



The Concept of a Godhead in the Old Testament



How Has Christianity
Historically Articulated the
Relationship Between Jesus and
the God of the OT?

Nicene Creed

I believe in **one God**, the **Father** Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all
things visible and invisible.

And in **one Lord Jesus Christ**, the only-
begotten **Son** of God, begotten of the
Father before all worlds; **God of God**, Light
of Light, **very God of very God**; begotten,
not made, being **of one substance with the**
Father, by whom all things were made.

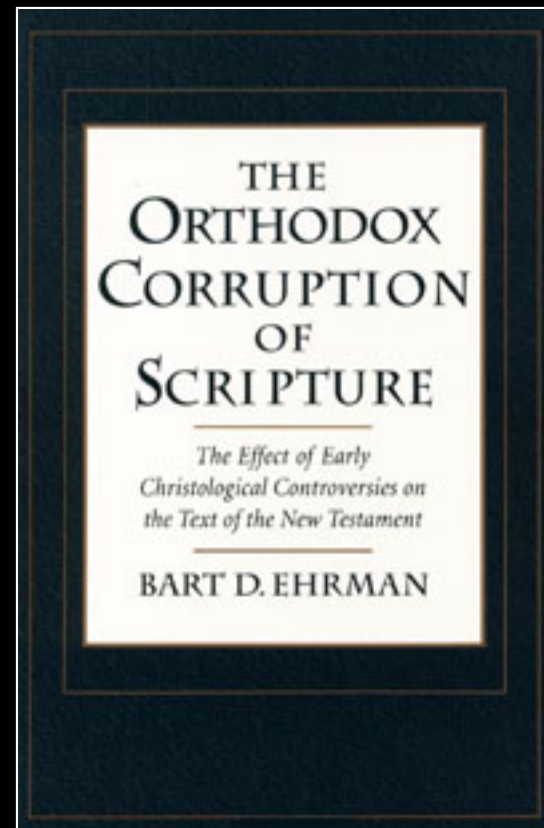
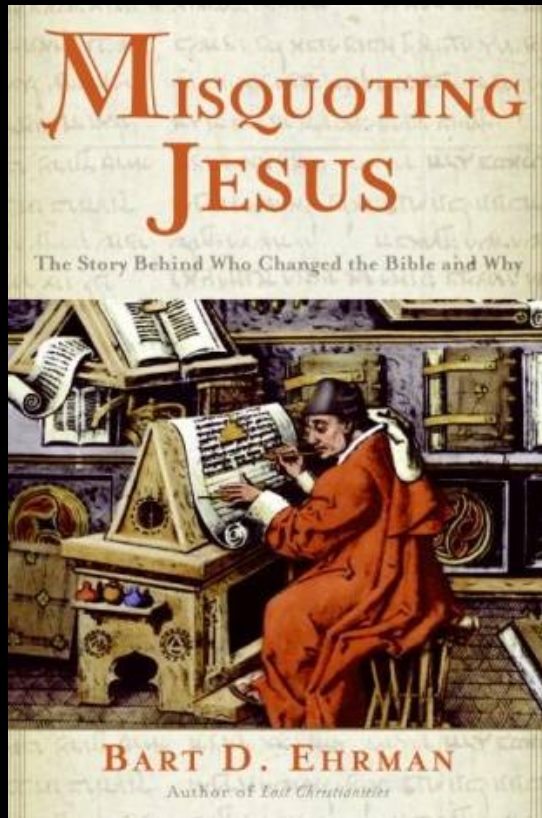
THE
**DA VINCI
CODE**

A NOVEL



DAN BROWN

AUTHOR OF ANGELS & DEMONS



Was the belief that Jesus was God in the flesh...

- Contradictory to OT Monotheism?
- Foreign to the first Christians?
- Invented by Constantine?
- Fabricated by scribes?

My Proposal

There were **TWO YHWHs** in the Old Testament (and thus Judaism), and this teaching was the foundation for the Christian idea that Jesus could be worshipped as God **without violating monotheism**.

Invisible YHWH

A spirit;
Undetectable by
the human senses

Father-God of Israel

Visible YHWH

Physically detectable
by human senses; at
times embodied in
human form

Mediating figure so
humans can process
the ineffable, and for
their own protection

modalism?

Making This Case

- Show that the visible YHWH is distinguishable from the invisible YHWH
- Show that the visible YHWH is not just a “mode” of appearance—by showing both figures are simultaneously present in certain passages in the OT
- Show that YHWH is physically manifested, even embodied, in the OT

Troublesome Passages for the Rabbis before the 2nd century CE

TWO POWERS IN HEAVEN



*Early Rabbinic Reports about
Christianity and Gnosticism*

ALAN F. SEGAL

“The basic heresy involved interpreting scripture to say that a principal angelic or hypostatic manifestation in heaven was equivalent to God.”

Segal, *Two Powers in Heaven*, p. x (Introduction)

Philo refers to “two Gods,” which was “a synonym for ‘two powers’ in rabbinic thought. Philo refers to the Logos as “God” (qeoj; theos) and speaks of the Logos as a “Second God” (deuteroj qeoj).

