

The Angel's Rainbow & His Identity

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Who Is The Angel With The Rainbow?

(Revelation 10:1) And I saw a mighty angel coming down from heaven, having been clothed with a cloud, and a rainbow on his head, and his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire,

(Revelation 10:2) and having in his hand a scroll having been opened. And he put his right foot on the sea, but his left *one* on the land.

The description of this angel in Revelation 10:1, 2 is almost identical to the description of the “certain man clothed in linen” who appeared to Daniel in vision (Daniel 10:5-7; 12:6-7). It is the description of the Son of Man given to John in Revelation chapter 1:12-18. The Son of Man is Jesus. It certainly makes sense that the one who appeared to Daniel to give the prophecies would be the one who appeared to John to open and explain the prophecies. Almost all Bible scholars believe that this angel is Jesus. Tim LaHaye says that the rainbow upon the Angel’s head represents the person and presence of Jesus.

God appeared as a man and sometimes as an angel to various people in the Old Testament. An angel appeared to Manoah’s wife (Judges 13:3-23); to Gideon (Judges 6:11-22); to Jacob (Genesis 31:11-13 and 32:25-31); to Israel (Exodus 23:20-33 with Mark 2:7; to Balaam (Numbers chapters 22-24, especially 22:22, 31); to Zechariah (see the Amplified Bible footnotes for Zechariah 1:11); and to Hagar (Genesis 16:7-13). A man who was captain of the Lord’s host appeared to Joshua (Joshua 5:13, 14). In all of these instances, the angel identified himself or was identified as God. Perhaps the strongest evidence is the appearance of the “angel of the Lord” to Moses in the burning bush. The angel said to Moses, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob,” and then He called Himself “I AM WHO I AM”—the most sacred designation for God in the Bible. See Exodus 3:1-6, 14.

Do these references make God an angel? No more than does the expression in 1 Timothy 2:5, “the man Christ Jesus,” make God the Son merely a man.

Christ was the Angel in whom was the name of Jehovah, and who, veiled in the cloudy pillar, went before the host.

(Exodus 23:20) Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

(Exodus 23:21) Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name *is* in him.

(Exodus 23:22) But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

(Exodus 23:23) For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

Angels can appear to us as humans. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2). It is not unthinkable that Jesus would appear as an angel. This is especially feasible when one considers the fact that Jesus came as a man, literally, God in human flesh, to live among men. There is abundant evidence to support the position that Jesus appeared as an angel to men. As we discover just what the rainbow is and uncover its real significance, we realize that no ordinary angel would have the rainbow over his head; consequently the rainbow itself is a very good reason to know who this angel of Revelation is.

It is significant that the only time recorded in Scripture where anyone appeared with a rainbow over his head was when this angel appeared to John to open and explain Daniel's prophecy. Also, Scripture says that Jesus is the Creator of all things in heaven and in earth. See John 1:1-4, 14; Colossians 1, Hebrews 1, and Ephesians 3:9). As the Creator of all things including the rainbow, only Jesus would be crowned with the rainbow. But there is more evidence for this line of reasoning.

In referring to this Angel, John said that he saw "another mighty angel." That is, in addition to the angels who had earlier appeared. He is apparently distinct from the angels who hold the four winds (ch. 7:1), from those with the seven trumpets (ch. 8:2), from the angel at the altar (ch. 8:3), and from those in the river Euphrates (ch. 9:14). Here, as Lord of history, He makes the proclamation in verse six of chapter ten. Here He makes the most solemn oath and in so doing makes an appeal to Darwin to recognize Him as his Creator.

