

Angels – Messengers of God

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for *Angel* is *mal'ak* and it means, *Messenger of God*. This word appears 102 times in the Old Testament. Often men would hear the voice or message of an angel and equate it to be the presence of God. The following verse illustrates this:

Judges 13:21-22 But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. And Manoah said unto his wife, **We shall surely die, because we have seen God.**

When one is aware that the word 'LORD' was often used to designate an encounter with an angel, then the instances of angels appearing in the Old Testament grows to many hundreds of times. The working of angels is found by a study of the words write, wrote, writer, writing, written, pen, heard, hearken, angel, angels, spoke, spake, hand, tongue, voice, word, words, and Lord in the Old Testament. Angels would deliver messages using either audible or inaudible words that were perceived in a mind. Visions, dreams, and actual encounter were methods of their appearing to men

The Bible records many instances of Angels having dialogue with men. Below is a sampling of these:

Zechariah :4:4-6: So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Judges 2:4: And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.

Angels were known to impart a vision or dream to a man and then help the man understand its meaning:

Genesis 46:2: And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

Numbers 4:4: He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

Numbers 24:16: He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

Why did only a few men receive angel's messages? The answer lies in understanding the prerequisite to being a receiver of God's messages. Unless a man has adequately developed and attuned his soul perceptions, he is unable to understand

spiritual things. The first ingredient needed is spiritual rapport. In the Bible, those men who were men of prayer and meditation and who truly longed for a right standing with God were chosen as fit vessels to receive His messages. The messages are spiritual and can only be understood spiritually:

1 Corinthians 2:14: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The human intellect is capable of understanding many things, but cannot totally grasp the meanings of spiritual truths.

We have seen that God uses Angels, His Messengers to impart His messages to a man who both receives and understands them through his spiritual perceptions. Once a man has received a message a number of options were open as to what should be done with it. Often the message contained in it instructions as to the immediate course of action. The message could be 1) written as it was being received, 2) spoken it as it was being received, or 3) retained in memory and written or spoken later. Sometimes a combination of these options was used as shown in the following samples:

2 Samuel 23:2: The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.

Jeremiah 36:4: Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

Exodus 17:14: And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

The flow of God's messages is illustrated below:



The Bible abounds with instances of God's message being spoken, but lasting value came when the messages were recorded in writing. Future generations have been guided for centuries by such written messages. In the following verse, the word *inditing* means 'to gush, to write down, compose, and to put down in writing.'

Psalms 45:1: My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: *my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.*

In the verse below David was able to understand by *writing by his hand upon me.* I believe that this was an instance of an Angel writing using David's hand.

1 Chronicles 28:19: All this, said David, the LORD made me understand *in writing by his hand* upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

The Bible has dozens of references to utilizing that which Moses and others penned messages as they received them through His Angels. Below are a few samples:

Leviticus 8:36 So Aaron and his sons did all things *which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.*

Joshua 20:2 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, Appoint out for you cities of refuge, *whereof I spake unto you by the hand of Moses:*

Numbers 10:13 And they first took their journey *according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.*

2 Chronicles:10:15 So the king hearkened not unto the people: for the cause was of God, *that the LORD might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.*

Thus we see that for God to use Angels to *speak through the hand* of a writer was a standard and accepted practice in the Old Testament. By doing this, future generations had authoritarian documents that could serve as a guide in learning of God's ways. Moses did not seek to be a spiritual leader but was confronted with an Angel speaking to him through a burning bush. He became both a leader and a writer, both speaking and writing that which he received from Angels.

It is a good thing that the Lord 'spake by the hand' of first one person and then another. This insured that the message would be long lived and not vanish as a crowd of listeners dispersed or died off.

We can be grateful for Angels, the messengers of God.

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