

Judges Series

Lesson #84

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The Angel of the Lord

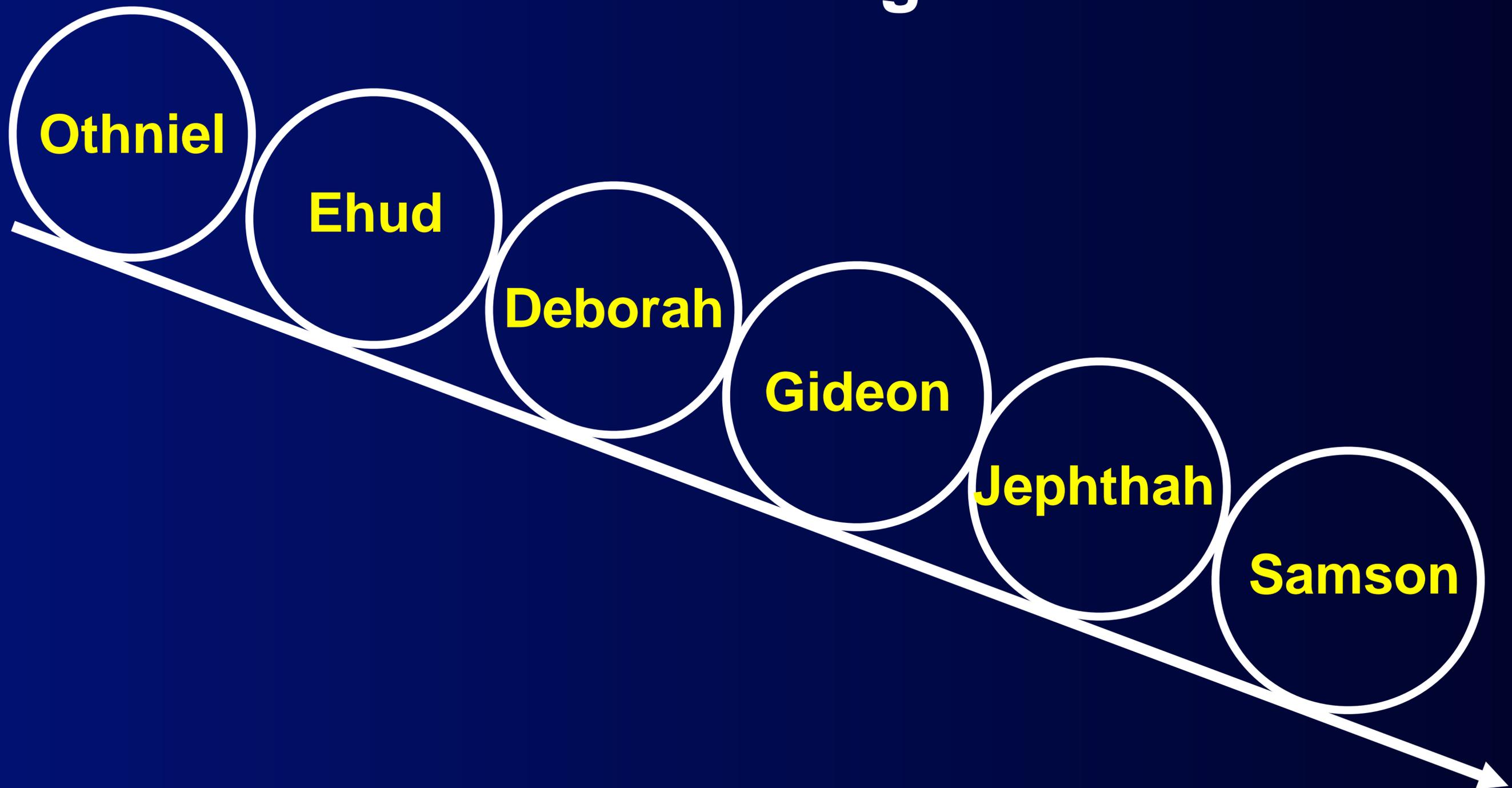
Judges 13:6–24



JUDGES
2021

When Chaos Was King

Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



Jephthah, 1150–1100 BC

Samson, 1123–1084 BC

Samuel, 1115–1020 BC

1124 BC

1106 BC

**Ammonite
Oppression**

Saul, 1075–1011

1084 BC

1050 BC

**Philistine
Oppression**

**Battle of
Aphek**

**1104 BC
(1 Sam. 4)**

**Battle of
Mizpah**

**1084 BC
(1 Sam. 7:11)**

Judg. 13:1, “Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.”

