

Christology Lesson 2- Christ's Presence in the O.T.

Pre Existence of Christ: "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?" John 6:62 (more references: John 1:1-2, 14-15; 6:51; 8:58; 17:5, 24; Col. 1:17; Phil. 2:5-7)

1. UNDERSTANDING ANGEL/MESSANGER, THEOPHANY AND MISC. FACTS.

- a. "Angel"- Hebrew word is "Malach" can mean messenger or angel. It is one who is sent on a mission. In Greek the word is "Apostolo" which means "to send" or "Apostle".
 - Definite Article "The" in Hebrew is more meaningful than in Greek. In the O.T (Hebrew) when you put the definite article in front of it, it is the one and only one. If it says "an angel" in the O.T or uses the plural, then you know it is a normal angel or another created being. When "The" angel is used in the Greek language it does not necessarily mean the one and only. It could be the specific angel we are talking about out of a group of angels. *Example: Acts 12:7 KJV*
- b. Theophany – is described as a visible appearance of God in some form. *"it is safe to assume that every visible manifestation of God in bodily form in the O.T. is to be identified as the second person in the trinity."*
- c. Important facts about the N. T
 - i. Jesus is an Apostle- Jesus as the Word of God (Rev. 19:13) is the ultimate messenger sent from the father with a message of the good news of God's covenant love for sinful man. *Heb. 3:1*
 - ii. Jesus is The mediator of a new covenant. *Heb 12:24*
 1. One who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or from a compact, or for a ratifying a covenant.
 2. A medium of communication, arbitrator
 - iii. This unique messenger (angel) of the Lord never appears after Jesus' Incarnation.

2. THE UNIQUENESS OF THE ANGEL OF THE LORD: *Malach Yahweh*

- a. To **Those who fear Him/ His people.** - *Psalms 34:7.*
 - i. Omnipresent- to be in more than 1 place at the same time.
 1. Angels of other rank are not omnipresent. (*Dan. 10:12-14*)
- b. To **Hagar** – *Genesis 16: 7-13; 21: 17-20*
 - i. Promises to multiply Hagar's descendants, which is only something that God can promise and fulfill. (*16: 10*) see *Gen 13:16*
 - ii. Hagar acknowledges that the LORD spoke to her. (*16: 13*)
 - iii. The angel of the Lord is used interchangeably. (*21:17-20*)
- c. To **Abraham** – *Genesis 22;11, 15-18*
 - i. In verse 1 God commands Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering
 - ii. The angel of the Lord does the calling and says that Abraham had not withheld his son from "me". (*21: 11-12*)
 - iii. The angel swears by himself. (*21:16*)
 1. Only God can swear by himself. *Hebrews 6:13-20*

- d. To **Moses** - *Exodus 3: 1-6; 14:19*
 - i. The consuming fire is God's way of demonstrating his presence. (*Exodus 3:2*) *see also duet 4:24 and Hebrews 12:29*
 - ii. God calls out from the burning bush (*Exodus 3:4*)
 - iii. The LORD saw... and the LORD called out, but originally it was the angel that appeared in the bush. (*Exodus 3:4*)
 - iv. He was standing on Holy Ground. (*Exodus 3:5*)
 - v. This messenger turns out to be the LORD himself claiming to be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (*Exodus 3:6*)
 - vi. Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look upon God. (*Exodus 3:6*)
 - e. To Balaam - *Numbers 22:20-35*
 - f. To the Children of Israel – *Judges 2:1-5*
 - g. To Gideon – *Judges 6:11-24*
 - h. To Manoah & his wife- *Judges 13:2-3, 6-9, 15-22*
 - i. His name is “wonderful” (*see also Isaiah 9:6*)
- *The messenger of the LORD is clearly the LORD himself.

3. THE LORD OF HOSTS (ARMIES)

- a. **Malachi 3:1** “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His Temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming says the LORD of hosts”
 - i. My messenger...will clear the way before Me- The LORD God is interchangeably used with The LORD of hosts and the messenger (*see Ch 2:16*)
 - ii. Messenger of the covenant. *Hebrews 12:24*,
 - “Malach” of the covenant- identifying He is the Angel of the LORD who appeared throughout the old testament.
 - There can be an everlasting covenant of grace between God and man only because of the blood of Christ. *Hebrews 13:20*
 - Jesus is the ‘messenger’ of God’s presence. Ex. He is the savior, redeemer, in him the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in bodily form, he is Immanuel- which means God with us. *Isaiah 63:9*
 - iii. Who can endure the day of His coming? (vs 2)- This same thing is referenced to Yahweh in other passages. *Is. 33:14, Psalm 130:3*
- b. The LORD of hosts is the **Redeemer** – *Isaiah 44:6; 47:4, 59:28*
-Parallel with *Revelations 1:17, 2:8, 1:8*
- c. The LORD of hosts is the **KING** – *Isaiah 6:3,5*
-Parallel with *Zecharia 14:16 Millennial reign, Rev 19:16, 17:14*
- d. The LORD of hosts is the **GOD** of the armies of Israel – *I Samuel 17:45*
- e. The LORD of hosts is the **COMMANDER** of the army of the Lord.- *Joshua 5:13-15*