

Who Was the Spokesman of the Covenant at Mt. Sinai?

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It has been assumed that Almighty God delivered the law and commandments to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai personally. If this is correct, there are a number of scriptures that contradict this belief and therefore require explanation. Also, if it was not Almighty God who spoke to Israel from Mount Sinai, who was the spokesman that represented Him?

According to a number of statements made by Jesus Christ, it is clear that Almighty God has not been seen or heard by any mortal being at any time. Consequently He could not have spoken directly to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai,

And the Father having sent me (proof that Christ pre-existed), **has testified of me. You have neither heard his voice at any time nor have you seen his form** (Jn. 5:37; RNT; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the one (Christ) **from God** (proof that Christ pre-existed); **this one** (Christ) **has seen** (prior to Christ becoming flesh and blood) **the Father** (Jn. 6:46; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

No one has ever yet seen God (Most High); the onlyborn god (3439 Gk. *monogenes* + 2316 Gk. *theos*, heavenly or divine being, a god, angel(s); proof that Christ pre-existed as a divine created being; Heb. equiv. SHD 430 *elohim*), the one being in the bosom of the Father, that one explains (acts as spokesman for Almighty God) (Jn. 1:18; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

No one has seen God (Almighty) at any time (1Jn. 4:12a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

It is rarely disputed in the Christian world that Jesus Christ was a representative, or spokesman for Almighty God during his earthly ministry. However, it is just as rare to find anyone teaching that he also represented Almighty God during the First Covenant under different names and titles.

Based on the following scripture, it can be concluded that if Jesus Christ represented Almighty God during the Second Covenant, he would also have represented Him during the First Covenant. Those who argue incorrectly that Christ did not exist prior to his earthly ministry would have to misinterpret this next scripture,

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday (prior to his earthly ministry), today (after his death and resurrection), and forever (Heb. 13:8; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Whenever Christ speaks, he says exactly what Almighty God has directed him to say,

Because the words that You (Almighty God) gave to me, I (Christ) have given to them (his disciples); they also received and truly know that I came forth from You (proof of Christ's pre-existence), and they believed that You sent me (Jn. 17:8; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

I (Christ) have many things to say and judge concerning you, but the One (Almighty God) having sent me (proof that Christ was sent by Almighty God to teach and then serve as a sacrifice for sin; cf. Rev. 13:8) is true; and what I heard from Him, (Almighty God) these I speak to the world (Jn. 8:26; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Then Jesus said to them (the Jews; cf. vs. 22), "When you lift up (to execute on an upright pole, or tree; cf. Ac. 5:30) the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he (cf. Deut. 18:15, 18-19; Mk. 6:15), and I do nothing of myself, but just as the Father taught me, these things I speak. 29 And the One (Almighty God) having sent me is with me (through God's Holy Spirit); He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to Him" (Jn. 8:28-29; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

So it should be clear from these and many other scriptures that Almighty God communicates to His created realm through His spokesman, who has been known by the name Jesus Christ, or Messiah, since the first century CE. Understanding this distinction is a prerequisite to inheriting everlasting life,

But this is age-abiding (everlasting) life, that they (all sinners) may know you, the only true God (the Most High), and Jesus Christ whom you sent (Jn. 17:3; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Consequently, anyone who has truly repented of their sins and been baptized according to the correct Biblical instructions (see studies on Baptism), will receive Almighty God's Holy Spirit which will lead them to understand the truth about who God the Father is and who His son Jesus Christ is. Anyone believing that Almighty God is a trinity is incapable of understanding the scripture in John 17:3. For those who have not been misled by the doctrine of the trinity or other similar false doctrines about Almighty God, it should become apparent that He has always expressed His will through His spokesman, who was not known by the name of Jesus Christ during the First Covenant. Instead, the one who became Jesus Christ was known by different names and those names will be examined in the following scriptures,

Behold, I (Almighty God) send an Angel before you (nation of Israel) to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My (Almighty God's) name is in Him (Ex. 23:20-21; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

When Almighty God states that His name is in this Angel, He means that this Angel acts with His authority, and anyone acting with His authority carries the names associated with Almighty God. This truth is confirmed in a prophecy foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ,

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given (through the birth of Jesus Christ); and the government (of Almighty God, which includes His law and commandments) will be upon his (Christ's) shoulder. And his (Christ's) name will be called Wonderful (SHD

6382), Counselor, Mighty God (410 Heb. *El*), Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom (spiritual Israel), to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts (Almighty God) will perform this (Isa. 9:6-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

So all these names, and descriptive titles, are associated with the one who became known as Jesus Christ. One of these words describes the result of Christ's future work, which is Wonderful,

Then Manoah (Samson's father) said to the Angel of the Lord, "What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?" And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask My name seeing it is wonderful?" (SHD 6383; wonderful, fantastic, beyond understanding) (Jdg. 13:17-18; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This last scripture is very important because it shows that the Angel of God directs any praise to Almighty God. In essence, the Angel of God is questioning why anyone would want to credit good works to him when he is only fulfilling the will of Almighty God. Consequently, the descriptive title *wonderful* applies ultimately to Almighty God even though the Angel of God carries this title as part of his mandate. Jesus Christ taught these same principles during his earthly ministry,

And travelling out in the way, a man having run toward him (Christ) and having fallen on his knees, was questioning him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good (in the ultimate sense) except one, God (Most High, the Father) (Mk. 10:17-18; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; cf. Mt. 19:16-17).

