

THE GLORY OF GOD

JROC

Week 2 – The Angel of the Lord

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The glory of God...”glory” is *kavod* in Hebrew which means weightiness/weighty. “Glory” speaks to ALL GOD IS – all His attributes, His character, His reputation. God REVEALS His glory – He has manifested His glory to all of creation. God has shown Himself to all people, in all places, at all times.

Rom. 1:19-21 - *what may be known of God is manifest among them (mankind) for God has shown it to them (all of mankind!). For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made even His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse (indefensible)....*

In Genesis 22, the account of the near sacrifice of Isaac – which is known as the account of a father sacrificing his only son whom he loves, God provided a ram to be sacrificed in place of Isaac...as a substitute for Isaac. And yet in Gen. 22:8 we read that God told Abraham that He, God, would provide HIMSELF the lamb!!! What do we see in Gen. 22:8? God promises that He would be the lamb. But, the lamb was not provided in Gen. 22. There was a sacrifice – a substitutionary sacrifice – a ram. Because God made the promise of providing HIMSELF as the sacrificial lamb – that tells us that we are to look for the lamb to come.

Moses wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, inspired by the Holy Spirit, after the deliverance from Egypt, as they wandered in the desert toward the Promised Land. God intended to communicate Who He is to the children of Israel. The account of Abraham’s near sacrifice of Isaac foreshadowed Jesus in several ways. The children of Israel were told through Gen. 22 that they were to anticipate the lamb to come!

God’s infinite weight of glory cannot be contained. Therefore, God’s glory must be revealed! AND, at the very outset of the Bible we are impacted with theology...with doctrine from three Hebrew words: “b’ereshit bara Elohim,” *In the beginning God created*. We begin to be faced with the glory of God. God is eternal; God has no beginning. God told Moses that He is – I AM THAT I AM (Ex. 3:14). The “beginning” noted in Gen. 1:1 is the time frame concerning the creation. What was created by God? The universe, the heavens and the earth, were shaped, formed, fashion. How was the universe shaped? Many teach that God created *Ex nihilo* which is Latin for “from nothing.” The term *creation ex nihilo* refers to God creating everything from nothing. Prior to the moment that God created, there was nothing. God didn’t make the universe from preexisting building blocks. He started from scratch. There are some who do not agree with this thinking. Actually, the Bible never expressly states that God made everything from nothing, but it is certainly implied. We read in Hebrews 11:3 - *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible*. Scholars take this to mean that the

universe came into existence by divine command and was not assembled from preexisting matter or energy.

Elohim – “im” is a plural ending! God is called Elohim. We see a plurality in God at the outset. *Bara* which means created, made, shaped, formed...is in the singular. Grammatically, a noun that is in the plural must be followed by a verb in the plural. But, at the outset of Scripture, we don't have a grammatically correct sentence. But, we move on in Scripture and God unfolds Who He is. We move into the plurality of God when Gen. 1:2 speaks of the Spirit of God...and then onto Gen. 1:26 - *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;* And then we moved further into the Bible. And we see our tri-une God!

Do you believe the Bible is ONE story? Do you believe that the OT and NT are connected? Everything God has revealed from the outset is unfolding.

Malachi 4:5-6 - *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* These are the last two verses in the OT. This is the way the OT ends? Continue reading.... The book of Matthew begins with *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Jesus the Messiah), the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:* NOTE: in genealogies, the eldest is typically noted. This should say, “the Son of Abraham, the Son of David.” But, it doesn't. The Jewish people were looking for the Son of David – the Messiah! Here He is at the outset of the continuation of the story! Here is JESUS...the cure for the curse...the curse of sin!

Words on which we're focusing: reveal, respond, dwell, provide. God reveals Himself, we respond to His revelation. God's desire is to dwell with man (God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden in Eden; God came to dwell in the tabernacle in the wilderness and in the temple in Jerusalem). God, since the fall, has always provided **the** way back to HIM – the way of salvation.

God, Who is Spirit (John 4:24), has visibly manifested Himself. HOW? In the OT most of these visible manifestations of God took the form of light, fire, or cloud or a combination of these. And, at times in Scripture we see God taking on a physical form. A “theophany” is a manifestation of God in the Bible that is tangible to the human senses. One such physical form is the Angel of the LORD!

