

The Story of Jesus
(Lesson 38)

Introduction:

1. We are presently studying a series of lessons designed to help us grow in our knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Jesus gave the key to accomplishing this growth in John 5:39.
3. In this lesson we are showing how Christ made a number of appearances in the Old Testament as "the angel of the Lord" before He came to earth in the flesh.
4. Let us first consider some . . .

Discussion:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ANGELS

- A. Angels are spiritual beings created by God (Psalm 148:1-5).
- B. Since angels are not divine, they are not to be worshiped (Revelation 22:8-9).
- C. However, one particular angel identified as "*the angel of the Lord*" was called "*Lord*" as well as "*God*," and He allowed men to worship Him.
- D. Let us turn our attention to passages that relate to . . .

II. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

- A. This angel appeared to Hagar (Genesis 16:7-13).
 1. In His conversation with Hagar this angel revealed some information about Ishmael.
 2. (vs.13) This angel is referred to as "*the Lord*," and Hagar called Him "*God*."
- B. This angel appeared to Abraham.
 1. (Genesis 18:1-2) Although three "*men*" visited Abraham, one is identified as "*the Lord*."
 - a. In the Bible, angels are often referred to as "*men*."
 - b. According to Genesis 18:22, the men went to Sodom, but Abraham stood before "*the Lord*."
 - c. We learn from Genesis 19:1 that "*two angels*" went to Sodom.
 - d. Abraham's third visitor was "*the Lord*."
 2. In Genesis 22:10-12 this "*angel of the Lord*" referred to Himself as "*God*."
 3. Let us consider what Jesus said in John 8:56-58 about Himself and Abraham.
- C. This angel appeared to Jacob.
 1. He called Himself "*the God of Bethel*" (Genesis 31:11-13).
 2. In Genesis 32:24-30 Jacob said that he had seen "*God*."
- D. This angel appeared to Moses (Exodus 3:1-6).
- E. A special angel was with the Israelites (Exodus 23:20-23).
 1. This angel could forgive sins which only God can do (Luke 5:21).
 2. This angel is identified in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.
- F. This angel appeared to Joshua (Joshua 5:13-6:2).
 1. He allowed Joshua to worship Him (5:14).
 2. He is identified as "*the Lord*" (6:2).
- G. This angel appeared to Gideon (Judges 6:11-16).

Conclusion:

1. We must use caution because other angels are referred to as "*the angel of the Lord*," showing that they belong to the Lord (ex.: Matthew 2:13).
2. However, the angel we have examined possessed many divine characteristics: He was called "*Lord*" and "*God*," He called Himself "*God*," He guided the Israelites, He had the power to forgive sins, and He allowed men to worship Him.
3. Who was this angel?
 - a. We know that He was a member of the Godhead.
 - b. He was not the Father because no man has ever seen Him (John 1:18).
 - c. He was Christ visiting the earth before His physical existence as a man began.