But who from among you (Christ's disciples), having a servant plowing or shepherding, having come in from the field, will say, 'Come immediately and recline?' 8 "But will he (the master of the house) not say to him, 'Prepare what I will eat, and gird yourself, and serve me while I eat and drink; and after this you may eat and drink?' 9 "He does not thank the servant because he did the things which were commanded. 10 "In this way, you also, when you do all that has been commanded to you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have done what we ought to do'" (Lk. 17:7-10; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphases added).

Moses spoke with this Angel of God prior to leading Israel out of Egypt,

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him (Moses) in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, but the bush was not consumed (Ex. 3:2; emphases added; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So when the Lord (SHD 3068) saw that he (Moses) turned aside to look, God (SHD 430) called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he (Moses) said, "Here I am." (Ex. 3:4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

As Almighty God's voice has never been heard by any mortal being, the God (god, divine being; SHD 430) who called to Moses would have been the Angel of God, and the Lord (SHD 3068) who saw Moses turn aside to look at the bush,

would have been Almighty God. Because various translations of the Old Testament do not correctly identify who of the Angel of God is, they often use words that obscure the interaction between Almighty God and His spokesman.

For example, the English translation of the Septuagint (LXX) renders both SHD 3068 and SHD 430 as “Lord,” which puts no distinction between two separate beings who are working and interacting with each other.

Because the Angel of God fulfills the will of Almighty God and is in complete agreement with Him, this Angel takes his job personally. In other words, when he makes a proclamation or command from Almighty God and someone disobeys the instructions, this Angel responds as if the disobedience was against him as well (Ex. 23:20-21),

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice and wept (Jgs. 2:1-4; cf. Ex. 23:20-21; emphases added).

It is no coincidence then, that Jesus Christ expressed his anger in a similar manner during the time of his earthly ministry with those who were transgressing his Father’s commands,

And Jesus went into the temple and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the chairs of those who were selling doves. 13 And he said to them, **“It has been written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you make it a ‘den of thieves’”** (Mt. 21:12-13; RNT; words in bold denote OT quote; cf. Mk. 11:17).

Moses understood the relationship between Almighty God and His Angel very well. Moses knew when the nation of Israel cried to Almighty God asking for help, forgiveness, and deliverance that the Angel of God was the one who would be sent to fulfill all the tasks necessary in answer to Israel’s request,

Now Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom (relative of Esau who was Jacob’s brother). “This says your brother Israel: ‘You know all the hardship that has befallen us, how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians afflicted us and our fathers. When we cried out to the Lord (SHD 3068), He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt; now here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border (Nu. 20:14-16; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

As the apostle Paul was instructed by Jesus Christ (Ac. 9:10-16; 1Cor. 11:23ff; 2Cor. 12:8-9; Gal. 1:15-18), the connection between the Angel of God and Jesus Christ was revealed to him and he explained it to the brethren in Corinth,

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food (figuratively ate God's word; cf. Mt. 4:4), and all drank the same spiritual drink (figuratively drank God's law and commandments). For they drank of (were taught these things by) that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ (1Cor. 10:1-3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Paul made it clear that the Angel of God was the one who became Jesus Christ. This Angel of God taught ancient Israel to follow the law and commandments of Almighty God. As Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (cf. Heb. 13:8), he is still teaching the law and commandments to those who have truly repented of sin and he will continue to do so after he returns to rule this planet (cf. Ps. 2:1-12; Rev. 12:5).

One of the leaders in the early church, Stephen, also understood the connection between the prophet that Moses said would come, who was Jesus Christ, and the Angel of God,

This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. He (the Angel) brought them out after he (the Angel) had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years. This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.' This is he (Moses) who was in the congregation (assembly or church) in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give us (Ac. 7:35-38; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The Angel of God spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai because no one has seen or heard Almighty God. It is the Angel of God who gave the law and commandments to the nation of Israel through Moses. Not only did Moses see this Angel, the elders of Israel did as well. In fact, they ate a fellowship meal in his presence,

Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel, and they saw the God (SHD 430; same word used to describe the Angel of God; cf. Ex. 3:4) of Israel. And there was under his feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel he did not lay his hand. So they saw God (SHD 430, *elohim*, a divine being), and they ate and drank (Ex. 24:9-11).

This member of Almighty God's household that was seen on Mount Sinai was none other than the Angel of God who later became Jesus Christ. The fact that Christ is an archangel with the position of Morning Star is mentioned in a number of scriptures, and Christ is not the only Morning Star. The Adversary also had this position, but was stripped of it due to his sin and rebellion against his heavenly Father,

How you (Satan) are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (Light-Bearer), son of the morning (Morning Star)! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

(both within the spirit realm and the physical realm; cf. Rev. 12:7) (Isa. 14:12ff; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I (Christ) am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16).

