

***Christ In The Old Testament***  
***“The Angel Of The Lord”***  
***Genesis 16:1-14***

**Introduction:**

1. On Sunday Nights:
  - We Are Looking For:
    - “Christ In The Old Testament!”
  - And - One Of The Ways We Find Him:
    - Is When God Appears To Men:
      - As A Man:
        - In A Personal & A Visible Way!
2. These Appearances:
  - Are Known As “Christophanies!”
    - And - In Each Christophany That We Have Looked At:
      - Christ Reveals To Us:
        - Not Only His:
          - Eternal Nature As God!
        - But Also His:
          - Personal Work As:
            - The Son Of God!
    - And - In This Way - Adam, Eve, Abraham, Jacob, And Joshua:
      - Didn’t Just *Hear* From Christ:
        - They All *Met* Christ:
          - Before His Incarnation & Virgin Birth:
            - Into This World!
3. Well - There Is Another Way:
  - To Identify Christ In The Old Testament:
    - And That Is Through The Appearance:
      - Of One Who Is Called:
        - “The Angel Of The Lord!”
  - This Designation:
    - Is Found 64 Times In The Entire Bible!
      - 59 Times - In The Old Testament!
      - 5 Times - In The New Testament:
        - And Only In The Book Of Acts!
  - Now - The Word “Angel” - In Both:
    - The Old & New Testaments:
      - In Hebrew & In Greek:
        - Simply Means:
          - “Messenger!”
    - An Angel Is:
      - A “Supernatural Or Heavenly Being Whose Business It Is To Act As God’s Messengers To Men, And As Agents To Carry Out His Will!” (ISBE)
4. So - Whenever You Find:
  - “The Angel Of The Lord” - In The Bible:
    - Someone Was Face-To-Face With:
      - A Special Messenger:
        - Who Was Sent By The Lord:
          - To Speak For The Lord!
  - And - That Special Messenger:
    - Was Given:
      - A Special Message:
        - For A Special Purpose:
          - In God’s Own Plan Of Redemption!
  - So - Whenever You Come Across:
    - “The Angel Of The Lord” In Your Bible:
      - You Should Pause - And Search Out:

- The Answers To 3 Questions!
  - First - **Who** Is This Messenger?
  - Second - **What** Is His Message? And:
  - Third - **Why** Did God Send Him:
    - With That Message!
- 4. When You Do This - You Will Find - At Times:
  - When “The Angel Of The Lord” Appears:
    - On The Pages Of Scripture:
      - It May Refer To A Special - But Still:
        - A Created Angel:
          - And Messenger From The Lord!
  - These Are The Angels:
    - That Are Described For Us:
      - In Hebrews 1:14 - “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”
    - Most Angels In The Bible:
      - Are Created Messengers:
        - Sent Forth To Serve The Lord & His People!
  - So - Some Times:
    - The “Angel Of The Lord” Refers:
      - Just To **An** Angel!
- 5. But - Other Times:
  - When “The Angel Of The Lord” Appears:
    - It Refers To Someone:
      - In An Even More Unique & Elevated Status:
        - Who Appears As The Messenger Of The Lord - In Both A:
          - Personal & Powerful Way!
  - Because - Even Though:
    - “The Angel And Yahweh Are At Times Distinguished From Each Other, They Are With Equal Frequency, And In The Same Passages, Merged Into Each Other!” (ISBE)
      - And - The Most Likely Explanation For This:
        - Is That It Is Another:
          - Christophany!
        - Another Personal Appearance:
          - Of Christ - Not Just As A Man:
            - But As **The** Messenger & **The** Angel Of The Lord! (Hebrews 1)
  - 6. And So - Every Time:
    - You Find Christ In This Way:
      - He Comes With An Important Message!
    - And - This Is What We Find:
      - In The First Appearance Of:
        - “The Angel Of The Lord” - In The Book Of Genesis:
          - To A Woman Named Hagar!
    - So - Let’s Open Our Bibles:
      - To Genesis 16 - Where We Will Read:
        - 16:1-14!
  - 7. It Is In 16:7 - Where We Find:
    - A Special Visitation:
      - By A Special Visitor:
        - With Abraham’s Second Wife - Who - At The Same Time:
          - Was Sarah’s Hand-Maid / Slave:
            - Whose Name Was Hagar!
      - And - The Visitor Is Identified:
        - As “The Angel Of The Lord!”
          - And - The First Thing To Consider Is:
    - 1. **The Meaning Of This Visit:**
      - And - The *Situation* Hagar Was In:

