

My Angel

Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 10

Study Guide

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I. JESUS, THE GUARDIAN PROTECTOR

KEY NOTE: Jesus is the preexistent, non-created, eternal God, and Lord and King.

Genesis 1:3

And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Malachi 3:13-15

¹³ “Your words have been stout against me, says the LORD. Yet you say, ‘How have we spoken against thee?’ ¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the good of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’ ¹⁵ Henceforth we deem the arrogant blessed; evildoers not only prosper but when they put God to the test they escape.’”

Genesis 17:1-7

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.”

Genesis 15:1, 5-6

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to

number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.

A. The Call of Abraham

1. The Old Testament begins with life, and it ends with betrayal. It starts with light, and it ends with darkness (Genesis 1:3; Malachi 3:13-15).
2. The book of Genesis leads us from the fall of Adam to the call of Abraham (Genesis 17:1-2). It leads us from the apostasy of the tower builders of Babel [see Genesis 11:1-9] to the call of a man who left the land of tower builders with towering faith (Genesis 15:6).
3. When all the nations of the earth rebelled against God at the tower of Babel by choosing demons for gods, God found a man with pure faith who chose the true God of Creation to be his God (Genesis 15:6). That man was named Abraham (Genesis 17:5). [See also: Genesis 12:1-4.]
4. During the dark era when demons ruled the world as gods, God ruled the house of Abraham as the Angel of the Lord (Genesis 15:1, 5-6; 17:1-6).
5. The nation of Israel came late upon the scene of world history. It was not a nation when God began to work with it. It became God’s nation in time (Genesis 17:4-7).

Exodus 23:20-21

²⁰ “Behold, I send an angel before you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place which I have prepared. ²¹ Give heed to him and hearken to his voice, do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression; for my name is in him.”

John 1:11

He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

Isaiah 44:6

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

Isaiah 63:9-10

⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved his holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

B. The Guardian Angel of Israel

1. When all the nations of the world chose demons and evil angels as their guardian protectors and spiritual princes, Jesus was the Guardian Protector of ancient Israel (Exodus 23:20; John 1:11).
2. Jesus was not an angel as other angels who were created beings. He was the Angel of the LORD who is the LORD. Christ was the God of the Old Testament who tenderly cared for and guided the nation of Israel (Isaiah 44:6; 63:9).
3. Jesus stood as the only protection against an army of evil angels who moved the nations to attempt to destroy Israel. Israel's fate was tied to their obedience to Christ in His pre-existent form (Isaiah 63:9-10).
4. The Guardian Protector of the Jewish nation was the only being who could keep the soul and guide the people of God to the Promised Land. To rebel against the Guardian Protector of ancient Israel meant eventual death and judgment (Exodus 23:21).
5. At Mount Sinai, God assigned Jesus Christ to the nation of Israel as its Guardian Angel. One hundred percent fully God, uncreated, eternal in nature, the second person of the triune Godhead guided Israel in the form of an angel.
6. The Angel of the LORD in the Old Testament is Jesus Christ, God's ultimate Messenger and Guardian Protector. At Mount Sinai, God assigned Jesus to protect the new nation in a very dangerous world (Exodus 23:20-21).

Exodus 23:21

“Give heed to him and hearken to his voice, do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression; for my name is in him.”

Isaiah 63:9-10

⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved his holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

Psalms 23:1-3

¹ A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want; ² he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Malachi 3:1-2

¹ “Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.”

John 1:10-11

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

C. The Name of the LORD

1. In Exodus 23:21, God said, “My name is in him.” And when God’s name is in this Angel, it means He is God – not a god, but God. In the Bible:
 - God’s name is **God’s Covenant**.
 - God’s name is **God’s Presence**.
 - God’s name is **God’s Truth**.
 - God’s name is **God’s Character**.
2. Jesus was given to Israel as the guarantee of God’s covenant name and covenant protection (Exodus 23:20).
3. The Great “I Am” of Mount Sinai was inside the Angel who guided Israel in the Old Testament. The Law which God spoke on Mount Sinai was in the Angel who guided His people from Sinai (Isaiah 63:9).
4. David said, “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.” Jesus was the LORD and Shepherd way back then just as much as He is the Good Shepherd today (Psalm 23:1).
5. Jesus was the Messenger of the Covenant who had the Covenant deep within because by His very nature He carried God’s name (Exodus 23:21; Malachi 3:1-2).
6. Jesus was the unseen force and the constant voice that guided the prophets and spoke to them in time of need (Isaiah 63:9). And yes, He made war with His own people to bring them back to God...God was at war with his own people (Isaiah 63:10).
7. Jesus was God in angel form who guarded and guided Israel, and carried them all the days of old (Isaiah 63:9; John 1:10-11).

Isaiah 63:9-10

⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved his holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

Malachi 1:2

“I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How hast thou loved us?”