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פְּלִשְׁתִּי *pelishti* Philistine

Important Background Information

- 1. Who are the Philistines?**
- 2. What is significant about a barren woman in the Scriptures?**
- 3. Who is the Angel of the LORD (Angel of *YHWH*)?**
- 4. What is a Nazirite vow?**

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

the Philistines



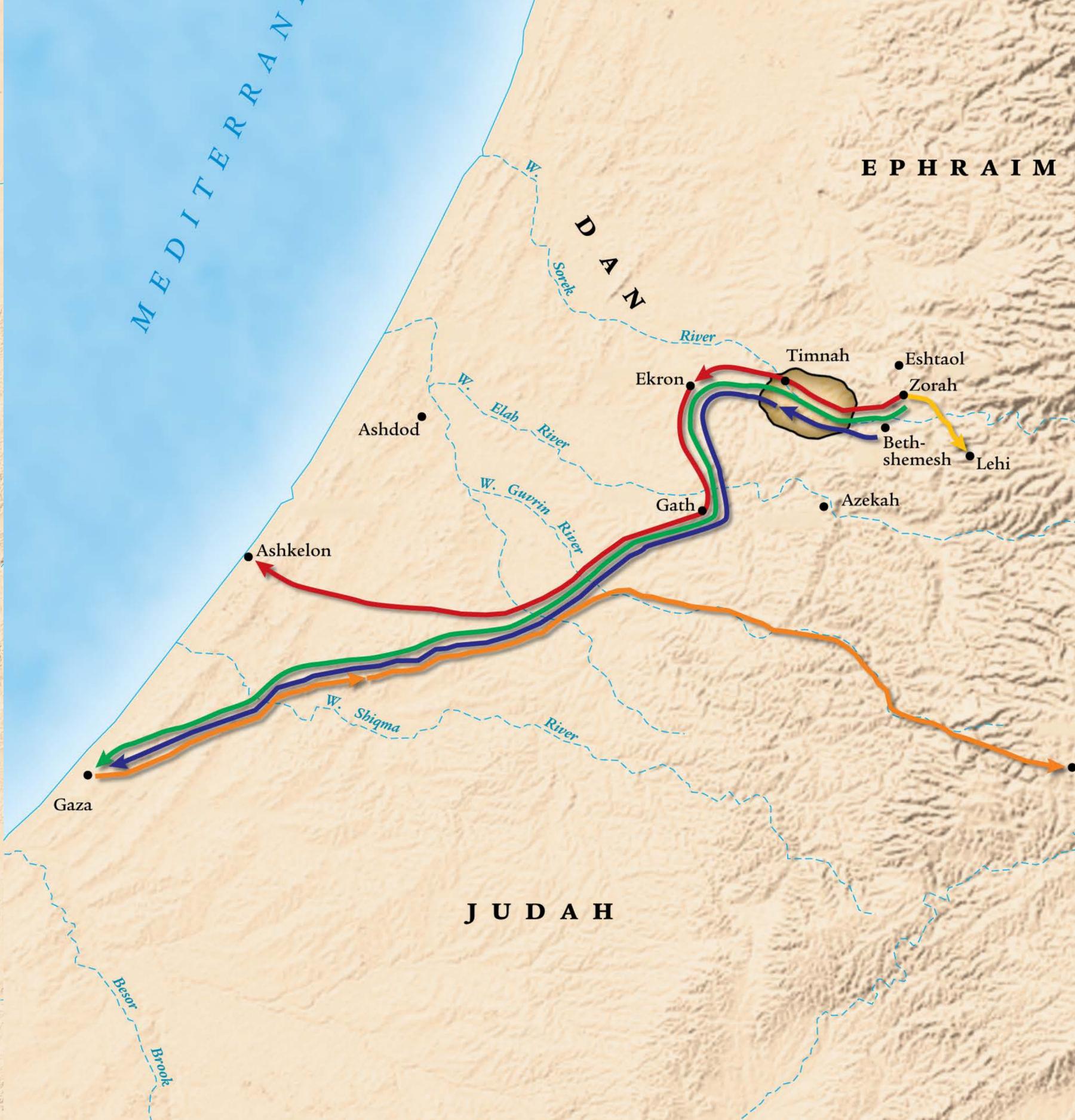
The Migration of the Sea Peoples



— Movements of the Sea Peoples, c. 1250-1150 BCE



From Egypt



Judg. 13:1, “Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.”

Judg. 13:2, “Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.” ~NKJV

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

the Barren Woman



3. Scripture makes an issue out of the infertility of six women:

Sarah, Gen. 11:30;

Rebekah, Gen. 25:21;

Rachel, 29:31;

The mother of Samson, Judges 13:2;

Hannah, 1 Sam. 1;

Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, Luke 1:7.

7. In each case God miraculously brings forth life where there is no life. This is a picture of regeneration. Only God can solve the problem of spiritual birth.

8. The barren womb is a type of the virgin womb of Mary. There the solution to the barren womb is the new life in the incarnation of the God-man, Jesus Christ.

Judg. 13:3, “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, ‘Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.’ ” ~NKJV

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

the Angel of the Lord



1. The title: מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה *male'ak YHWH* “the messenger of *YHWH*.”

A supernatural being who either appeared (Judg. 6:12; 13:3) or verbally spoke (Gen. 22:11, 15; 31:11) to human beings.

1. The title: מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה *male'ak YHWH* “the messenger of *YHWH*.”

In each instance we see that the Angel of *YHWH* is seen as fully God, addressed as God, and is worshipped as God.

Remember the first commandment:

Ex. 20:2, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Judg. 6:8, “that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;” ’ ”

