

Deity of Christ**The Identity of the "Angel of the LORD"**

He is both God, and distinguished from God. He is the Sent One.

- **People who saw Him feared that they would die because they saw God:**
 - Exod. 33:20 "You cannot see my face, for a man shall not see me and live."
 - In Judges 6 and 13, those who saw the Angel of the LORD feared that they would die because they had seen God
 - Judges 6:22–23 Gideon "saw that it was the Angel of the Lord" (6:22), and he feared for his life.
 - Manoah "knew that it was the Angel of the Lord" (13:21) and he also feared for his wife's life and his own life (13:22)
- **He is described as being "awesome"**
 - ..."His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome..." (Judges 13:6)
 - Manoah's wife described him as "a man of God" (Judges 13:6)
- **He is alternately YHWH and a representative of YHWH:**
 1. Judges 6:14 & 16 — YHWH
 2. Judges 6:12 — Distinguished from YHWH
 3. Judges 2:1–3 — YHWH
 4. Manoah states very clearly that having seen the Angel of YHWH, he and his wife had seen God Himself (13:22).
- **Who is "THE ANGEL/MESSENGER OF YHWH"?:**
 - No one but the Pre-Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ fits the description.
 - The term "The Angel of the LORD" disappears after the Incarnation.
 - The "Angel of the LORD" is often mentioned in the context of God dwelling with man.
 - Christ is the "sent One" who served as the messenger of YHWH in the OT as well as NT.
 - The "Angel of the LORD" appearances were to prepare the people of God for the coming of One who would: (1) represent God, (2) be truly man, (3) be truly God, (4) be the ultimate realization of the OT ideal of "Immanuel" — 'God with us'. His appearances were preparatory for the Incarnation where we see all the same attributes and characteristics of the Angel of the LORD embodied in the Person of Christ.

Witness of the New Testament

- According to the Bible Jesus is "God", "Lord", and "Yahweh." Jesus is "worshipped" without reproof or qualification. The Apostle Thomas announced that, having seen the risen Christ, He was **"My Lord and My God" - not "one of my Lords" and "one of my Gods."** The New Testament places **no limitation or restriction on how much honor or devotion one may give to Jesus.** In the context of prayer He said **"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."** (John 14:14, NASB). Is any creature omnipotent? Is any created being entitled to or capable of hearing the prayers of all men?

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Isaiah 6 compared to John 12

- Compare Isaiah 6:1-5 with John 12:41
- Compare Isaiah 6:10 with John 12:39-40
- Consider John 12:37
- Isaiah saw Jesus in Isaiah 6

Isaiah 43:10 - "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, In order that you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. **Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.** (Isaiah 43:10 NASB).

- No God or god came into existence before YHWH.
- No God or god will come into existence after Him. No one will be rewarded with "godhood." No creature can ever become a God or god.
- Jesus cannot be a "created god" or a "lesser god" -- **there is NO OTHER GOD.** See Isaiah 44:8: **"And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any [other] Rock? I know of none."** = If Jesus was a created "god" YHWH says He didn't know of him.
- We are to be witnesses of this fact; we are to believe and know God and serve God by declaring this to all nations.

YHWH and Christ in Isaiah 40-48 and the New Testament

Christ is the same as YHWH

	ISAIAH	NEW TESTAMENT
1	YHWH is the "First and the Last":	Christ is the "First and the Last"
	"I, YHWH, am the first; And with the last I am He." (Isaiah 41:4)	"I am the First and the Last. (Rev. 1:17) "These things says the First and the Last " (Rev. 2:8) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. " (Rev. 22:13)
2	YHWH is the only "Savior"	Christ is the "Savior"
	"I, even I, am YHWH, And besides Me there is no savior. " (Isaiah 43:11)	For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11) 1 John 4:14 the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.
3	YHWH is Redeemer	Christ is Redeemer
	As for our redeemer, YHWH of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 47:4, KJV).	Christ hath redeemed us... (Galatians 3:13) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity... (Titus 2:14)
4	YHWH is the "Rock"	Christ is the "Rock"
	Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock ; I know not one. (Isa 44:8)	For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4) "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him [Jesus] will not be put to shame." (Romans 9:33)
5	YHWH is the King of Israel	Christ is the King of Israel
	I am YHWH, your Holy One...your King. (Isaiah 43:15) Thus saith YHWH the King of Israel...and beside me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6)	Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews? " He answered him and said, "It is as you say." (Luke 23:3) "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt." (John 12:15) the Lamb...is Lord of lords, and King of kings (Rev. 19:14)
6	YHWH is the Holy One	Christ is the Holy One
	I am YHWH, your Holy One ... (Isaiah 43:15) As for our Redeemer, YHWH of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 47:4)	"And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." (John 6:69) Because thou wilt not leave my soul in sheol, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (Acts 2:27)

Trinitarian Heresies

Modalism (i.e. Sabellianism, Noetianism and Patripassianism)

- ...taught that the three persons of the Trinity as different “modes” of the Godhead. Adherents believed that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not distinct personalities, but different modes of God's self-revelation. A typical modalist approach is to regard God as the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Spirit in sanctification. In other words, God exists as Father, Son and Spirit in different eras, but never as triune. Stemming from Modalism, Patripassianism believed that the Father suffered as the Son.
- Modalism is probably the most common theological error concerning the nature of God. It is a denial of the Trinity which states that God is a single person who, throughout biblical history, has revealed Himself in three modes, or forms. Thus, God is a single person who first manifested himself in the mode of the Father in Old Testament times. At the incarnation, the mode was the Son. After Jesus' ascension, the mode is the Holy Spirit. These modes are consecutive and never simultaneous. In other words, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit never all exist at the same time, only one after another. Modalism denies the distinctiveness of the three persons in the Trinity even though it retains the divinity of Christ.
- Present day groups that hold to forms of this error are the United Pentecostal and United Apostolic Churches. They deny the Trinity, teach that the name of God is Jesus, and require baptism for salvation. These modalist churches often accuse Trinitarians of teaching three gods. This is not what the Trinity is. The correct teaching of the Trinity is one God in three eternal coexistent persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Tritheism

- ...Tritheism confesses the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three independent divine beings; three separate gods who share the 'same substance'. This is a common mistake because of misunderstanding of the use of the term 'persons' in defining the Trinity.

Arianism

- ...taught that the preexistent Christ was the first and greatest of God's creatures but denied his fully divine status. The Arian controversy was of major importance in the development of Christology during the fourth century and was addressed definitely in the Nicene Creed.

Docetism

- ...taught that Jesus Christ as a purely divine being who only had the “appearance” of being human. Regarding his suffering, some versions taught that Jesus' divinity abandoned or left him upon the cross while other claimed that he only appeared to suffer (much like he only appeared to be human).

Ebionitism

- ...taught that while Jesus was endowed with particular charismatic gifts which distinguished him from other humans but nonetheless regarded Him as a purely human figure.

Macedonianism

- ...that that the Holy Spirit is a created being.

Adoptionism

- ...taught that Jesus was born totally human and only later was “adopted” – either at his baptism or at his resurrection – by God in a special (i.e. divine) way.

Partialism

- ...taught that Father, Son and Holy Spirit together are components of the one God. This led them to believe that each of the persons of the Trinity is only part God, only becoming fully God when they come together.