- When “The Angel Of The Lord” Came To Her:
  - In A Personal & A Visible Form!
  - Even As A Man!
- This Special Messenger Came:
  - To Hagar - When She Was In:
- A Loveless Situation!
  - Hagar Started Out In The Household Of Abraham:
    - As “An Handmaid” (16:1) - Or:
      - A Household Servant & Slave!
        - She Was Probably Obtained By Abraham When He Was In Egypt For A Time!
        - Maybe Even Granted As A Gift From The Pharaoh Of Egypt, As Some Think!
  - But - When Abraham & Sarah:
    - Realized That God’s Promise To Them:
      - To Have A Child:
        - Had Not Happened!
    - They Took Matters Into Their Own Hands:
      - And Used Hagar:
        - To Become A Second, Inferior Wife & A Surrogate Mother!
    - Not Out Of Love, But Out Of Pragmatism!
      - So That Abraham & Sarah Might Have A Child Through Her!
  - Hagar Was Used By Sarah!
    - And - That Started:
      - The Loveless Situation:
        - Hagar Was In!
    - But - When Hagar Conceived:
      - She Was Not Entirely Innocent:
        - In This Matter Either!
          - Because - Then:
  - Sarah Was Useless To Hagar!
    - In 16:4 - We Are Told That:
      - “When she (Hagar) saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes!”
    - So - Hagar Possessed:
      - A Sinful Pride:
        - In Her Own Heart!
  - And - Even Though:
    - She May Have Been Mistreated:
      - By Sarah - She Was Still Responsible For:
        - Her Own Mistreatment Of Sarah!
  - But - It Was Into This Loveless Situation:
    - That God’s Special Messenger:
      - Came To Visit Hagar!
        - She Was Also In:
- A Lowly Situation!
  - In 16:6 - After:
    - “Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid [is] in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee!”
      - “Sarai dealt hardly with her!”
    - Now - We’re Not Exactly Sure:
      - How Sarah “Dealt Hardly” With Hagar:
  - But - It Was A Mistreatment:
    - That Was Not Becoming Of:
      - A “Princess” Of The Lord!
        - Which Is What Sarah’s Original Name Meant!
  - So - In Some Way:
    - Sarah Made Things:
      - Very Hard For Hagar!
    - What A Sad Testimony:
      - Of Someone Who Had Such A Close Connection:

- To The Lord! \*
- But - It Was Into This Lowly Situation:
  - That God Sent His Special Messenger:
    - To Go & Find Hagar!
    - She Was Also In:
- A Lonely Situation!
  - Because - After Being Humbled:
    - By Sarah - Also In 16:6:
      - What Did She Do?
        - “She Fled From Her Face!”
  - She Got Up & Fled:
    - As Quietly, But As Quickly:
      - As She Could!
  - She Didn’t Think About:
    - Her Condition:
      - As A Soon-To-Be Mother:
        - And The Needs Of Her Child!
  - She Didn’t Think About:
    - Her Responsibilities:
      - As A Servant - To Sarah:
        - Or Even As A Wife:
          - To Abraham!
  - Nor - Did She Think About:
    - Her Opportunities:
      - As A Member Of A Household:
        - With God’s Blessing Upon It!
  - Instead - She Just Wanted To:
    - Get Away From The Hardship:
      - That She Was Facing From Sarah!
- And - When She Left:
  - She Didn’t Turn Back!
    - She Found The Road That Led Back:
      - To Her Home Country Of Egypt:
        - With Very Little:
          - To Help Her On Her Way!
  - But - It Was When Hagar:
    - Was In Such A Loveless, Lowly, And Lonely Situation:
      - That A Heavenly Visitor Came To Meet Her!
        - In 16:7 - “And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur!”
  - Now - Even Though *We* Are Told Who This Visitor Was:
    - At This Point - Hagar Did *Not* Who He Was!
      - As Far As She Knew:
        - He Was There To Get Her & Bring Her Back!
    - But - Instead:
      - What Do We Find?