In Hebrew, the word for “angel,” is *malakh*. A *malakh* is “one who is sent,” or “a messenger,” either human or angelic. His identity is determined by the context in which the word “malakh” is used. There is one *malakh* who stands out from all the rest. The Bible calls Him, “**the** Angel of the Lord.” Of the 214 references to “malakh” in the OT, 33% are best translated as “the Angel of the LORD” Who is distinguished from all other angels. He represents God. YET, the Scriptures present this angel as more than God's

representative. This messenger, the Angel of the LORD, appears to have powers and abilities reserved only for God Himself. He speaks as God and the Angel of the LORD promises to deliver to the one with whom He's communicating only what God can deliver. The Angel of the Lord has been referred to as a rather mysterious figure Who appears suddenly, and dramatically, and frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Angel of the LORD does not appear in the NT! Throughout the OT, the Angel of the LORD often appeared in human form. Sometimes we hear His voice, as in Gen. 22. The Angel of the LORD guided the people of Israel, He spoke the promises of God and took the delivering of those promises upon Himself, He spoke prophecies, and administered judgment on Israel's enemies. The Angel of the LORD, God Himself, revealed Himself in a visible, personal way, taking a physical form.

The Angel of the Lord is first mentioned in Genesis 16 after Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian handmaiden, fled from Sarah. The Angel of the Lord found Hagar in the wilderness on her way back to Egypt. Gen. 16:7-8 - *Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.* ⁸ *And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?"* The Angel of the LORD comes to Hagar in her affliction. The text does not say that Hagar was calling out to the LORD. We read, though, in Gen. 16:11 that the Angel of the LORD tells her that *the LORD has heard your affliction*. God's intent in asking Hagar questions was to prompt Hagar to realize and verbalize. Why would Hagar give any information to this Angel?

The Angel of the LORD tells Hagar, *I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude*. Who can do that but GOD? And then the Angel of the LORD told Hagar that she was with child and He spoke about the future of the son she was to name, "Ishmael" (God hears). Hagar was to always remember this characteristic of the one true God!

God saw Hagar. But Hagar also saw God.

Gen. 16:13a - *Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees*. When Hagar realized that God had seen her, she responded by acknowledging that she had seen God. Hagar then named both the LORD and the spring after her personal experience with God!

Gen. 16:13b - *Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees* ("God" – *El Roi*); *for she said, 'Have I also here seen (lit. the back of) Him who sees me?'*

Gen. 16:14 - *Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; (lit. Well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me.*

The Angel of the LORD, according to Scripture, is a pre-incarnate appearance of the second person of the Trinity...the pre-Bethlehem appearance of God the Son, of Jesus. Not only could the Angel of the LORD assume human form, but we know from the unfolding of God's plan revealed to us in Scripture that He took on true humanity by being born into the human race. Phil. 2:6-7 - *who, being in the form of God, did not*

consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

We see the Angel of the LORD in Exodus 3 - *Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.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.³ Then Moses said, 'I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.'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.'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.'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. The Angel declared Himself to be God. And, the Angel accepted worship. Moses was told to remove his sandals as he was standing on holy ground. God alone is holy.*

When the LORD delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, Exodus 13:21-22 tells us - *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.*

Exodus 14:19-20, 24-25 - *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.²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night. ... Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty.*

God the Father told Moses,

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

We know from Scripture that the children of Israel did not always obey God. We come to Judges and read that every man did what was right in his own eyes! And in Judges 6 we read *Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,² and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Judges 6:6 - and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.*

Such was the cycle during this time in Israel's history: Israel sinned, they were delivered into the hand of the enemy, Israel cried out to the LORD, and God would send them a prophet to warn them, they would repent, and then fall back into sin. While Israel was oppressed by the Midianites, we read in Judges 6:11-12, 14 - *Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezerite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.* ¹² *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, 'The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!'* ...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?'*

Judges 6:16 - *And the LORD said to him, 'Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.'*

Judges 6:22 - *Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face."*

The Angel of the LORD prophesied the birth of Samson.

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. 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.* 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. ... 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; ... ⁸ Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."⁹ And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰ Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!" ¹¹ So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?" And He said, "I am." 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?" ¹⁸ And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?" 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—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. 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. ²² And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"*

Jacob wrestled with a "man" in Gen. 32:24-30 - *Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.* ²⁵ *Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of*

joint as He wrestled with him. ²⁶ And He said, 'Let Me go, for the day breaks.' But he said, 'I will not let You go unless You bless me!' ²⁷ So He said to him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Jacob.' 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.' 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. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: 'For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.'

Hosea 12:3-4 – of Jacob, Hosea records...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—⁵ That is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.

