "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." ¹⁷ And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me." ¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return." ¹⁹ ¶ So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰ **And the angel of God said to him,** "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. ²¹ Then the **angel of the LORD** reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. **And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.** ²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the **angel of the LORD.** And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord Yahweh! For now I have seen the **angel of the LORD face to face.**" ²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. **Do not fear; you shall not die.**"

^{ESV} **Judges 13:15** ¶ Manoah said to the **angel of the LORD**, "Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you." ¹⁶ And the **angel of the LORD** said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of 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.) ¹⁷ And Manoah said to the **angel of the LORD**, "**What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?"** ¹⁸ **And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"** ¹⁹ So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the **LORD, to the one who works wonders,** and Manoah and his wife were watching. ²⁰ And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the **angel of the LORD** went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹ ¶ The **angel of the LORD** appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. ²² And Manoah said to his wife, "**We shall surely die, for we have seen God.**" ²³ But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these."