To what were its (the Earth's) foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstones, when the morning stars (archangels) sang together, and all the sons of God (other angels) shouted for joy? (Job 38:6-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added)

As Jesus Christ pointed out in Revelation 22:16, he has been given authority over other angels who also want to do the will of Almighty God,

I am he who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive (through a resurrection from the dead) forevermore. Amen. And I (Christ) have the keys of Hades and of Death. Write the things which you (the apostle John) have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars (cf. Job 38:7) are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp-stands which you saw are the seven churches (Rev. 1:20).

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says he (Christ) who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp-stands: I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars (Rev. 2:1-2ff).

The Angel of God worked with other loyal angels during the First Covenant when dealing with the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:1-2; 19:1). It was the Angel of God, along with the other loyal angels, that the apostle Paul referred to when discussing the law and commandments being given to ancient Israel at Mount Sinai,

What purpose then does the law (regarding animal sacrifices) serve? It was added because of transgressions (so that it could be a temporary means of forgiveness until Christ came), till the Seed (cf. Gen. 3:15) should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator (Moses) (Gal. 3:19; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The deacon Stephen also knew that the law and commandments were given to ancient Israel through the Angel of God who was in the company of all the other loyal angels at that time,

Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One (referring to Jesus Christ; the Messiah), of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it (Ac. 7:52-53).

As the following scripture states, many loyal angels witnessed the Angel of God giving the law and commandments at Mount Sinai,

Now this is a blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said: "The Lord came from Sinai and dawned (Morning Star) on them (nation of Israel) from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints (*Lit.* "holy ones"; i.e. other angels – divine created beings); from His right hand came a fiery law for them (Deut. 33:1-2).

The one who became known as Jesus Christ also had the title "Commander of the army of the Lord" during the First Covenant, which proves that he had authority over many angels who were loyal to Almighty God,

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" So he (Angel of God) said, "No, but as Commander (SHD 8269 – Captain) of the army of the Lord (SHD 3068) I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped (SHD 2331; to bow down or prostrate oneself in respect), and said to him. "What does my Lord say to his servant?" Then the Commander (SHD 8269 – Captain) of the Lord's (SHD 3068) army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy" (cf. Ex. 3:5). And Joshua did so (Jos. 5:13-15; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Just prior to Christ's death on a stake, he alluded to the fact that he could call upon the angels who had previously served him when he was the Captain of the army of the Lord,

Then Jesus said to him (Peter), "Put back your sword into its place; for all those who take up the sword, by the sword shall destroy themselves. 53 "Or do you think that I am not able to entreat my Father, and He will at once dispatch to my side, more than twelve legions (72,000) of angels? (Mt. 26:52-53; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses)

In this statement to Peter, Christ was teaching that the purpose for his earthly ministry was not to be a conquering captain of Almighty God's army, but rather the captain of everyone's salvation,

For it became Him (Almighty God) for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain (SGD 747; *archegos*, commander, leader; referring to Jesus Christ) of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2:10; KJV; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Jesus Christ will come a second time, and when he does it will be to conquer every power that exalts itself above the law and commandments of his Father,

Then comes the end, when he (Christ) delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when he (Christ) puts an end to all rule and all authority and power (that is contrary to the law and commandments of Almighty God). For he (Christ) must reign (approximately 1,000 years; cf. Rev. 20:4) till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He (Almighty God) has put all things under his (Christ's) feet." But when He (Almighty God) says "all things are put under him (Christ)," it is evident (obvious) that He (Almighty God) who put all things under him (Christ) is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to him (Christ), then the son himself (Christ) will also be subject to Him (Almighty God), that God may be all in all (1Cor. 15:24-28; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It makes sense that, as Jesus Christ will be enforcing his Father's law and commandments after his second coming, he would have been the one who wrote the law and commandments on the two tablets of stone on Mt. Sinai. Again, it could not have been Almighty God who wrote on the tablets because Moses saw the Angel of God throughout this process,

And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. Now the tablets were the work of God (SHD 430 *elohim* – same word used to describe the Angel of God in Ex. 3:4), and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets (Ex. 32:15-16).

As the one who became Jesus Christ wrote the law and commandments of Almighty God, and as he is the same yesterday, today, and forever, it should be no surprise that he will continue to teach, as well as enforce, these same laws and commandments upon his return (cf. Ps. 2:1-12; Isa. 2:1-4; 66:23-24; Zec. 14:16-19; Mic. 4:2).

Although Christ came in the role of Savior during his first mortal life as a flesh and blood human being, he will come a second time as a conquering king in order to remove all lawlessness from this planet (Rev. 19:11-16). Therefore, it seems incongruous that so many who claim to know Christ also believe he came to abolish his Father's law and commandments.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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