## 2. ***The Messenger Of This Visit:***

- The Visitor Who Met Hagar At That Well In The Wilderness:
  - Proved Himself To Be:
    - A Special Messenger From The Lord:
      - With A Special Message!
        - And - We Can See From His Interaction With Hagar:
- The Attention Of The Messenger:
  - Upon Hagar!
    - In 16:7 - Its Easy To Overlook The Fact That:
      - “The Angel Of The Lord **Found** (Hagar)!”
        - Which Implies That:

- He Was Looking For Her!
- As Far As Everyone Else Was Concerned:
  - Hagar May Have Been Lost!
    - And - Sarah Might Have Even Thought:
      - “Good Riddance!”
  - Even Hagar May Have Felt:
    - She Was Lost!
      - In A Lost & Desolate Place!
        - “In The Wilderness!”
      - A Lost Cause In Losing Circumstances!
- But - Then & There:
  - 16:7 - “The Angel Of The Lord Found Her!”
    - John Gill - “His Eye Was Upon Her, And He Had Concern For Her!”
- But - How Did He Come To Find Her?
  - Already - We Can Sense Something Different:
    - And Special - About:
      - This Man! Also See:
- The Authority Of The Messenger:
  - Over Hagar!
    - In 16:9 - This Messenger:
      - Had The Authority To Command Hagar:
        - To Do - What She & We Might Think - Was The Unthinkable!
  - “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands!”
    - So - Even Though:
      - Hagar Was Facing Hardship:
        - From Sarah - Back Home!
    - This Messenger Told Hagar:
      - To Do Something Even Harder!
        - To Return & Submit:
          - To Sarah!
  - This Command Would Have Included:
    - Repentance:
      - Of Her Own Pride & Conduct:
        - Toward Sarah! As Well As:
    - Returning:
      - In Humility - So That:
        - She Could:
    - Recommit:
      - Herself - To Serve & Honor Sarah:
        - As She Had Done In The Past!
- But - Who *Was* This Man?
  - Who Didn't *Ask* Her To Return:
    - But *Told* Her To Return?
      - Well - Along With His Authority:
        - We Also See:
- The Ability Of The Messenger:
  - To Promise & Perform:
    - Great Things For Hagar!
      - In 16:10 - “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude!”
  - Now - The Words Of This Verse:
    - Probably Sound Familiar To You!
      - Isn't This The Promise:
        - That The Lord Made To Abraham?
          - Yes - The Lord Said The Same Thing:
            - To Abraham - About His Son Isaac!
    - But - Remarkably - Before The Lord Said It To Abraham - Concerning His Son, Isaac:
      - The Lord Said It To Hagar - Concerning Her Son, Ishmael!

- And Then - In 16:11 - We Find:
  - Some More Familiar Words:
    - 16:11 - “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou [art] with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction!”
  - Ishmael Is Only One Of Just A Handful:
    - Of People - Who Was Given His Name:
      - By God Himself!
- And This Great Promise:
  - This Messenger:
    - Was Able Also To Perform!
    - But - We Also See:
- The Assurance Of The Messenger:
  - In 16:12 - To Reveal To Hagar:
    - That Her Son - Would Become:
      - All That She Never Had Been!
      - Indicating - That He Knew Everything About Her!
  - Now - When You First Look At:
    - 16:12 - You Might Be Tempted To Think:
      - How Can This Provide Assurance & Encouragement For Hagar?
  - When He Tells Her What Her Son Will Be Like?
    - “And he will be a wild man; his hand [will be] against every man, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren!”
  - Sometimes - This Verse Is Used:
    - In A Derogatory Way:
      - To Describe The Arabic People Groups:
        - Who Can Trace Their Lineage Back To Ishmael!
    - But - I’m Certain:
      - That This Is Not What This Messenger Intended!
  - Hagar Was A Women:
    - Whose Life Was Subject To:
      - The Whims Of Her Masters!
      - But - Her Son Would Not Be In The Same Condition!
  - So - Instead Of Being:
    - A Slave - Like His Mother:
      - Ishmael Would Be A Free Man!
    - As Free As:
      - A “Wild Donkey” - In The Wilderness!
        - Able To Go Where He Wants To Go & Do What He Wants To Do!
      - He Would Never Have To Carry:
        - The Burden Of Another Man!
  - And - Instead Of Being:
    - A Servant - Like His Mother:
      - Ishmael Would Be A Formidable Man!
    - He Would Never Have To Face:
      - Submission To Others:
        - Even As His Mother Was Called To Do - In The House Of Abraham!
    - Because - “His hand [will be] against every man, and every man’s hand against him, and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren!”
      - Last Phrase - Can Also Be Translated:
        - “He Will Live Away From - Or - To The East Of - His Brothers!”
  - So - Instead Of Being:
    - A Stranger - Like His Mother:
      - Ishmael And His Seed:
        - Will Have Their Own Home:
          - In Which They Will Have Autonomy & Independence!
    - Which - Hagar Never Experienced:
      - For Herself!