directly quoting the Mosaic Law.

2. Other designations in the Old Testament.

- **“The angel of the LORD” (Gen. 16:7, 9–11; 22:11, 15; Ex. 3:2; Num. 22:22–27, 31–32, 34–35; Judg. 6:11–12, 21–22; 13:3, 13, 15–18, 20–21).**
- **“The angel of God” (*Elohim*, Gen. 21:17; 31:11; Ex. 14:19; Judg. 6:20; 13:6, 9).**
- **The captain of the host of the Lord (Josh. 5:14–15).**

Gen. 21:17, “And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, ‘What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.’ ”

Gen. 31:11, “Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ ”

Judg. 13:6, “So the woman came and told her husband, saying, ‘A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.’ ”

2. The Angel and Hagar, Gen. 16:7–13; 21:17–18

Gen. 16:10, “Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, ‘I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.’ ”

Gen. 16:13, “Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You–Are–the–God–Who–Sees; for she said, ‘Have I also here seen Him who sees me?’ ”

3. The Angel of the LORD and Abraham, Gen. 22:1–18

Gen. 22:11, “But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, ‘Here I am.’”

Gen. 22:12, “And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’”

Gen. 22:14, “And Abraham called the name of the place, The–LORD–Will–Provide; as it is said to this day, ‘In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.’

Gen. 22:15, “Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,

Gen. 22:16, “and [He] said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—’ ”

4. The Angel of the LORD and Jacob, Gen. 31:11–13

Gen. 31:11, “Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’

Gen. 31:12, “And He said, ‘Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

Gen. 31:13, “ ‘I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’ ”

Gen. 32:28, “And He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.’

Gen. 32:29, “Then Jacob asked, saying, ‘Tell me Your name, I pray.’ And He said, ‘Why is it that you ask about My name?’ And He blessed him there.

