

You Are Here – Part 4

God's Powerful intervention ↓s: *The Angel of the Lord!*

Second Wednesday in Advent – 2012

December 12 → 11:00 & 7:00

Wednesdays (12/5, 12/12, 12/19): Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, today, *as we think again about the history of the world*, we focus on **the Angel of the Lord** – thus *the Son of God before He put on human flesh in the Person of Jesus to save us from our sins!*

Let's think again about the BIG PICTURE: God created; then people sinned, so God promised the Savior! *But that wasn't enough!* The pre-incarnate Christ, *thus the Angel of the Lord*, had to intervene in world history to keep things moving toward His incarnation and His taking away of our sins!

According to Lion and Lamb Ministries, *“The Angel of the Lord’ is referred to 56 times in 51 verses in the Hebrew Scriptures.”*¹ Today's sermon – *part 4 of You Are Here* – will briefly summarize some of those **Angel of the Lord** accounts:

1. **He Stopped Abraham from Sacrificing Isaac:** **Genesis 22 AAT:** ¹⁰ As Abraham reached for the knife and took it in his hand to sacrifice his son [*as God had told him (vv. 1-2)*], ¹¹ **the LORD's Angel** called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” he answered. ¹² “...don't do anything to him. Now I know you fear **God**: you didn't refuse to give **Me** your only son.” // Then, *after Abraham sacrificed the ram that the LORD provided,*

¹ http://lamblion.com/articles/articles_doctrines7.php

the LORD's Angel reaffirmed an earlier promise (Genesis 12:3) with these words: **18** **In your Descendant** [*thus in Me, when I put on human flesh*] **all the people on earth will be blessed** [*as I take away their sins*] ...”

2. **He Commanded Moses to Deliver Israel from Egypt:** **Exodus 3 AAT:** **2** **The LORD's Angel** appeared to him in flames of fire coming out of a bush... **6** Then He said, “I am **the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**” ... **7** “I have seen the misery of **My people** in Egypt, ...and have heard them cry under their slave drivers. I know how they're suffering. **8** And I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and take them out of that country up to a good and large country, a land flowing with milk and honey... **10** Come now, I am sending you to Pharaoh, and you will bring **My people Israel** out of Egypt.”
3. **He Led Israel through the Wilderness:** **Exodus 13:21 AAT:** “**The LORD** went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud during the day to lead them on their way but in a pillar of fire at night to give them light...” Who is **the LORD?** **Judges 2:1 AAT:** “**The LORD's Angel** [said]... “I brought you up from Egypt... and into the land I promised...”
4. **He Stopped Balaam from Cursing Israel:** **Numbers 22 AAT:** **1** ...the Israelites moved and camped on the plains of Moab... **4** ...At that time Balak...was king of Moab. **5** He sent messengers to Balaam... **6** “Please come now and curse this people for me, because they are too strong for me... because I know he whom you bless is blessed and he whom you curse is cursed.” [*Initially Balaam refused to go, but finally he went:*] **22** But God became very angry with him for going, and **the**

LORD's angel stood on the road to oppose him as he rode his donkey... [*Twice the donkey saw **the LORD's Angel** and turned away. Then, a third time:*] ²⁷ When the donkey saw **the LORD's angel**, she lay down under Balaam, and Balaam became very angry and hit the donkey with his stick. ²⁸ Then the LORD gave the donkey the ability to speak, and she asked Balaam, "What did I do to you that you should hit me three times?" ²⁹ "You made a fool of me!" Balaam told the donkey. "If I only had a sword in my hand, I'd kill you now." ³⁰ "Am I not your donkey," the donkey asked Balaam, "that you've always ridden till today? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he answered. ³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw **the LORD's angel** standing on the road with his drawn sword in his hand. He bowed down with his face on the ground and worshiped [*the Son of God*]. ³² "Why did you strike your donkey these three times?" the LORD's angel asked him. "...I came out to oppose you because you're going headlong against me. ³³ The donkey saw me and turned away... If she had not turned away from me, I would have killed you by now and kept her alive." ³⁴ "I have sinned," Balaam told **the LORD's angel**... // Rather than cursing Israel, *Balaam ended up blessing Israel three times* (Numbers 24:10)!

5. **He Won a Great Victory through Gideon: Judges 6-7:**

The people of Israel had turned away from the LORD; therefore, *He allowed them to suffer at the hands of the Midianites*. Later, *when the people repented, the LORD's Angel* raised up Gideon to defeat the Midianites and those with them ("120,000 men who drew swords had fallen," Judges 8:10).

6. **He Appeared to the Parents of Samson:** Judges 13
AAT: Again, *the people had turned away from the LORD*, so ¹ the LORD put them in the hands of the Philistines 40 years. Then **the LORD's Angel** appeared to the barren wife of Manoah and said to her: ³ "...you will conceive and have a son.... the boy from before his birth will be bound to God by a Nazirite vow and will start to free Israel from the Philistines."
7. **He struck down 185,000 Assyrians** – 2 Kings 18-19
AAT: When Hezekiah was king of Judah, the king of Assyria sent this message to Hezekiah and his people: ²⁹ Don't let Hezekiah deceive you--he can't save you from me. ⁵⁰ Don't let Hezekiah get you to trust the LORD by saying, 'The LORD will certainly save us, and this city will not be put in the hands of the king of Assyria.'" In response Hezekiah cried out to the LORD; then he received the LORD's answer through Isaiah. Finally, *after many words*, the Bible records this in chapter 19: ³⁵ "**The LORD's angel** went out in the camp of the Assyrians and killed 185,000..."

Conclusion: The LORD—God the Father, sent **His Angel, His Messenger, the pre-incarnate Christ**, to intervene over and over again so that – *when the time was right* – **He** would ♦ put on human flesh, ♦ live in our place, and ♦ die for our sins! Let us ever-marvel at → God's great love and → God's gift of eternal life through Jesus – *the Christ of Christmas!* **Amen!**

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