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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

The Angel of the LORD Acted as Satan to Balaam.

(2013)

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The Angel of the LORD Acted as Satan to Balaam.

Topics.

- The angel of the LORD, Satan and Balaam.
- The angel of the LORD.
- The angel of the LORD, Satan and the Lord GOD.

The Angel of the LORD, Satan and Balaam.

Numbers 22:32 ----- 32 the angel of the LORD said unto him (Balaam), Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? Behold, I went out to withstand (satan in Hebrew) thee, because thy way is perverse before me.

Withstand in this verse comes from the Hebrew word (satan) which means: -

- To resist, hinder and oppose.
- To be or act as an adversary.
- To set one's self against.
- To act as an opponent especially against what is right and good.
- To act as an enemy to God and the Lord Jesus Christ and whoever belongs to his Kingdom.

Satan in the original Hebrew language does not have a capital *S* and does not refer to some form of evil spiritual creature that has almost as much power as God. The word satan in the Hebrew language can refer to any man or woman, group or government, nation or religion that is opposed to and acts against what is good and right and especially against God, the Lord Jesus Christ and those who faithfully follow him.

The angel of the LORD: the angel of the LORD in this verse is a satan to Balaam. This simply means that the angel of the LORD stood against Balaam and acted as an adversary to Balaam. Since we are told God came unto Balaam at night, and said to him, "If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do" (Num. 22:20) it may appear strange to some that the angel of the LORD stood against Balaam when he did go and said, "Balaam's way was perverse before the LORD," when it appears that Balaam seems to be doing what the LORD told him to do. Following are two possible reasons the angel of the LORD stood against Balaam: -

1. God told Balaam to only do what He tells him and only go if the men come to call him to rise. Then we are told Balaam rose in the morning saddled his donkey and went with the men of Balak (v20-21). We are not told that the men came to call Balaam to go with them, so it is possible Balaam was going from his own will and against the word of the LORD.
2. It is possible Balaam was going with the intent to tell king Balak what he wanted to hear (that he would defeat Israel in battle) to gain the king's favour and reap a great reward and the LORD perceives this is the heart attitude of Balaam.

Whichever of these two reasons is correct or whether God through the angel of the LORD rose up against Balaam for some other reason matters little for this study since the fact is the angel of the LORD acted as a satan against Balaam and confronted him in the most dramatic way, so much so that Balaam not only spoke the word of God (even though King Balak hated it), but he also gave three amazing prophecies concerning God's favour toward Israel and their victory and triumph. These three amazing and remarkable prophecies are recorded in the following verses (Num. 23:7-10) (Num. 23:18-24) (Num. 24:3-9).

We have read that the angel of the LORD said, "He went out to withstand against Balaam" (Num. 22:32) and we know that the English word withstand in this verse is the Hebrew word *satan* which shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the word *satan* does not refer to an evil powerful spirit creature who has a global army of hundreds of billions of lesser evil gods called demons who he sends out to inhabit the bodies of humans to inflict them with blindness, deafness, epilepsy and many other sickness people suffer with, and to inhabit the bodies of men, women and children with the evil intent and motivation of destroying those who they do inhabit and dwell within.

The angel of the LORD and the LORD God: the following verses (there are many more) show that when the angel of the LORD speaks and acts it can be seen as the LORD God Himself speaking and acting. This is because whatever the angel of the LORD does and says is the perfect will of God and in perfect accordance to what the LORD God Himself would speak it and do.

- The angel of the LORD said unto Hagar, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. ¹²And 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. ¹³And 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? (Gen. 16:11-13).

In these verses we are told that the angel of the LORD came to Hagar and then that the LORD spoke to her.

- The angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. ¹²And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me ---- NOW GO TO VERSE FIFTEEN ---- ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, ¹⁶And said, by myself have I sworn, saith the LORD (Gen. 22:11-16)

In these verses the angel of the LORD refers to himself as the LORD.

- The angel of the LORD appeared unto Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. ³And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. ⁴And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. ⁵And he (God) said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. ⁶Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows (Exod. 3:2-7).

In these verses we are told that the angel of the LORD is not only the LORD and God, but we are also told that the angel of the LORD is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. ²²And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen GOD. ²³But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands (Judges 13:21-23)

In these verses the angel of the LORD is referred to as God and as the LORD.

These verses show that the angel of the LORD is also in some sense or form the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exod. 3:2-7). This means when the angel of the LORD acted as a *satan* to Balaam it can be seen as God Himself acting as a *satan* to Balaam, because the angel of the LORD only acts according to the perfect

will of God and the word satan simply means to act as an adversary. This shines a brilliant spotlight on the following two truths: -

1. The word satan does not refer to a universal evil powerful spirit entity that has a global army of hundreds of billions of lesser evil spirit gods called demons which he not only sends to inhabit innocent men, woman and children with the evil intent of inflicting them with blindness and deafness and many other illness people suffer, but also with the intent of destroying those they inhabit.
2. The word satan can refer to the angel of the LORD, to God Himself or to any man or woman, crowd or organisation (religious or secular), government or nation that acts as an adversary against our will and especially to those who act as an adversary against the will of God and withstands and oppose His plans and purposes.

For further information see the title: -

- Satan in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.