- This Angel - This Messenger Of The Lord:
  - Was Certainly No Ordinary Messenger!
    - With All His Attention, His Authority, His Ability, And His Assurance:
      - Who Else Could He Be?
        - But The Lord Himself!
  - And So - In 16:13 - We Are Told:
    - That - “She called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?”
      - That Man - That Messenger:
        - Truly Was The LORD - Who:
          - “Spake Unto Her!”
  - And - That Man - That Messenger:
    - Was Christ!
      - But - As “The Angel / Messenger Of The Lord” - What Was:
        - Christ’s Message To Hagar?
      - And - What Is His Message:
        - To Us - Through Hagar?

### 3. ***The Message Of This Visit:***

- Christ Was Sent To Hagar:
  - To Convey Four Truths:
    - About The Lord!
- First Truth - The Lord Hears!
  - And - The Lord Hears - Everything!
    - In 16:11 - Christ Looked Hagar In The Eyes:
      - And Told Her:
        - “The LORD Hath Heard Thy Affliction!”
    - Now - We’re Not Told:
      - That Hagar Came To The Lord - Or:
        - Called Out To The Lord - Or:
          - Even Cried To The Lord:
            - At All!
      - But - It Wasn’t Necessary!
        - Christ Heard Her Affliction!
          - Christ Heard All That:
            - She Was Going Through!
        - And - That Is Why:
          - He Left Heaven For Earth:
            - To Find Her In The Wilderness!
      - Christ Still Hears - Everything!
        - And - If He Hears:
          - Your Affliction - Do You Think:
            - He Won’t Hear:
              - When You Call Upon Him & Cry Out To Him:
                - In Prayer?
      - Second Truth - The Lord Sees!
        - And - The Lord Sees - Everything!
          - In 16:13 - “And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me!”
            - The Eyes Of Christ:
              - Where Upon Hagar:
                - Everywhere She Went!
          - Of Course - This Truth:
            - Can Be A Challenge:
              - When We Respond To Our Situations:
                - With Pride - Even As Hagar Did!
          - But - This Truth:
            - Is Especially Meant To Be A Comfort!
              - Because - When We Do “Flee” From:

- The Best Place God Has For Us!
- Christ Sees Us & Sends For Us:
  - To Bring Us Back Home:
  - Where We Belong!
- Third Truth - The Lord Knows!
  - And - The Lord Knows - Everything!
    - In 16:7 - Christ Knew Where To Find Hagar!
    - In 16:8 - Christ Knew Her Name!
    - In 16:9 - Christ Knew Her Situation!
    - In 16:10-12 - Christ Knew Her Condition & Her Future & The Future Of Her Family!
  - Christ Knew Everything:
    - About Her - And:
      - Christ Knows Everything:
        - About You!
        - But - Even More:
- Fourth Truth - The Lord Cares!
  - When Christ Met Hagar:
    - It Was An Expression & A Revelation Of
      - His Own Divine Grace:
        - And Care For Her!
  - Not Just For:
    - Her Situation - But:
      - For Her Own Salvation!

**Conclusion:**

1. When Christ Found Hagar:
  - In The Wilderness:
    - She Was Heading Back:
      - On The Road To Egypt!
  - But - What Was There:
    - In Egypt For Her?
      - As Hard As Things May Have Been:
        - With Sarah:
          - Things Would Have Become Much, Much Harder For Her:
            - In Egypt!
    - Maybe - Not In Her:
      - External Circumstances!
        - They Might Have Even Improved Greatly!
          - Especially If She Was Related Somehow To Pharaoh:
            - As Some Have Thought!
  - 2. But - Things Would Have Been:
    - Much Harder For Her Spiritually:
      - In That Idolatrous Country:
        - Far From The Blessings & Promises Of God:
          - That He Gave To & Through:
            - Abraham His Servant!
      - So - Christ Sought Her Out:
        - To Rescue Her:
          - From Her Sin & From Herself!
            - Which Is Still:
              - What Christ Does:
                - For Us!
      - 3. Christ Is Still:
        - The God Who Sees - You And Me!
          - He Hears & Knows Everything:
            - About You!
          - And Yet - He Still:
            - Cares For You!



- Even As He Cared For Hagar!
- This Is The Message:
  - Of Christ - As:
    - The Angel Of The Lord!

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