Israel had crossed the Jordan...they are in the Promised Land. And, they are camped at Gilgal anticipating the attack on Jericho...and we read

Joshua 5:13-15 - And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, 'Are You for us or for our adversaries?' ¹⁴ So He said, 'No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.' And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, 'What does my Lord say to His servant?' ¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, 'Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.' And Joshua did so.

This "Man" accepts worship from Joshua. Joshua is standing on holy ground. God alone is holy.

The Angel of the Lord is God. The "Man" Who wrestles with Jacob and with Joshua is God. These are all considered theophanies. Every theophany in which God takes on human form foreshadows the incarnation. In the incarnation, God took the form of a man to live among us as Emmanuel, "God with us," "God in the flesh" (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23).

The Angel of the LORD is also presented to us as an avenger of blood, of evil. He is a Judge. When Assyria threatened to destroy Israel (700's BC), it was the Angel of the LORD who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers besieging Jerusalem.

II Kings 19:35 - And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

How can this be? Jesus is the Kinsman Redeemer. The kinsman redeemer (kinsman – in the flesh; the closest relative) was responsible for protecting his family's property (Lev. 25:25-34) (Boaz, the kinsman redeemer in the book of Ruth – a type of Jesus - purchased back Naomi's property), for the liberty and posterity of his family (future generations; levirate marriage; Boaz married Ruth who was a childless widow) (Ruth 4:5, 10; Dt. 25:5-10). And, the kinsman redeemer was responsible for protecting the lives of his family through the avenging of blood (Num. 35:9-28....).

Jesus is the One Who said...

Isa. 61:1-2 - *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to reclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God;*

Luke 4:16-19 – Of His first Coming, Jesus announced it as the acceptable year of the Lord.

John 5:22 - *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,*

The avenger of blood in Scripture is also connected with the cities of refuge. Six cities were set apart to serve as places of asylum for the person who killed unintentionally/accidentally (Num. 35:9-34; Josh. 20:1-9). The Mosaic Law stated that anyone who committed a murder was to be put to death (Exodus 21:14). But for unintentional deaths, God set aside these cities to which the murderer could flee for refuge (Exodus 21:13). To prevent the “avenger of blood” from taking vengeance upon the accused before the nature of the homicide could be established, the Israelites were commanded to give every assistance to the fugitive in his flight to one of the designated cities (Ex. 21:25). Roads to these cities were to be properly maintained and signposted, and the location of each city was such that none was more than one day’s journey from any point in the land of Israel (Dt. 19:3). One who intentionally killed another person was to be put to death by the “avenger of blood” who was the Kinsman Redeemer, the nearest male relative of the deceased. The cities of refuge were established for unintentional manslayers. The unintentional manslayer’s case would go to trial. The congregation of Israel would judge to find if the attacker acted unintentionally. If he did, he would return to the city of refuge and live there safely until the death of the high priest who was in office at the time of the trial, at which point he could return to his property. If the attacker left the city of refuge before the death of the high priest, however, the avenger would have the right to kill him (Numbers 35:24-28).

The glory of God manifested/shown/displayed for us covers all our needs. What a glorious Kinsman Redeemer we have!

The cities of refuge are types of Jesus, in whom sinners find a refuge from the destroyer of our souls. Just as the guilty person sought refuge in the cities set up for that purpose, we flee to Jesus for refuge from sin (Hebrews 6:18). We run to Jesus to escape the danger we are in from the curse of sin in this fallen world, from the wrath of God, and from an eternity in hell. Only Jesus provides refuge, and it is to Him alone that we must run. Just as the cities were open to all who fled to them for safety, it is Jesus who provides safety to all who come to Him for refuge from sin and its punishment.

Rom. 11:33-36 - *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ For who has*

known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him? ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

QUESTIONS:

What are your V8 moments from this lesson?

How does this lesson matter to God?

How will God use this lesson in your life?

How are you impacted by the Angel of the Lord Who kills the Assyrians?

How would you describe/explain the glory of the LORD from His visible manifestations in physical form? What does God's glory encompass through what you've read about the Angel of the LORD and the "Man"?

STRONGLY SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread the handout with the references (including those not written out).

Make observations from the Biblical texts within this handout, ask questions, and begin to seek answers from the Bible for your questions.

Continue noting in your journal how God is revealing Himself to you and how you are responding.

Share what you have learned with at least one person.

Read the handout for week 3 when you receive it via Email prior to Week 3's class.