

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’

Westminster Larger Catechism

- 8. Are there more gods than one?** *There is but one only, the living and true God.*
- 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?** *There be three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.*
- 10. What are the personal properties of the three persons in the Godhead?** *It is proper to the Father to beget the Son, and to the Son to be begotten of the Father, and to the Holy Ghost to proceed from the Father and the Son from all eternity.*
- 11. How doth it appear that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father?** *The scriptures manifest that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father, ascribing unto them such name, titles, attributes, works, and worship, as are proper to God only.*

Five Reasons for the Trinity

1. Scripture reveals but one God, whose nature implies a plurality of persons.

- **ONLY ONE GOD**

- **Deut. 6:4**, *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!* [Cf. Mk. 12:28-34]
- **James 2:19**, *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!* [Cf. Isa. 43:10; 45:22; Mk. 12:28-34; James 2:19]

- **IMPLIED PLURALITY**

- **LOVE** 1 Jn. 4:8, *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.* [Cf. Lk. 10:21-22; 2 Pet. 1:17]
- **BLESSEDNESS** Rom. 1:25, *[They] exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.* [Cf. 2 Cor. 11:31]
- **SELF-SUFFICIENCY** Acts 17:24-25, *God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*
- **ELOHIM AND ITS PRONOUNS**¹ Gen. 1:26, *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”* Isa. 6:8, *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”*... [Cf. Gen. 3:22; 11:7]

¹ The Hebrew word for “God” (“Elohim”) is technically a plural noun and is sometimes accompanied by plural pronouns.

2. The Scriptures reveal the Son as God, equal with the Father.²

- DIVINE NAME/TITLES

- **JEHOVAH** *Isa. 6:1-10*, In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.” Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed.’” *Jn. 12:39-42*, Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.” These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him. Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue. [Also: Compare Joel 2:32 with Rom. 10:9-13]
- **GOD** *Ps. 45:6-7*, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. *Jn. 1:1*, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. [Cf. Isa. 9:6; Acts 20:28; Rom. 9:3-5; 1 Tim. 3:16]
- **I AM** *Ex. 3:14*, And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, “I AM has sent me to you.’” *Jn. 8:56-58*, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” [Cf. Ex. 3:2]
- **ADONAI** *Ps. 110:1*, The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

- DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

- **ETERNAL** *Isa. 9:6* For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Mic. 5:2*, But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting. *Rev. 22:12-13*, And behold, I am

² All generally admit that the Father is God (Jn. 8:54; 17:3).

Theological Foundations Afternoon (Lesson 3) – Five Reasons for the Trinity

coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. [Cf. Jn. 17:5; Col. 1:17; Rev. 1:8; Compare Prov. 8:22-31 with Prov. 30:4]

- **OMNIPRESENT** *Jn. 3:13, No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.*
- **OMNIPOTENT** *Mk. 4:41, And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”*
- **OMNISCIENT** *Jn.1:48-49, Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” *Jn. 21:17, He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”**
- **ALL-INCLUSIVE** *Col. 2:9, For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

- DIVINE WORKS

- **CREATION** *Gen. 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. *Jn. 1:3, All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. [Cf. Gen. 1:26; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:1-3]**
- **SALVATION** *Isa. 43:11, I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no savior. *Matt. 1:21, “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Titus 2:11-13, For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. [Cf. Job 19:23-27; Matt. 1:22-23; Jn. 10:27-33; Compare Jer. 23:6 with I Cor. 1:30-31 and 2 Cor. 5:21]**
- **RESURRECTION** *Rom. 10:9, If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. *Jn. 10:17-18, Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”**
- **FORGIVENESS** *Mk. 2:5-12, When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ – He said to the paralytic, I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”*

- **MEDIATION** *1 Tim. 2:5-6, For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*
- **SOVEREIGNTY** *Heb. 1:1-3, God... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*
- **JUDGMENT** *Eccl. 12:14, For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. Matt. 16:27, For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. [Cf. Gen. 18:25; Ps. 98:8-9; 96:13; Matt. 25:31-32; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10; Phil. 2:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jm. 5:9]*

- **DIVINE WORSHIP**

- **EXCLUSIVITY** *Ex. 20:2-3, I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. Matt. 4:10, Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” Rev. 22:8-9, Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”³*
- **EXAMPLES** *Matt. 28:9-10, And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.” Jn. 20:28-29, And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

3. The Scriptures reveal the Holy Spirit as God, equal with the Father.

- **DIVINE NAME/TITLES**

- **JEHOVAH** *Acts 28:25-27, So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, ‘Go to this people and say: “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.”’” [Cf. Isa. 6:8-10; Compare 2 Cor. 3:5-6, 17-18 with Jer. 31:33 and Heb. 10:15-17]*
- **GOD** *Acts 5:3-4, But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”*

- **DIVINE ATTRIBUTES**

³ The Greek word for ‘worship’ in this text is the same word used to describe the apostles’ worship of Jesus in Matt. 28:9, 17.