Gen. 32:30, “So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: ‘For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.’ ”

Hos. 12:3, “He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God.

Hos. 12:4, “Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us—

Hos. 12:5, “That is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.”

Hos. 12:5, “As for the LORD God Almighty, the LORD is the name by which he is remembered!” ~NET

In the New Testament there is a clear identification of the Angel of the LORD with the Son.

5. In the Old Testament God has a Son, which indicates that They have the same nature.

“In the Old Testament, references to God’s having a Son are very significant because the term son signifies that a son has the same nature as his father. In the Old Testament and writings of post-biblical Judaism, the Hebrew words for *son* were ‘often used to denote the relationship which determines the nature of a man.’ ”

~Renald Showers, *Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels*

Psa. 2:7, “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ ”

The Son is called Mighty God.

Isa. 9:6, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace.”

6. In Exodus the Angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in the burning bush.

Ex. 3:2, “And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.”

Ex. 3:4, “So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’

Ex. 3:5, “Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.’

Ex. 3:6, “Moreover He said, ‘I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.”

John 8:58, “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’”

John 8:59, “Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

John 5:19, “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’ ”

John 10:36, “do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

John 10:37, “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

John 10:38, “but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.” ”

7. The Angel of the Lord had the same divine nature as the Lord God who sent Him before Israel.

Jesus Christ declared that He and the Father were one in nature [Jn. 10:30]. The Jews realized that He thereby was claiming to be God (absolute deity) [Jn. 10:31–33].

John 10:30, “ ‘I and My Father are one.’ ”

John 10:31, “Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.”

John 10:32, “Jesus answered them, ‘Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?’ ”

John 10:33, “The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’ ”

8. The Lord God who sent the Angel of the Lord before Israel stated that His name was in Him (Ex. 23:21). Jesus Christ said that He came in His Father's name (Jn. 5:43).

John 5:43, “I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.”

9. The Angel of the Lord was the Son who would be given by God the Father. The Scriptures indicate that Jesus Christ is the Son whom God the Father gave to the world (Jn. 3:16; Gal. 4:4; 1 Jn. 4:9).

10. The Angel of the Lord told Samson's parents that His name was "Wonderful" in nature.

Isaiah 9:6 indicated that the name of the Messiah, the Son whom God would give, would be called "Wonderful." It seems apparent from this that the angel of the Lord was the Messiah. The Hebrew for "wonderful" is uniquely used of only God.

11. The Angel of the Lord accompanied the people of Israel in their exodus journey out of Egypt to the land of Canaan. In 1 Corinthians 10:1–9, the Apostle Paul asserted that it was Christ who accompanied them in that journey.

1 Cor. 10:1, “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

1 Cor. 10:2, “all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

1 Cor. 10:3, “all ate the same spiritual food,

1 Cor. 10:4, “and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”

12. The Angel of the LORD and Gideon

- a. The Angel of the LORD commissions Gideon to drive out the oppressors. Only God does that.**

b. Twice the Angel of the LORD is called “the Lord.”

Judg. 6:12, “And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, ‘The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!’ ”

Judg. 6:14, “Then the LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’

Judg. 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’

Judg. 6:16, “And the LORD said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’ ”

c. The Angel of the Lord tells Gideon, vs. 16, “Surely I will be with you,” then look at vs. 36

Judg. 6:16, “And the LORD said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’ ”

Judg. 6:36, “So Gideon said to God, ‘If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—’ ”

d. Gideon's reaction was to fear immediate death. Judg. 6:22–23

He knew this was possible from other events (Ex. 3:6, 19:21).

e. He built an altar to worship the angel and was not rebuked.

13. Samson's father says that they saw God.

Judg. 13:19, “So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on—

Judg. 13:20, “it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.

Judg. 13:21, “When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD.

Judg. 13:22, “And Manoah said to his wife, ‘We shall surely die, because we have seen God!’ ”

14. The Angel of the LORD is distinct from God.

Ex. 23:20, “Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

Ex. 23:21, “Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

Ex. 23:22, “But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.”

Ex. 23:23, “For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.”

