



THE ANGEL OF THE *ADONAI*

God's Revelation: Message, Messenger, and Manifestation

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WHO IS THE ANGEL OF ADONAI ?

- This is a difficult figure to discern.
- A visible manifestation of God?
- Pre-incarnate Son of God?
- Just a special angel?
- ADONAI himself?
- Distinct from ADONAI?

APPROACHING A STUDY OF THE ANGEL OF ADONAI

- This can be controversial
 - Because the text is not perfectly clear
 - Theology is difficult when humans do it
- We will approach in humility and without absolute certainty.
- We will seek Scripture and stay with the text

WHY STUDY THE ANGEL OF ADONAI ?

- In Zechariah, the angel of ADONAI is an important figure during the visions.
- His role in chapter 3 is especially key.
- In general, the idea of plurality of God in the *TaNakh* and God's physical manifestation is relevant as believers who have the *Brit Chadashah*.

WHAT OUR STUDY WILL INCLUDE

The Angel of ADONAI/God

The Word of ADONAI

The Name of ADONAI

How God reveals himself:

Message

Messenger

Manifestation

The Angel of ADONAI/God

- The first appearance of this figure is Gen 16
– Hagar is Sent Away
- The **מלאך יהוה** angel of the ADONAI **finds** Hagar and **speaks** to her.
- Here the angel seems to be equated with God or at least having full authority on behalf of God.

GENESIS 16:9-14

Then the **angel of ADONAI found** her by the spring of water in the wilderness... ¹⁰ Then the **angel of ADONAI said** to her, “**I will bountifully multiply your seed,** and they will be too many to count.” ¹¹ Then the **angel of ADONAI** said to her, Behold, you are pregnant and about to bear a son, and you shall name him Ishmael—for **ADONAI has heard** your affliction.. ¹³ So she called **ADONAI** who was **speaking** to her, “**You are the God who sees me.**” For she said, “Would I have gone here indeed looking for Him who looks after me?” ¹⁴ That is why the well is named, the **Well of the Living One Who Sees Me.**

GENESIS 22:10-18

¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the **angel of ADONAI** called to him **from heaven** and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" He said, "Here I am!" ¹² Then He said, "Do not reach out your hand against the young man—do nothing to him at all. For now **I** know that you are one who fears **God**—you did not withhold your son, your only son, from **Me**..."

GENESIS 22:10-18

¹⁵ The **angel of ADONAI** called to Abraham a second time **from heaven** ¹⁶ and said, “**By myself I swear, it is a declaration of ADONAI**—because you have done this thing, and you did not withhold your son, your only son, ¹⁷ **I** will richly **bless** you and bountifully multiply your seed like the stars of heaven, and like the sand that is on the seashore, and your seed will possess the gate of his enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed—because you obeyed **My voice.**”

2 SAMUEL 24:15-16

⁵ So **ADONAI** sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning until the appointed time, so that 70,000 men of the people died from Dan to Beersheba. ¹⁶ When the **angel** stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, **ADONAI** relented from the calamity and said to the **angel** who was destroying the people, "Enough! Now withdraw your hand." The **angel of ADONAI** was then by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

The Angel of ADONAI/God

- The Angel can be presented as **one** with ADONAI.
- This is also true in **Gen 31:11-13** where the angel is called the God of Beit-el.
- Most powerfully the angel appears in the **burning bush** in Ex. 3 where God reveals his **name**.
- Very similar language of holy ground is applied to the **Commander of ADONAI's Army** who is worshipped by Joshua (5:13-15)

The Angel of ADONAI/God

- "the divine messenger par excellence, for he is the one supremely sent by God with a commission to fulfill." (p. 220)

"A fresh reappropriation of the evangelical and catholic heritage of the faith."
— *Christianity Today*

THEOLOGY FOR THE COMMUNITY OF GOD



STANLEY J. GRENZ

STUDY OUTLINE

The Angel of ADONAI/God

The Word of ADONAI

The Name of ADONAI

How God reveals himself:

Message

Messenger

Manifestation

The Word of ADONAI

- The Word or *Davar* is deeply meaningful in the *TaNaKh*.
- Davar* is word, message, or even another way of speaking of a manifestation of God's presence.

1 SAMUEL 3

¹ In those days the **word of ADONAI** was rare—there were no visions breaking through

⁴ Then **ADONAI** called, “Samuel!”

