

THE IN-BETWEEN

Angels, Demons, the Devil, Heavenly Powers, Dark Powers, Human Beings Between Death and Resurrection

Section 2

The Spiritual Realm During Israel's Exodus & Wilderness Wandering

(perhaps roughly 1450-1400 BC)

Exodus 3:1-6 (also Acts 7:30-35) — Who appeared to Moses in the flames of fire within the bush?

- Who spoke to Moses from within the bush (**also Mark 12:26, Acts 7:31-32**)?

Focal Point #1 — THE DESTROYER AT THE PASSOVER

Exodus 12:21-30 (also Hebrews 11:28)

- Who/What was the “destroyer” (verse 23)? What was this being's task?
- Can angels do harm or only good? Or is the “destroyer” some other kind of being?

Focal Point #2 — THE ANGEL WHO LED ISRAEL INTO THE PROMISED LAND

Exodus 14:5-31 — Where was the angel of God? What did this angel do?

Exodus 23:20-23 — What did God say the angel he would send ahead of Israel would do for them?

- What warning did God give Israel concerning this angel (verse 21)?
- Should human beings obey angels?

Exodus 32:31 to 33:3 — What did God say his angel would do for Israel?

- From Israel's perspective, what might have been the difference between God going with them and God's angel going with them as they traveled?

Recurring Theme — God Sent His Angel to Lead Israel Out of Egypt and into the Promised Land

Exodus 23:20-23 — “See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared... My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.”

Exodus 32:34 to 33:2 — “Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you... I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.”

Numbers 20:16 — “...but when we cried out to the Lord, he heard our cry and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt.”

Isaiah 63:9 — In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. [NIV; but see the alternate translation in the footnote & in the NRSV, suggesting that it was God's own presence that saved them, not any angel.]

Focal Point #3 — Cherubim Attending the Throne of God

Exodus 25:17-22 — Where were these two cherubim sculptures to be located?

- Where did God say he would meet with Moses?
- What do we learn here about the physical appearance of cherubim?

Exodus 26:1 — Cherubim were to be woven into the tabernacle's ten _____.

Exodus 37:6-9 — The two cherubim on the atonement cover were made of hammered _____.
Their _____ were spread upward. The cherubim faced _____.

Recurring Theme — God Is Enthroned Between the Cherubim

Exodus 25:22 — “There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.”

Numbers 7:89 — When Moses entered the tent of meeting to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law. In this way the Lord spoke to him.

1 Samuel 4:4 — ...[T]hey brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim.

2 Samuel 6:1-2 / 1 Chronicles 13:6 — David...and all his men went...to bring up from there the ark of God...who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. / David and all Israel went...to bring up from there the ark of God the Lord, who is enthroned between the cherubim...

2 Kings 19:15 & Isaiah 37:16 — And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: “Lord [Almighty], the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God...”

Psalms 80:1 — Hear us, Shepherd of Israel... You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth...

Psalms 99:1 — The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

Recurring Theme — Cherubim Decorating the Tabernacle, Temple, & Ark of the Covenant

SCULPTURES CRAFTED ON TOP OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT — Exodus 25:17-22, 37:7-9; 1 Chronicles 28:18; Hebrews 9:5

WOVEN INTO THE TABERNACLE CURTAINS — Exodus 26:1, 26:31, 36:8, 36:35

STATUES PLACED IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE — 1 Kings 6:23-28, 8:6-7; 2 Chronicles 3:10-13, 5:7-8

CARVED INTO THE WALLS, DOORS, AND PANELS OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE — 1 Kings 6:29-35, 7:29-36; 2 Chronicles 3:7

WOVEN INTO THE CURTAIN OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE — 2 Chronicles 3:14

CARVED INTO THE WALLS AND DOORS OF THE TEMPLE IN EZEKIEL'S VISION — Ezekiel 41:17-20, 41:25

Leviticus 19:31 — Israel was not to turn to _____ or seek out _____. Why not?

Recurring Theme — Don't Consult Spirits or the Dead! Stay Away from Sorcery & Divination!

Leviticus 19:31 — “Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them.”

Leviticus 20:6 — “I will set my face against anyone who turns to mediums and spiritists...”

Leviticus 20:27 — “A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them...”

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 — When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so.

Deuteronomy 26:14 — “I have not eaten any of the sacred portion [of the tithe] while I was in mourning, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor have I offered any of it to the dead.”

1 Samuel 28:3-25 & 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 — *Saul consults a medium so he can speak with the dead prophet Samuel.*

Focal Point #4 — The Angel Who Confronted Balaam
Numbers 22

- What was the angel's purpose in confronting Balaam?
- How did the donkey react to the angel's presence?
- Can animals see & respond to angels?
- Can angels choose to make themselves visible to some but not to others?
- Do angels have swords? (Do angels *need* swords?)
- What was the angel's message to Balaam?