- **ETERNAL** *Heb. 9:13-14*, For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- **OMNISCIENT** *1 Cor. 2:10-11*, But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

- **DIVINE WORKS**

- **CREATION** *Gen. 1:1-2*, In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- **VIRGIN BIRTH** *Lk. 1:35*, And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”
- **RESURRECTION** *Rom. 1:1-4*, Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God, which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. *Rom. 8:11*, But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- **DIVINE WORSHIP**

- **Mt. 28:19**, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- **DIVINE PERSONALITY**

- **GRIEF** *Isa. 63:10*, But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them. [Cf. *Gen. 6:3*; *Acts 5:3*; *Eph. 4:30*; *Heb. 10:29*]
- **SPEECH** *Acts 13:2*, As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” [Cf. *Rom. 8:27*; *1 Jn. 5:7*; *Rev. 22:17*]

4. The Scriptures reveal the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in essential unity.

- **Matt. 28:19**, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. [Cf. *1 Jn. 5:7*; *Jn. 10:30*; *14:11, 16-18*]
- **Jn. 10:30**, I and My Father are one.
- **2 Jn. 1:9-10**, Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. [Cf. *1 Jn. 2:23-25*]
 - **CREATION** (*Gen. 1:1-3, 26*)
 - **EXODUS** (*Isa. 63:9-16*)
 - **RESURRECTION** (*Jn. 10:17-18*; *Rom. 8:11*; *10:9*)
 - **APOSTOLIC PIETY** (*Eph. 1:15-23*; *3:14-21*)

5. The Scriptures reveal the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three distinct persons.

- **THE FATHER BEGETS THE SON.** *John 1:18, No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*
- **THE SON IS BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER.** *John 3:16, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- **THE SPIRIT PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON.** *Jn. 14:26, But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. [15:26] But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. Gal. 4:6, And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” [Cf. Jn. 14:16-17; Rom. 8:9; Tit. 3:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:10-11]*
 - **BAPTISM** (Isa. 61:1; Matt. 3:16-17)
 - **GETHSEMANE** (Lk. 22:42; Heb. 5:7-8)
 - **CRUCIFIXION** (Zech. 13:7; Matt. 27:46)
 - **APOSTOLIC PIETY** (2 Cor. 13:14)

BONUS: *Christ’s pre-incarnate appearances as the Angel of the LORD.*

- Consult Dr. David Murray’s DVD, *Cross Reference: The Angel of the Lord*, available at: <http://headhearhand.org/films/crossreference/>
- Download additional handout, *The Angel of the Lord*, at: <http://reformed.com/downloads/TFA/>

POP QUIZ: *How many sound arguments for the Trinity can you derive from Matthew 28:16-20?*

Abraham

Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, **the LORD** has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. ³ Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. ⁴ So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. **The LORD** judge between you and me.” ⁶ So Abram said to Sarai, “Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.” And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence. ⁷ Now **the Angel of the LORD** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And He said, “Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.” ⁹ **The Angel of the LORD** said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.” ¹⁰ Then **the Angel of the LORD** said to her, “I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.” ¹¹ And **the Angel of the LORD** said to her: “Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because **the LORD** has heard your affliction. ¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.” ¹³ **Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, “Have I also here seen Him who sees me?”** ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But **the Angel of the LORD** called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” ¹² And **He** said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from **Me**.” ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, **The-LORD-Will-Provide**; as it is said to this day, “In **the Mount of The LORD** it shall be provided.” ¹⁵ Then **the Angel of the LORD** called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: “**By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD**, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son – ¹⁷ blessing **I** will bless you, and multiplying **I** will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of

their enemies. ¹⁸ “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed **My** voice.”

Jacob

Genesis 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock, ⁵ and said to them, “I see your father’s countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but **the God of my father** has been with me. ⁶ And you know that with all my might I have served your father. ⁷ Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but **God** did not allow him to hurt me. ⁸ If he said thus: ‘The speckled shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: ‘The streaked shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore streaked. ⁹ So **God** has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰ And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. ¹¹ Then **the Angel of God** spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’

¹² And **He** said, ‘Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for **I** have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³ **I am the God of Bethel**, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to **Me**. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’”

Genesis 32:24 Then Jacob was left alone; and **a Man** wrestled with him until the breaking of day. ²⁵ Now when **He** saw that **He** did not prevail against him, **He** touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as **He** wrestled with him. ²⁶ And **He** said, “Let **Me** go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let **You** go unless **You** bless me!” ²⁷ So **He** said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ And **He** said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for **you have struggled with God** and with men, and have prevailed.”

