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Steven Ritchie · Oct 23, 2016 · 6 min read

# Did Christ Appear To Abraham As A Pre-Incarnate Son? Genesis 18-19



Genesis 18:1-3, "Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, 'My Lord, if I have now found favour in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.'" In the Hebrew "law of agency", "A PERSON'S AGENT IS REGARDED AS THE PERSON HIMSELF (Ned. 72b; Kidd. 41b)."

Yahweh God the Father clearly appeared to Abraham through angelic agency rather than as an alleged pre-incarnate Messiah. The Jews have always affirmed that God manifested Himself to Abraham through one of the three angels rather than literally existing as one of the angels. Hence, God manifested Himself and spoke through one of the three angels that were sent to Abraham rather than physically appearing as an angel.

The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion, Adama Books, New York, NY, 1986, pg. 15 states, "The angels that spoke the law were the LORD'S (Yahweh's) agents or representatives. As such, they had full authority to not only speak in His name, but to seemingly appropriate His name as in Exodus 20:2; 'I am the LORD (Yahweh) thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage'. They were speaking exactly what the LORD (Yahweh) wanted them to say."

The scriptures prove that God used both angels and men to reveal Himself by speaking on His behalf. Since God spoke through the mouths of the prophets saying, "I", "Me" and "My", how much more can God speak through His angelic representatives? Therefore, Yahweh God was able to appear and speak to Abraham by angelic agency without any of the angels actually being God Himself.

Genesis 18:16-22, "When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. Then the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, **so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him. Then the**

**LORD** said, The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know. The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD."

If God did not speak through an angel, why would God also say, "so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what HE HAS PROMISED him?" If the man was God Himself, God would not say, "that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what HE HAS PROMISED HIM?" If God was still speaking, He would have said, "I will bring about for Abraham what I have promised him". Here we can clearly see that a created angel also spoke some of his words just as the human prophets also spoke some of their words when God used them to speak His messages.

Genesis 18:23-26, "Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing - to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake".

Genesis 18:33, "When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home."

In a similar way that God spoke to Abraham through an angel, so the prophet Ahijah spoke to Jeroboam in 1 Kings 11:31-33, saying, "Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes (but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel), because they have forsaken Me."

Notice how the prophet Ahijah spoke the words of God Himself saying, "I will," "My servant David," "the city which I have chosen ... because they have forsaken ME". Would anyone say that Ahijah was God because God spoke through him saying, "I," "My" and "Me?" How much more can the angels speak on the behalf of God by saying, I, My and Me?

Acts 7:35-38 proves that the angel who spoke to Moses was not God.

"... this man (Moses) **God sent** as both ruler and redeemer **by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush**. 36This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. 37This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.' 38This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with **the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai**, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us." Acts 7:35-38 ESV

HELPS Word-studies: 5495 *xēir* – properly, hand; (figuratively) the instrument a person uses to accomplish their purpose (intention, plan).

Notice that GOD SENT Moses BY THE HAND OF THE ANGEL who appeared to him in the burning bush. The text does not say that the angel was GOD Himself. Also notice it was "THE ANGEL WHO SPOKE TO HIM" on Mount Sinai rather than God's actual voice. The same is true when God spoke to Abraham through angelic agency.

Genesis 19:13-14 states that the remaining two angels said to Lot, "... bring them (your family) out of the place; for **WE ARE ABOUT TO DESTROY THIS PLACE**, because their outcry has become so great before Jehovah that **YAHWEH HAS SENT US TO DESTROY IT**". Then Lot said to his family and relatives, "**YAHWEH WILL DESTROY THIS CITY**" in Gen. 19:14".

First the angels say, "WE ARE ABOUT TO DESTROY THIS PLACE" and that "YAHWEH HAS SENT US TO DESTROY IT", but then Lot said that "YAHWEH WILL DESTROY THIS CITY." Since Genesis 19:24 states that "Yahweh reigned on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire", we know that Yahweh destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah through His omnipresent power through angelic agency.

Genesis 19:24 says that "**Yahweh reigned on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire** from Yahweh out of heaven."

According to Trinitarian eisegesis, the angel who was left speaking to Abraham was Yahweh God the Son while the other two angels who entered Sodom were just angels. Hence, the alleged Trinitarian Yahweh God the Son Person was not even in Sodom to destroy the city. Since nothing is mentioned about the third angel who was left to speak to Abraham, it is apparent that the other two angels destroyed the city of Sodom by Yahweh's omnipresent power rather than the third angel.

Hebrews 1:1-2 states that "God spoke to the Israelite ancestors by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son". Since all three of the angels who appeared in Genesis 18 and 19 all SPOKE, none of the three angels could have been the Son of God.

Acts 12:11 states that Peter said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me ..." But Peter later went on to say in Acts 12:17 that "... the Lord had led him out of the prison." Notice how Peter first said that the Lord sent forth His angel to rescue him but he later said that "the Lord had led him out of the prison" without mentioning the angel. If Trinitarians can prove that the angel who delivered Peter out of the prison in Acts chapter twelve was an alleged Yahweh God the Son, then we can believe that one of the three angels who appeared to Abraham on the plain of Mamre was Yahweh God the Son. Therefore, we know that the LORD uses His angels to appear too, and speak to His servants, and that THE LORD Himself is spoken of in scripture as delivering His people through angelic agency.

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