

## The-Ology Islands #9



### Not “An” But “The”!

**Captain’s Log:** We are still on our second island. We are now on the Eastern shore on Christos Island. This island has two lighthouses, one is on the east side of the island, and one is on the west side. The rocky coasts protect the lush green interior. The Island is packed with Ism Pirates.

The Trinity is an essential doctrine in Christianity. We have one God manifested in three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. It is important not to fall into the error of having three gods or the error of making any member of the Trinity less than who they are. Today, we will examine a common evangelical belief that Jesus is The Angel of the LORD or The Angel of God from the Old Testament. This being is probably the most important character in the Old Testament and yet doesn’t appear a single time in the New Testament. Combined there are 65 references to this being in the Bible. This is the third of the “of God” titles of Jesus Christ: The Image of God, The Word of God, The Angel of God. It is essential that you understand the difference between an “an” and a “The”!



**Roll Call/Treasure Hunt:** We are examining three encounters that people had with The Angel of the LORD.

### 1. Hagar:

**Genesis 16:7-13** <sup>7</sup>Now the angel of the LORD found Hagar by a spring of water in the desert—the spring along the road to Shur. <sup>8</sup>“Hagar, servant of Sarai,” he said, “where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I am running away from my mistress Sarai,” she replied. <sup>9</sup>So the angel of the LORD told her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her authority.” <sup>10</sup>Then the angel added, “I will greatly multiply your offspring so that they will be too numerous to count.” <sup>11</sup>The angel of the LORD proceeded: “Behold, you have conceived and will bear a son. And you shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard your cry of affliction. <sup>12</sup>He will be a wild donkey of a man, and his hand will be against everyone, and everyone’s hand against him; he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.” <sup>13</sup>So Hagar gave this name to the LORD who had spoken to her: “You are the God who sees me, for she said, “Here I have seen the One who sees me!” (BSB)

- The Angel speaks **directly** for God.
- The Angel is **called** Yahweh/Jehovah.

### 2. Manoah:

**Judges 13:11-23** <sup>11</sup>So Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he asked, “Are you the man who spoke to my wife?” “I am,” he said. <sup>12</sup>Then Manoah asked, “When your words come to pass, what will be the boy’s rule of life and mission?” <sup>13</sup>So the angel of the LORD answered Manoah, “Your wife is to do everything I told her.

<sup>14</sup>She must not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor drink any wine or strong drink, nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her.” <sup>15</sup>“Please stay here,” Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “and we will prepare a young goat for you.” <sup>16</sup>And the angel of the LORD replied, “Even if I stay, I will not eat your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD.” For Manoah did not know that it was the angel of the LORD. <sup>17</sup>Then Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that we may honor you when your word comes to pass?” <sup>18</sup>“Why do you ask my name,” said the angel of the LORD, “since it is beyond comprehension?” <sup>19</sup>Then Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered them on a rock to the LORD. And as Manoah and his wife looked on, the LORD did a marvelous thing. <sup>20</sup>When the flame went up from the altar to the sky, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell facedown to the ground. <sup>21</sup>And when the angel of the LORD did not appear again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it had been the angel of the LORD. <sup>22</sup>“We are going to die,” he said to his wife, “for we have seen God!” <sup>23</sup>But his wife replied, “If the LORD had intended to kill us, He would not have accepted the burnt offering and the grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things or spoken to us this way.” (BSB)

- The Angel receives a burnt offering.
- The Angel is Yahweh/Jehovah
- They saw God!

### 3. Moses:

**Exodus 3:1-16** <sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw the bush ablaze with fire, but it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>So Moses thought, “I must go over and see this marvelous sight. Why is the bush not burning up?” <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to him from within the bush, “Moses, Moses!” “Here I am,” he answered. <sup>5</sup>“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup>Then He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the affliction of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I am aware of their sufferings. <sup>8</sup>I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me, and I have seen how severely the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring My people the Israelites out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup>But Moses asked God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup>“I will surely be with you,” God said, “and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, all of you will worship God on this mountain.” <sup>13</sup>Then Moses asked God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them,

'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' What should I tell them?" <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup>God also told Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered in every generation. <sup>16</sup>Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me and said: I have surely attended to you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. (BSB)

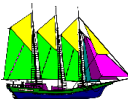
**John 8:57-59** <sup>57</sup>Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup>"Truly, truly, I tell you," Jesus declared, "before Abraham was born, I am!" <sup>59</sup>At this, they picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple area. (BSB)

- The Angel is in the **burning bush**.
- The Angel claims to be **I Am Who I AM**, the God of Israel.
- Jesus claims to have **pre-existed** his human birth and that He **is** the I AM from the burning bush.



**Battle with the Ism Pirates:** We will battle the sinful beliefs of angelism and angelolatry.

- Angelism: The belief that humans have no **sinful nature** and that we become angels when we die.
- Angelolatry: The belief that it is ok to **worship** angels.



**Set Course:** Next week we look at another title of Jesus Christ: The Son of God.