Ex. 14:19, “And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.”

Ex. 32:33, “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

Ex. 32:34, “ ‘Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin.’ ”

Ex. 33:1, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, “To your descendants I will give it.”’ ”

Ex. 33:2, “ ‘And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.’ ”

Conclusion: Because the LORD God sent this Angel “before” Israel, and because it was the Angel of the LORD who went “before” Israel (Ex. 14:19), it is apparent that the Angel whom the LORD God sent was the Angel of the LORD.

Ex. 14:19, “And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.”

15. More than one Being identified as LORD.

Jer. 23:5, “ ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

Jer. 23:6, “ ‘In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’ ”

Isa. 9:6, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace.”

Zech. 1:12, “Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?’ ”

Conclusion

In numerous passages the Angel of the LORD is identified as God, as full deity, called “God,” and “*Yhwh.*”

In other passages the Angel of the LORD is distinct from God.

Conclusion: There is a plurality in God.

Judg. 13:6, “So the woman came and told her husband, saying, ‘A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.’ ” ~NKJV

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

**the Significance of
the Name**



Judg. 13:6, “So the woman came and told her husband, saying, ‘A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 13:17, “Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, ‘What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 13:18, “And the Angel of the LORD said to him, ‘Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 13:18, “And the Angel of the LORD said to him, ‘Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?’ ” ~NKJV

פֶּלִיָּא *pe'li'y*

**Adjective
masc sing abs
wonderful**

Psa. 139:6, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.”

Isa. 9:6, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace.”

פֶּלֶא *pele*

**Noun comm masc sing abs
wonder**

Ex. 15:11, “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

Other passages:

2. The Angel and Hagar, Gen. 16:7–13; 21:17–18

Gen. 16:10, “Then **the Angel of the LORD** said to her, ‘I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.’ ”

Gen. 16:13, “Then **she called the name of the LORD** who spoke to her, You–Are–the–God–Who–Sees; for she said, ‘Have I also here seen Him who sees me?’ ”

Hos. 12:3, “He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God.

Hos. 12:4, “Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us—

Hos. 12:5, “That is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.” ~NKJV

Hos. 12:5, “As for the LORD God Almighty, the LORD is the name by which he is remembered!” ~NET

6. In Exodus the Angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in the burning bush.

Ex. 3:2, “And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.”

Ex. 3:4, “So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’

Ex. 3:5, “Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.’

Ex. 3:6, “Moreover He said, ‘I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.”

Ex. 3:13, “Then Moses said to God, ‘Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you,” and they say to me, “What is His name?” what shall I say to them?’

Ex. 3:14, “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, “I AM has sent me to you.” ’ ”

Ex. 3:15, “Moreover God said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: “The LORD 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 My memorial to all generations.”’”

Ex. 3:16, “ ‘Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, “The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, ‘I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;’ ” ’ ”

יְהוָה

Added the vowels from the Hebrew *Adonai*

הָיָה

יְהוּה

verb

***YHWH* probably a masculine singular**

“to be”

participial form, that became used as an adjective or noun, in this case it emphasizes eternality, i.e., the self-existent One: He Who Is; The One Who Always exists, continues to exist.

**1. In biblical times a name is related to the thing it names.
So that a name reflects the nature or essence of the
thing.**

**Gen. 21:33, “Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in
Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD,
the Everlasting God.”**

Gen. 22:14, “And Abraham called the name of the place, The–LORD–Will–Provide; as it is said to this day, ‘In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.’ ”

Jer. 23:27, “who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal.”

2. In Hebrew, the term for name originated with the meaning indicating something distinctive or a sign, so a name indicates something about the thing named.

In Greek, the word for name, *onoma*, derived from a word for knowledge, to know something about the object named.

Thus a name was not merely a label.

Acts 4:12, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:”

John 2:23, “Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did.”

John 3:18, “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 17:26, “And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 20:31, “but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Judg. 13:6, “So the woman came and told her husband, saying, ‘A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.’ ”

Judg. 13:17, “Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, ‘What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?’ ” ~NKJV