Malachi 2:17

You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

Daniel 11:16, 23

¹⁶ But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him; and he shall stand in the glorious land, and all of it shall be in his power. ²³ And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully; and he shall become strong with a small people.

D. The Guardian Protector Rejected

1. In the Old Testament, all the nations of the world were faithful to their gods that were no gods at all, but Israel was unfaithful to the one true God that was God (Isaiah 63:9-10).
2. The Old Testament is the history of God in conflict with His own people. At times, it is set in the language of a legal lawsuit where God calls for the witnesses of sky, sea, earth, and mountains to bear witness to the faithlessness of His people (Malachi 1:2; .2:17).
3. The Old Testament ends with Israel’s rejection of God’s rule and the Angel of the LORD whom God had sent to protect them (Isaiah 63: 9-10).
4. In the second century B.C., in the famous treaty with Judas Maccabaeus the people of God chose Rome as their protector (Daniel 11:16, 23).
5. When Israel chose Rome, it rejected Jesus and the destroying angel of Rome became the ruler of the nation of Israel. God in angel form could no longer speak to His people and be heard.

II. THE BROKEN COVENANT

Malachi 1:2

“I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How hast thou loved us?”

Malachi 2:15-17

¹⁵ Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.” ¹⁷ You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

A. God’s Testimony Against Israel

1. In the book of Malachi, God has a controversy with His people who have rejected His authority (Malachi 2:16).
2. The book of Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament before the birth of Jesus. Malachi literally means “My Angel.” The word angel can also mean messenger.
3. God engages His Old Testament church to save them. And He indicts them for an attitude of cynicism and faithlessness where there should be faith (Malachi 1:2).
4. In the book of Malachi, God said, “Guard the spirit within you” and be true to your wife (Malachi 2:15-16). Yet, the leaders of Judea were offering sick and lame sacrifices, and freely divorcing their wives with impunity.
5. The nation of Israel starts with the faith of Abraham, and it ends with religious leaders who are so cynical and faithless that they no longer believe it’s worth serving God. In fact, they challenge God’s character as evil in the context of Malachi 2:17.
6. The nation that was meant to lead the world to truth was now led by leaders who chose Greek philosophy in place of Bible truth.
7. The nation of Israel came to doubt the very presence of the LORD who had guided them all the days of old. They performed their religious rites in a perfunctory way as a job for gain instead of a holy calling for God.

Hebrews 10:5-7

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

B. The 400 Silent Years

1. Four hundred years would pass and there would be no prophets after the book of Malachi until John the Baptist appeared, followed shortly thereafter by Jesus.
2. The Jewish nation would surrender its theology to the philosophy of the Greeks for four hundred years.
3. The silence of the prophets was deafening and the Word of God was heard no more in the land. The voice of God in angel form was to be heard no more in the ear of the prophets forever.
4. With the light of a new age, a voice of Divine providence was heard that broke the silence of prophetic history (Hebrews 10:7). The Guardian Protector of the Jewish nation was born into human history – Son of Man and Son of God (Hebrews 10:5-7).

John 1:10-14

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Revelation 19:10

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸ Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Luke 2:15-16

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

John 10:10-11

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Galatians 3:27, 29

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Joel 2:32

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:9-13

⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his

riches on all who call on him.¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Luke 4:18

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

C. A Light in the Darkness

1. The Word of God that every hurting heart needs to hear became the voice of a man and the Desire of Ages (John 1:14).
2. The Messenger of the Covenant became a man who speaks clearly for the heart and mind of God. And the spirit of prophecy in the Old Testament became the testimony of Jesus in the New Testament (John 1:1-5; Revelation 19:10).
3. The inadequate sacrifices of the sons of Levi were replaced by a Lamb without blemish who takes away the sins of the world, ending the necessity for all sacrifices forever (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
4. The voice of God became the voice of a baby crying in the night. And the Angel of the LORD, the Guardian Protector of Israel, became the servant of the LORD who is the LORD (John 1:10-13; Galatians 4:4-7).
5. Jesus is the condescension of God from eternity, first into angel form and later into human form found in a manger (Luke 2:15-16).
6. The Guardian Protector of the Jewish nation has become the Good Shepherd of the Christian church (John 10:10-11).
7. God’s people are still His people wherever faith is found; He dwells with them by faith through His Spirit. They belong to Him by the power and promise of the Covenant (Galatians 3:27, 29).
8. Jesus will accept anyone and everyone who calls on His name to be saved. And all of God that you can ever know is available in Christ Jesus (Joel 2:32; John 3:16; Romans 10:9-13).
9. The Guardian Protector of the Jewish nation had become a Son of Abraham to save His people. He was the seed of Abraham, and He is the true Israel of God that is faithful to God (Luke 4:18).
10. Through faith in Jesus Christ, you belong to the people of God as part of the Israel of God. If you have Jesus Christ, all the promises of God are answered “yes” in Him, and you come under the protection and tender care of the Angel of the LORD who is the LORD (Galatians 3:29).