

Theology Proper

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- I. Session 9: The Angel of the Lord
- a. Establish the need: Sometimes some people have a hard time seeing multiple persons within the being of God; are there hints of that within the Old Testament?
 - b. Purpose: Today we shall see how there is a plurality within God Himself according to the Old Testament but specifically through the examination of a particular Angel of the Lord.
 - c. How does this fit into our consideration of the Trinity?
 - i. The Trinity is the belief that there is one being called God who exists co-eternally as three Persons.
 - ii. It is hard to prove the Trinity if one does not first back up and see how the Old Testament anticipates the Trinity with hints of multiple persons within the Godhead.
 - iii. If there is an Angel of the Lord who appear in the Old Testament to His people and this Angel is Divine (that is, being God) and yet can be distinct in person in contrast to another person of Yahweh then this open the door to the possibility of the Trinity.
 - d. Some comments about Angels
 - i. The Greek and Hebrew word for Angels means messengers.
 - ii. We must note the difference between Being and Function.
 1. Note Robert Morey: “Those who reject the Trinity have always had a hard time with theophanies in general and the ‘Messenger of Yahweh’ in particular because they false assume that the word ‘angel’ has the ontological meaning of a created being.”¹
 2. Ontological beings called Angels: A heavenly being which serves God.
 3. Functional use of Angels: One who does the action of delivering a message.
 - a. Sometimes the messengers are human beings
 - i. Joshua sent messengers whom Rahab protected:

“However, Rahab the harlot and her father’s household and all she had, Joshua ¹spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, for she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.” (Joshua 6:25)
 - ii. Haggai the Prophet is a messenger of Yahweh according to Haggai 1:13.
 - b. Sometimes they are heavenly beings.
 - c. And as we will make the case, sometime it is God Himself.
 - iii. Remember: Non-Divine Angels are not to be worshipped
 1. “Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,” (Colossians 2:18)
 2. See also the event with Apostle John and an angel in Revelation 22:8-9.

¹ Robert Morey, *The Trinity: Evidences and Issues* (Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, 1996), 141.

- e. A few Old Testament passages anticipating multiple persons within the Godhead via the existence of a Divine Angel of the Lord
 - i. Angel of the Lord appearing to Hagar (**Genesis 16:7-14**)
 - 1. First time the Divine Angel of the Lord appeared in Genesis.
 - 2. Angel of the Lord mentioned in **v.7, 9, 10 and 11**.
 - 3. Note “The angel of the LORD said to her” in **verses 9 and 11**.
 - 4. Yet in **verse 13** we read: “*Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “[a]You are [b]a God who sees”; for she said, “Have I even [a]remained alive here after seeing Him?”*”
 - a. Who was the One who spoke to her? Angel of the Lord.
 - b. Yet she called the name of the Lord that talked to her!
 - c. Remember our previous lesson that the Name of the Lord is God!
 - d. And she said: “*You are [b]a God who sees*”
 - ii. Abraham Sacrificing Isaac (**Genesis 22:9-14**)
 - 1. Angel of the Lord mentioned in **v.11**.
 - 2. Angel of the Lord stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac.
 - 3. Note the Angel’s speech: “*He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you [b]fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” (v.12)*”
 - a. He Speaks about Himself as God!
 - 4. What angel does in **verse 13** and Abraham saying it was God who provided in **verse 14**.
 - iii. Exercise: Can you make an argument for a Divine Angel of the Lord from these passages?
 - 1. **Exodus 23:20-21**.
 - 2. **Genesis 32:24-30**.
- f. Questions for discussion: How does this apply to our life?