

Yahweh's Messenger as "The Mighty One of Jacob"

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I. "Yahweh's Messenger" as "the Mighty One of Jacob"

A. **Jacob fleeing from his brother Esau in Canaan (Gen. 28):** He first encountered Yahweh's "Messenger," who was called both "Yahweh" and "God."

Gen. 28:10-22 *Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took **one of the stones** of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 12 And he had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the LORD STOOD above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 14 Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 "And behold, I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*

16 *Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." 18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on its top. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel [house of God]; however, previously the name of the city had been Luz.*

20 *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, 21 and I return to my father's house in safety, then the LORD will be my God. 22 "And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that Thou dost give me I will surely give a tenth to Thee."*

B. **Jacob working for Laban in Haran (Gen. 31).** The "God" who appeared to Jacob at Bethel, at the top of the ladder, was "Yahweh's Messenger."

Gen. 31:11-13 (NKJV) 11 *"Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' 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. 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.'"*

1. "Yahweh," who stood at the top of Jacob's ladder (Gen. 28:13), was "The Messenger of Yahweh."

2. The “stone” which was Jacob’s pillow was “anointed” (the meaning of “Christ”)

3. John 1:51 (NKJV) 51 *“And He [Jesus] said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” [the anointed stone].*

4. **Symbolism:** The “Angel [Messenger] of Yahweh” standing at the top of Jacob’s ladder was the pre-human Son of God. The “stone” at the foot of the ladder which Jacob “anointed” represents the human Son of God. The ladder represents his descending from heaven to become flesh.

C. Jacob returning to Canaan with wives, children, and possessions (Gen. 32): Jacob wrestled with the Angel of Yahweh who changed his name to “Israel.” Jacob then asked His name, but He refused to give away the “secret.” Jacob then said He had seen **God** face to face. (Gen. 32:24-30). All references to the name “Israel” point back to this “wrestling,” where Jacob refused to give up. The name “Israel” means “*prevailed with God.*”

D. Jacob fleeing from the Hivites (Gen. 35): “Yahweh’s Messenger” is again called “God” Gen. 35:1-3 (NKJV) 1 *Then God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.”* 2 *And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.* 3 *Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone.”*

E. Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons in Egypt (Gen. 48:16): Jacob referred to “Yahweh’s Messenger” as “The Angel [Messenger] *who has redeemed me from all evil.*”

F. Jacob prophesied concerning his 12 sons: He acknowledged that Joseph’s ultimate victory over his brothers was because of “the Mighty One of Jacob”: Gen. 49:24 *“But his bow remained firm, and his arms were agile, from the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel).*

1. From “the Mighty One of Jacob,” who is “the Angel of Yahweh,” comes:

a. “The Shepherd” (Jn. 10:11,14; 1 Pet. 5:4; Heb. 13:20; Rev. 7:17)

b. “The Stone” (Psalm 118:22; Isa. 8:14; Isa. 28:16; Matt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Lk. 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Cor. 3:11; 1 Cor. 10:Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:7-8; Rev. 7:17).

G. “The Mighty One of Jacob” is Zion’s Redeemer and Husband (Isa. 49-50, 60-66)