

## The Rock That Followed Them

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God the Father and Jesus Christ are both God. They have always been together (John 1:1-2), and they do not change (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8), but the Father is supreme. Jesus said **“My Father...is greater than all”** (John 10:29; also 14:28). Their relationship is reflected in the fact that the Father is not just the God of all of mankind, but the God of Jesus as well (Psalm 45:6-7; Matthew 27:46).

The Father created all things through Jesus Christ (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2) and He continues to work through Him, Christ being in perfect unity (John 3:16; 10:30; 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 8:6). God and Christ are One in Spirit and in relationship but they are two in existence.

In the Old Testament, the Father was known as God and LORD (YHWH) and Jesus Christ was generally shown in relationship to Him. God referred to Christ as **“My Angel”** (Exodus 23:23; 32:34), **“My Servant”** and **“My Elect One”** (Isaiah 42:1; see also 52:13 and 53:11), and **“My Shepherd”** and **“the Man who is My Companion”** (Zechariah 13:7). In Psalm 2 the LORD refers to Christ prophetically as **“His Anointed”** and **“My King”** and **“My Son”**. In the book of Joshua Christ is called **“the Commander of the LORD’s army”** (5:14-15). The LORD, is God the Father. Jeremiah records that He is **“the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel”** (38:17).

In the New Testament Jesus is the Son of God and also **“The Word of God”** (Revelation 19:13; also John 1:1). Even the name Christ, which means Anointed, points to Jesus’ relationship to the Father. He did not anoint Himself.

Both God and Christ have been, and always will be, intimately involved in bringing sons and daughters to glory in God’s family (2 Timothy 1:8-11; Titus 1:1-2). Abraham knew that Melchizedek, the One who became known as Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:1-10), was **“the priest of God Most High”** and Abraham was referred to as **“Abram of God Most High”** (Genesis 14:18-24). God Most High is the One who became the Father and it is the Father whose promises Abraham believed (15:4-6) and to whom he was accounted as a friend (Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23).

Moses also knew both God and His Messenger who became Jesus Christ. In Exodus 3 **“the Angel of the LORD”** appeared to Moses **“in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush”** (verse 2). The account then states **“So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush”** (verse 4). The **“Angel of the LORD”** and **“the LORD”** are not the same Being. The God who spoke to Moses from the midst of the burning bush was the Father. Jesus confirmed that to the Sadducees who tested Him in Mark 12 when He stated **“But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living”** (verses 26-27).

Gideon knew as well, the difference between **“the Angel of the LORD”** and **“the LORD”** (Judges 6:7-27) as did both the father and mother of Samson (chapter 13). The latter account portrays both **“the Angel of the LORD”** and **“the LORD”** in the passage. Then, in Zechariah 3, in the account of Joshua the high priest being opposed by Satan, it is the same. There **“the Angel of the LORD”** is shown in the presence of **“the LORD”** (verses 1-5). The **“Angel”** then speaks for **“the LORD of hosts”** (verse 6) and delivers the

statement “**For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH**” (verse 8). The “**BRANCH**” was a prophetic reference to Jesus Christ and Christ did not bring forth Himself. He was brought forth by His Father.

Jesus Christ was with Israel throughout the Old Testament. As Paul stated in 1 Corinthians “**Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ**” (10:1-4).

Jesus Christ was “**the Angel of the LORD**” who appeared to Moses (Exodus 3:2) and “**the Angel of God**” (14:19-20) who accompanied and protected Israel as they went out from Egypt. The LORD referred to Him as “**My Angel**” and said “**My name is in Him**” (Exodus 23:20-23; 33:1-3). God also referred to Him as “**the Angel of His Presence**” (Isaiah 63:9). “**His Presence**” is a reference to God the Father (Exodus 33:12-17).

God the Father is the Chief Shepherd (Psalms 23:1-6; Ezekiel 34:30-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4) and He trusts the flock to His Shepherd, Jesus Christ (Zechariah 13:7) the good shepherd (John 10:14-16). Jesus Christ was “**that spiritual Rock which followed them**” but the Father was still there. The Father is portrayed as having led Israel. He took Israel “**by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt**” (Hebrews 8:9; also Judges 6:7-8). The book of Psalms records that the Most High [the Father] led His “**people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron**” (77:10,20). Then Psalms 78 states “**the Most High God**” [the Father] “**made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock; And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear**” (verses 52-53,56).

In Deuteronomy 32, the LORD, YHWH, is referred to as Israel’s Rock, five times. He is also referred to as the Father who made them (verse 6) and begot them (verse 18) and the One who bought or redeemed them from bondage (verse 6). He is declared to be the Most High who is over all the nations (verse 8). He is the God they were to sacrifice to rather than to demons (verse 17). There is no record of God telling Israel to sacrifice to Jesus Christ. The temple was the Father’s house, the house of God, and the sacrifices there were to be offered to Him.

Jesus Christ accompanied Israel out of Egypt and is referred to throughout the Old Testament. He is “**that spiritual Rock that followed them**”. But the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Father (Acts 3:13), He is the Rock that led.