

GIDEON'S CALL

Judges 6:11–18

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

- the Angel of the LORD appears 20 times in the Book of Judges and 80 times in the Old Testament
- he is Jehovah (Gen 16:7–13; 22:15–18; Judg 6:11–23; cf. Lev 26:44–45 with Judg 2:1–5) and God (Exod 3:1–6; Zech 12:8)
 - he is also called the Angel of God (Judg 6:20; 13:6, 9) and is identified as God (Gen 31:11–13; Judg 13:8–22) and Jehovah (Exod 13:21 with 14:19; Judg 13:23)
- he is also distinct from Jehovah—another person of the Trinity (Gen 16:11; cf. Exod 23:20; Num 20:16; 22:31; Zech 1:12–16)
- he is the second person of the Trinity—the preincarnate Christ: (1) *the visible God*: God the Son appears in bodily form in both the Old and New Testaments, (2) *disappearance*: the Angel of the LORD no longer appears after the incarnation of Jesus, (3) *similar function*: both the Angel of the LORD and Jesus Christ were sent by God the Father to reveal truth and lead, defend, and judge Israel, (4) *process of elimination*: the Angel of the LORD cannot be the first or third person of the Trinity (John 1:18)
- he is a messenger from heaven—a foreshadowing of his coming in the flesh (Gen 21:17; 22:11, 15; Judg 13:20; 1 Chr 21:16)
- a study of the Angel of the LORD reveals the preincarnate work of Christ for his people: (1) comforts and assures Hagar (Gen 16:7–13), (2) helps Hagar (21:14–19), (3) stops the sacrifice of Isaac (22:9–12), (4) blesses Abraham (22:15–18), (5) makes a man successful in his endeavor (24:7, 40), (6) calls Moses (Exod 3:2–10) and Gideon (Judg 6:11–14), (7) leads Israel in the wilderness and to the promised land (Exod 23:20–23; Judg 2:1), (8) warns Balaam (Num 22:22–35) and Israel (Judg 2:1–5), (9) reveals the birth and call of Samson (Judg 13:2–23), (10) punishes sin (1 Chr 21:9–30), (11) protects and delivers the righteous (Psa 34:7), (12) protects Judah (2 Kings 19:35), (13) feeds Elijah in the wilderness (1 Kings 19:4–8), (14) gives a prophecy to Elijah (2 Kings 1:2–4), (15) gives guidance to Jacob (Gen 31:11–13) and to Elijah (2 Kings 1:15–16), (16) has authority over angels who patrol the earth (Zech 1:8–11)—God the Son was very active in the Old Testament
- the Angel of the LORD exercises the prerogatives of God and is the most frequent theophany in the Old Testament

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARS TO GIDEON (6:11–13)

- Gideon was about 30 years old when the Angel of the LORD appeared to him (cf. Judg 8:20)
- he was beating out wheat in a winepress for safety instead of with animals on a threshing floor (vineyards are in hidden wadis or on wooded hills whereas threshing floors are in open country on hills to catch the wind to winnow grain)
 - many hidden grain pits were found in excavations at Kiriath-sepher (1926–28) dating to the period of the Judges
- the promise "The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior!" indicates Gideon was not a Baal worshiper like his father (cf. 6:25–27)
 - his cynicism shows his ignorance of covenant curses and the need for the prophet's message in 6:8–10 (cf. Isa 59:1–2)

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD'S CALL AND GIDEON'S EXCUSE (6:14–16)

- God calls Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites (6:14) but Gideon feels inadequate and makes excuses (6:15)
- God promises a second time to be with him and promises him victory over the Midianites (6:16)—these promises require faith
- *God is with you* means God is a friend who goes wherever you go (Josh 1:9) and helps in everything you do (Gen 21:22; 39:3)
 - all he needs to be successful will be provided by God—he may not be adequate but God is adequate (cf. Exod 3:10–12)

GIDEON'S REQUEST FOR A SIGN (6:17–18)

- he asks for a sign or miracle to be certain his call is from God and that this messenger is from God or is God Himself (6:17)
 - but first he wants to bring an offering to the Angel: it will take time to butcher a kid and bake unleavened bread (6:18)
- the sign takes place in 6:19–24: the Angel of the LORD supernaturally consumes Gideon's offering with fire in the vineyard