²⁹ Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me **Your name**, I pray.” And **He** said, “Why is it that you ask about **My name**?” And **He** blessed him there. ³⁰ And Jacob called the name of the place **Peniel**: “**For I have seen God face to face**, and my life is preserved.”

Genesis 48:9 And Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom **God** has given me in this place.” And he said, “Please bring them to me, and I will bless them.” ¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. ¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, “I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, **God** has also shown me your offspring!” ¹² So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth. ¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them near him. ¹⁴ Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph, and said: “**God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,** ¹⁶ **The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil,** Bless the lads; Let my name be

The Angel of the LORD – מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה

named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

Hosea 12:3 He [Jacob] took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength **he struggled with God.** ⁴ Yes, **he struggled with the Angel** and prevailed; he wept, and sought favor from **Him**. He found **Him** in Bethel, And there **He** spoke to us – ⁵ that is, **the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.**”

Moses

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And **the Angel of the LORD** appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” ⁴ **So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush** and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then **He** said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” ⁶ Moreover 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 upon **God.** ⁷ And **the LORD** said: “I have surely seen the oppression of **My** people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for **I** know their sorrows. ⁸ So **I** have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to **Me**, and **I** have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and **I** will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring **My** people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to **God**, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² So **He** said, “**I** will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that **I** have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve **God** on this mountain.” ¹³ Then Moses said to **God**, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The **God of your fathers** has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is **His** name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ And **God** said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ Moreover **God** said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘**The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.**’” ¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘**The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me**, saying, ‘I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; ¹⁷ and I have said **I** will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and

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honey.’¹⁸ Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, ‘**The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us;** and now, please, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to **the LORD our God.**’¹⁹ But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand.²⁰ So **I** will stretch out **My** hand and strike Egypt with all **My** wonders which **I** will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.”

Exodus 13:21 And **the LORD** went before them by day in a **pillar of cloud** to lead the way, and by night in a **pillar of fire** to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

Exodus 14:15 And **the LORD** said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.¹⁷ And **I** indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So **I** will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that **I am the LORD**, when **I** have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”¹⁹ **And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.**²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and **the LORD** caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Exodus 23:20 Behold, **I send an Angel** before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.²¹ **Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.**²² But if you indeed obey **His voice** and do all that **I speak**, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.²³ For **My Angel** will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.”

Joshua

Joshua 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, **a Man** stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?”¹⁴ So He said, “No, but as **Commander of the army of the LORD** I have now 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 Then the **Commander of the LORD’S army** said to Joshua, “**Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.**” And Joshua did so.

Judges 2:1 Then **the Angel of the LORD** came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “**I** led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which **I** swore to your fathers; and **I** said, ‘**I**

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will never break **My** covenant with you. ² And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed **My** voice. Why have you done this? ³ Therefore **I** also said, ‘**I** will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’” ⁴ So it was, when **the Angel of the LORD** spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. ⁵ Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to **the LORD**. ⁶ And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

Gideon

Judges 6:11 Now **the Angel of the LORD** came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order 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, you mighty man of valor!” ¹³ Gideon said to **Him**, “O my lord, if **the LORD** is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all **His miracles** which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not **the LORD** bring us up from Egypt?’ But now **the LORD** has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” ¹⁴ Then **the LORD** turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have **I** not sent you?” ¹⁵ So he said to **Him**, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶ And **the LORD** said to him, “Surely **I** will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” ¹⁷ Then he said to **Him**, “If now I have found favor in **Your** sight, then show me a sign that it is **You** who talk with me.” ¹⁸ Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to **You** and bring out **my offering** and set it before **You**.” And **He** said, “**I** will wait until you come back.” ¹⁹ So Gideon went in and prepared a **young goat**, and **unleavened bread** from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to **Him** under the terebinth tree and **presented** them. ²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, “Take the **meat** and the **unleavened bread** and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so. ²¹ Then **the Angel of the LORD** put out the end of the staff that was in **His** hand, and touched the **meat** and the **unleavened bread**; and **fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread**. And **the Angel of the LORD** departed out of his sight. ²² Now Gideon perceived that **He** was **the Angel of the LORD**. So Gideon said, “Alas, O **LORD GOD!** For I have seen **the Angel of the LORD** face to face.” ²³ Then **the LORD** said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.” ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to **the LORD**, and called it **The-LORD-Is-Peace**. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Samson

Judges 13:1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of **the LORD**, and **the LORD** delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. ² Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and

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had no children. ³ And **the Angel of the LORD** appeared to the woman and said to her, “Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴ Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

