



Jesus in the Judges (ESV)

In the Book of Judges we encounter the Angel of the Lord 3 times.

The angel of the LORD (Jehovah) is the PREINCARNATE appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A study of the passages makes it clear that He is GOD.

Further Study reveals that He is the SECOND PERSON of the Trinity.

Judges 2:1-5 (ESV) Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you." As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

The name Bochim means THE WEEPERS. It is because this was the place where Israel cried over their sin.

The Israelites would continue to do EVIL in the sight of the Lord.

The cycle begins, SIN, SERVITUDE, SUPPLICATION, SALVATION.

Israel finds themselves constantly in need of a SAVIOR.

Judges 6:11-24 (ESV) Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me."

In order that the victory over Midian would be clearly divine, God instructed Gideon to pare down his army of 32,000 to just 300 men.
The Angel of the Lord appears once again.

Judges 13:1-24 (ESV) And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'" Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born." And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field.

This is the SEVENTH time in Judges we read "Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

The cycle begins again and this time the Philistines enslave Israel for 40 YEARS, the longest oppression they had undergone since arriving in the PROMISED land.

As we have seen many times in the Bible, the BARREN WOMB is often a starting place for the purposes of God. (also Genesis 16, 1 Samuel 1, Luke 1:5-25)

When Manoah asked the Angel of the Lord what His name was, he was told that it was WONDERFUL one of the names given to the Lord Jesus in Isaiah 9:6.

In Judges 2:10-14 we see the IMPORTANCE of teaching future GENERATIONS about the LORD and what He has done for us.

The LORD is COMPASSIONATE.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV) If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.