⁷ Now Samuel had not experienced **ADONAI** yet, since the **word of ADONAI** had not yet been revealed to him.

¹⁰ Then **ADONAI** came and **stood** and called as at the other times,

²¹ **ADONAI** started to **appear** once more in Shiloh, for **ADONAI revealed** Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the **word of ADONAI**.

JEREMIAH 1

2 The **word of ADONAI** came to him

4 The **word of ADONAI** came to me, saying:

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you”

6 Then I said, “Alas, **ADONAI Elohim!**”

9 Then **ADONAI** stretched out His hand and touched my mouth and **ADONAI** said to me,

“Behold, I have put My **words** in your mouth.

The Word of ADONAI

*Why does the notion that the Word is God's
presence matter?*

JOHN 1

¹ In the beginning was the **Word**. The **Word** was with **God**, and the **Word** was **God**. ² **He** was with **God** in the beginning. ³ All things were **made** through **Him**, and apart from **Him** nothing was made that has come into being. ⁴ In **Him** was **life**, and the life was the light of men.

JOHN 1

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him; but the world did not know Him.

¹¹ He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. ¹² But whoever did receive Him, those trusting

in His **name**, to these He gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They were born not of a

bloodline, nor of human desire, nor of man's will, but of God. ¹⁴ And the **Word became flesh** and

tabernacled among us. We looked upon His **glory**, the **glory of the one and only from the Father**, full

of grace and truth (*khesed v'emet*).

JOHN 1

18 No one has ever **seen** God; but the **one and only God**, in the Father's embrace, has **made Him known**.

The Word of ADONAI

- Yeshua is the Word (*davar/logos*) of God, embodying his presence as one who is One with ADONAI (the Father).
- None can see God and live, but Yeshua is God made visible who brings life.

HEBREWS 1

3 He is the radiance of the **glory** of God and the **exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the **word** of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the **right hand** of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much **superior** to **angels** as the **name he has inherited** is more **excellent** than theirs.

HEBREWS 1

5 For to which of the **angels** did God ever say, "You are my **Son**, today I have **begotten** you"? Or again, "I will be to him a **father**, and he shall be to me a **son**"?

The Word of ADONAI

- Yeshua is not an angel.
- Angels are created, Yeshua is begotten.
- The Father/Son language shows the Davidic Covenant – The Son of David would be the Son of God.
- So, is Yeshua the *malakh ADONAI*?
 - He could be, or he is the embodied word.
 - In either case, the *malakh* and *devar* of ADONAI carry the presence of God even if they are distinct from him.

STUDY OUTLINE

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The Name of ADONAI

How God reveals himself:

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The Name of ADONAI

- The Name *HaShem* also carried the weight of God's presence and is contained even within the *malakh* ADONAI.
- Now we have the Angel, Word, and Name of ADONAI that carry his presence and authority.

EXODUS 23

²⁰ “Behold, I am sending an **angel** before you, to guard you on the way and to bring you into the place that I have prepared. ²¹ Watch for Him and listen to His voice. Do not rebel against Him because He will not pardon your transgression, for **My Name is in Him.**”

The Name of ADONAI

- Note that all of these in some way communicate an embodied or physical or visible revelation of God.
- God has chosen to reveal himself in such ways even though to see God is deadly – something about these revelations are contained.

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The Name of ADONAI

How God reveals himself:

Message

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How God reveals himself:

Message

Messenger

Manifestation

-Divine Word

-Angel

-The Angel

-Prophecy

-Prophets

-His Word

-Yeshua

-Yeshua

-His Name

-Yeshua the
Word who
has the Name
in him

APPLICATION

- God has **revealed** Himself.
- He has used messengers, divine and human, but the most important revelation is God made flesh.
- God wants to use other **human *malakhim*** to reveal who he is.
- God has commanded that we **carry**/bear his **name** (Ex. 20:7).

APPLICATION

- Carry out God presence in his **Word** through living out the Scripture.
- Carry out God presence in his **Name** by bearing his Name as a follower of Yeshua.
- Carry out the **manifest** presence of God by living as an image of God.
- Live out **Yeshua's Truth and Love** as his disciples to reveal God to the whole world.

A dramatic landscape featuring a road that recedes into the distance, flanked by trees. The scene is illuminated by several bright, ethereal light rays that appear to emanate from the sky, creating a sense of divine presence and hope. The overall color palette is dark, with deep blues and greens, contrasted by the bright, golden light of the rays.

CLOSING PRAYER