⁵ For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to **God** from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.” ⁶ So the woman came and told her husband, saying, “**A Man of God** came to me, and **His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome**; but I did not ask **Him** where **He** was from, and **He** did not tell me **His name**. ⁷ And **He** said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to **God** from the womb to the day of his death.’” ⁸ Then Manoah prayed to **the LORD**, and said, “**O my Lord**, please let **the Man of God whom You sent** come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.” ⁹ And **God** listened to the voice of Manoah, and **the Angel of God** came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰ Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, “Look, **the Man who came to me the other day** has just now appeared to me!” ¹¹ So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to **the Man**, he said to Him, “Are You **the Man** who spoke to this woman?” And **He** said, “I am.” ¹² Manoah said, “Now let **Your** words come to pass! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?” ¹³ So **the Angel of the LORD** said to Manoah, “Of all that **I** said to the woman let her be careful. ¹⁴ She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that **I** commanded her let her observe.” ¹⁵ Then Manoah said to **the Angel of the LORD**, “Please let us detain **You**, and we will prepare a young goat for You.” ¹⁶ And **the Angel of the LORD** said to Manoah, “Though you detain **Me**, **I** will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to **the LORD**.” (**For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD**.) ¹⁷ Then Manoah said to **the Angel of the LORD**, “What is **Your** name, that when **Your** words come to pass 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 upon the rock to **the LORD**. And **He** did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on – ²⁰ it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar – **the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar!** When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹ When **the Angel of the LORD** appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that **He** was **the Angel of the LORD**. ²² And Manoah said to his wife, “**We shall surely die, because we have seen God!**” ²³ But his wife said to him, “If **the LORD** had desired to kill us, **He** would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would **He** have shown us all these things, nor would **He** have told us such things as these at this time.” ²⁴ So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and **the LORD** blessed him.

The Prophets

Isaiah 37:33 Therefore thus says **the LORD** concerning the king of Assyria: “He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. ³⁴ By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,” Says **the LORD**. ³⁵ “For **I** will defend this city, to save it **For My own sake** and for My servant David's sake.” ³⁶ Then **the angel of the LORD** went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses – all dead.

Isaiah 63:8 For **He** said, “Surely they are **My** people, children who will not lie.” So **He** became their **Savior**. ⁹ In all their affliction **He** was afflicted, and **the Angel of His Presence** saved them; in **His** love and in **His** pity **He** redeemed them; and **He** bore them and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved **His Holy Spirit**; so **He** turned **Himself** against them as an enemy, And **He** fought against them. ¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: “Where is **He** who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of **His** flock? Where is **He** who put **His Holy Spirit** within them, ¹² who led them by the right hand of Moses, with **His** glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for **Himself** an everlasting name, ¹³ who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they might not stumble?” ¹⁴ As a beast goes down into the valley, and **the Spirit of the LORD** causes him to rest, so **You** lead **Your** people, to make **Yourself** a glorious name. ¹⁵ Look down from heaven, and see from **Your** habitation, holy and glorious. Where are **Your** zeal and **Your** strength, the yearning of **Your** heart and **Your** mercies toward me? Are they restrained? ¹⁶ Doubtless **You are our Father**, though Abraham was ignorant of us, And Israel does not acknowledge us. **You, O LORD, are our Father; our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.**

Daniel 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²² Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ “Look!” he answered, “**I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**” ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of **the Most High God**, come out, and come

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here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “**Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him**, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own **God!**”

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before **the Angel of the LORD**, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And **the LORD** said to Satan, “**The LORD** rebuke you, Satan! **The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem** rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?” ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before **the Angel**. ⁴ Then **He** answered and spoke to those who stood before **Him**, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him **He** said, “See, **I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.**” ⁵ And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And **the Angel of the LORD** stood by. ⁶ Then **the Angel of the LORD** admonished Joshua, saying, ⁷ “Thus says **the LORD of hosts**: ‘If you will walk in **My** ways, and if you will keep **My** command, then you shall also judge **My** house, and likewise have charge of **My** courts; **I** will give you places to walk among these who stand here. ⁸ Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, **I** am bringing forth **My Servant the BRANCH**.”

Zechariah 12:8 In that day **the LORD** will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be **like God, like the Angel of the LORD** before them.”

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And **the Lord**, whom you seek, will suddenly come to **His temple**, even the **Angel of the covenant**, in whom you delight. Behold, **He** is coming,” says **the LORD of hosts**. ² But who can endure the day of **His** coming? And who can stand when **He** appears? For **He** is like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap.”

NT Cross-References

- Compare **Matthew 11:10** with **Malachi 3:1**.
- Compare **John 8:58** with **Exodus 3:2, 14**.
- Compare **I Corinthians 10:1-11** with **Exodus 14:19; 23:20-23**.