A common question arises from Exodus 3: Did God Himself speak to Moses at the burning bush, or was it an angel acting on God’s behalf?

Let’s examine this passage and explore its theological implications.

The Appearance at the Burning Bush

> *Exodus 3:2 (NKJV)*
> And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

> *Exodus 3:4 (NKJV)*
> So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

At first, we are told that “the Angel of the Lord” appeared to

Moses in the burning bush. But then, just two verses later, God is the one speaking from the bush. This might seem contradictory at first, but it's actually an example of angelic mediation—a well-established biblical pattern where God speaks through His angels.

Who Is "The Angel of the Lord"?

In various passages of the Old Testament, "the Angel of the Lord" (Hebrew: *Mal'akh YHWH*) is a unique figure. At times, this being speaks and acts as if He is God Himself receiving worship, forgiving sins, and making covenants (cf. *Genesis 22:15–18; Judges 6:11–24; Judges 13*). Many biblical scholars and theologians interpret such appearances as Christophanies pre-incarnate appearances of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

In Exodus 3, the Angel speaks from within the fire, yet the Scripture identifies the speaker as Yahweh. Moses removes his sandals because he is standing on holy ground (*Exodus 3:5*), and the voice says:

> *Exodus 3:6 (NKJV)*
> "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of

> Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

This suggests that while an angelic presence is visible, it is God’s voice possibly even the pre-incarnate Christ that is heard.

God’s Name in His Messenger

To understand this dynamic further, we turn to *Exodus 23:20–22*:

> *Exodus 23:20–22 (NKJV)*
> “Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.
> Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.
> But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.”

This angel is no ordinary angel. God says His own name (i.e., His essence, authority, and character) is in this angel. The angel

carries divine authority so completely that to obey him is to obey God, and to reject him is to reject God.

This is a clear type or foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, in whom “the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily” (*Colossians 2:9*).

Theological Principle: Divine Agency

In Scripture, the concept of agency (Hebrew: *shaliach*) means that someone sent by another carries the full authority of the sender. When God sends an angel with His message, that angel speaks with God’s voice but he is not speaking on his own initiative.

This pattern is seen again in *Judges 2:1–5*:

> *Judges 2:1 (NKJV)*
> Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you.’”

Here, the angel speaks in the first person as if he was the one who brought Israel out of Egypt and made the covenant. This demonstrates that he is speaking as God’s mouthpiece, not on his own behalf.

Christ: God’s Ultimate Revelation

While angels were used occasionally in the Old Testament to communicate God’s will, they were only temporary messengers. In the New Covenant, God has spoken directly to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, the perfect and final revelation of God.

> *Hebrews 1:1–4 (NKJV)*
> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
> who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...
> has become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Unlike the angels who spoke partially and temporarily, Jesus embodies the full image of God (*Colossians 1:15*), and His word is final, complete, and binding.

A Greater Message, A Greater Accountability

> *Hebrews 2:1–3 (NKJV)*
> Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.
> For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord...?

If God’s word through angels brought judgment when disobeyed, how much more serious is it to ignore the message spoken by Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Have You Received God’s Message?

Today, Jesus Christ is the living Word of God (*John 1:1–14*), the

one through whom God now speaks to all people. He is not just a messenger—He is God Himself in human form (*John 14:9*).

To reject Jesus is to reject God. To accept Him is to receive eternal life (*John 3:16*).

If you have not yet surrendered your life to Christ, now is the time. Wherever you are, humble yourself, confess your sins, and acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. Believe in Him with your heart, and then follow Him in obedience by:

1. Repenting of your sins (*Acts 3:19*)
2. Being baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ (*Acts 2:38*)
3. Receiving the Holy Spirit, who will empower you to live in victory over sin (*Romans 8:11*)

> *Acts 2:38 (NKJV)*
> “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Conclusion: The Voice in the Fire Was God’s But Through His Angel

In Exodus, God used His angel to speak to Moses. The angel carried God’s authority, God’s word, and God’s presence. But today, Jesus Christ is God’s final and fullest voice to mankind. He is greater than angels, prophets, or any other messenger.

Let us not ignore His voice.

> *Hebrews 12:25 (NKJV)*
> See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven...

Maranatha — The Lord is Coming!

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