Genesis 19:24

YHWH rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah
sulfurous fire from YHWH out of heaven.

Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures According to the Traditional Hebrew Text. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society (1997)

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Amos 4:11

I have wrought destruction among you, as
when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah;
You have become like a brand plucked from
burning. Yet you have not turned back to Me—
declares YHWH.

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The Divine Council at Ugarit

Rank 1
of top tier

EL

High sovereign, father of the gods (with Athirat / Asherah);
"father of years"



Rank 2
of top tier
Co-regent

Baal

- Outranks all other sons of El
- co-ruler of all with El
- warrior; fights El's battles

Israel's EL

The original God of Israel was El, and this can be deduced by a number of means, and I list a few here:

- The name "Israel" has "El" in it (IsraEL). That is, Israel is a proper name that honors El, not Yahweh.
- El is described in Ugaritic material as an ancient deity with grey hair and beard. He is called "Father of years." Scholars have noted the strong parallels between this description and the **Ancient of Days** in Daniel 7.

- [Isaiah 14:12](#) to the Shining One, son of the Dawn (translated “Lucifer” in some English translations) vaunting himself above “**the stars of El**” are members of the divine council (called “sons of God” in [Job 38:7-8](#)), and so this passage speaks of El as the enthroned lord of Israel’s council. ([KTU](#))
- [Ezek 28:2](#) has the council (the cosmic mountain-garden of Eden) located at “**the seat of El.**” ([KTU](#))
- Gen 49:24-25 describes the God of Israel with several El descriptions known from non-biblical texts. One of these is **El-Shaddai**.

- Verses like [Gen 33:20](#) read literally in Hebrew, “**EI**, the God of Israel” (È· לַחַדְגָּאֵÈ· È·).
- Verses like [Gen 35:1,3](#) have God commanding Jacob to build an altar to **EI** (Hebrew, È·).

The name **EL** is identified with **YHWH** in several ways in the OT

- [Exodus 6:3](#) explicitly states that God was known to the patriarchs as **EI** Shaddai and only later (in the days of Moses) as **YHWH**.
- **YHWH** is explicitly called **EI**:
 - Exod 15:2 - "**YHWH** is my strength . . . this is my God (**EI**)..."
 - Isaiah 5:16 - "**YHWH** of hosts is exalted . . . the holy God (**EI**) shows himself holy..."
 - Psalm 31:6 - "O **YHWH**, faithful God (**EI**)..."

- **YHWH** is also linked by name with familiar **EI** descriptions, like the aged God ([Psa 90:2](#); [Job 36:26](#)) over the divine council ([1 Kings 22:19](#); [Psa 29:1-2](#); [Psa 89:5-6](#))
- In heterodox **YHWH** worship of the biblical period, **YHWH** was thought to have a [wife](#) - Asherah - who was **EI's** wife at Ugarit.

YHWH identified with Baal

- Baal was the chief competitor to the worship of Yahweh during the period of the monarchy. To combat the worship of Baal and argue for the superiority of Yahweh, the biblical writers would (with some frequency) utilize certain Baal symbols, titles, and imagery in their descriptions of Yahweh. The effect was to displace Baal in the mind of the reader with Yahweh. Here are some examples:

Yahweh is said to have defeated the dragon and the sea (as though the sea was an enemy) in passages like [Ps 74:12-15](#) and [Isaiah 27:1](#). This is precisely what Baal does in Ugaritic literature:

What manner of enemy has arisen against Baal,
of foe against the Charioteer of the Clouds?
Surely I smote the Beloved of El, Yam;
Surely I exterminated Nahar, the mighty god?
Surely I lifted up the dragon,
I overpowered him;
I smote the twisting serpent,
The coiled one-with-seven-heads!

[CTA 3:3:31ff.](#)

- The sea conflict is associated with **YHWH's** kingship (cf. [Ps 74:12-15](#); [Isa 27:1](#)). Following **Baal's** victory over the sea in Ugaritic literature, **Baal's** palace / temple was built for him. Following **YHWH's** victory over the sea (the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and the Reed Sea incident) [Exod 15:17](#) tells us of the establishment of **YHWH's** sanctuary (the tabernacle). ([KTU](#))

- **YHWH's** sanctuary is described in terms reminiscent of **Baal's**.
 - **Baal**, the deity who oversaw the council for El held meetings in the "heights" (*mrym*) of Mount Zaphon (*Ṣapānu*, apparently located in a range of mountains that included El's own abode. In Baal's palace in *Ṣapānu* there were "paved bricks" (*lbnt*) that made Baal's house "a house of the clearness of lapis lazuli" (*bht thrm 'iqn 'um*)."
[Psalm 48:1-2](#) calls Mount Zion the "heights" (*mrym*) of the north" (Hebrew = zaphon = *Ṣapānu*). See also [Exodus 24:ff](#).

The Divine Council at Ugarit

Rank 1
of top tier

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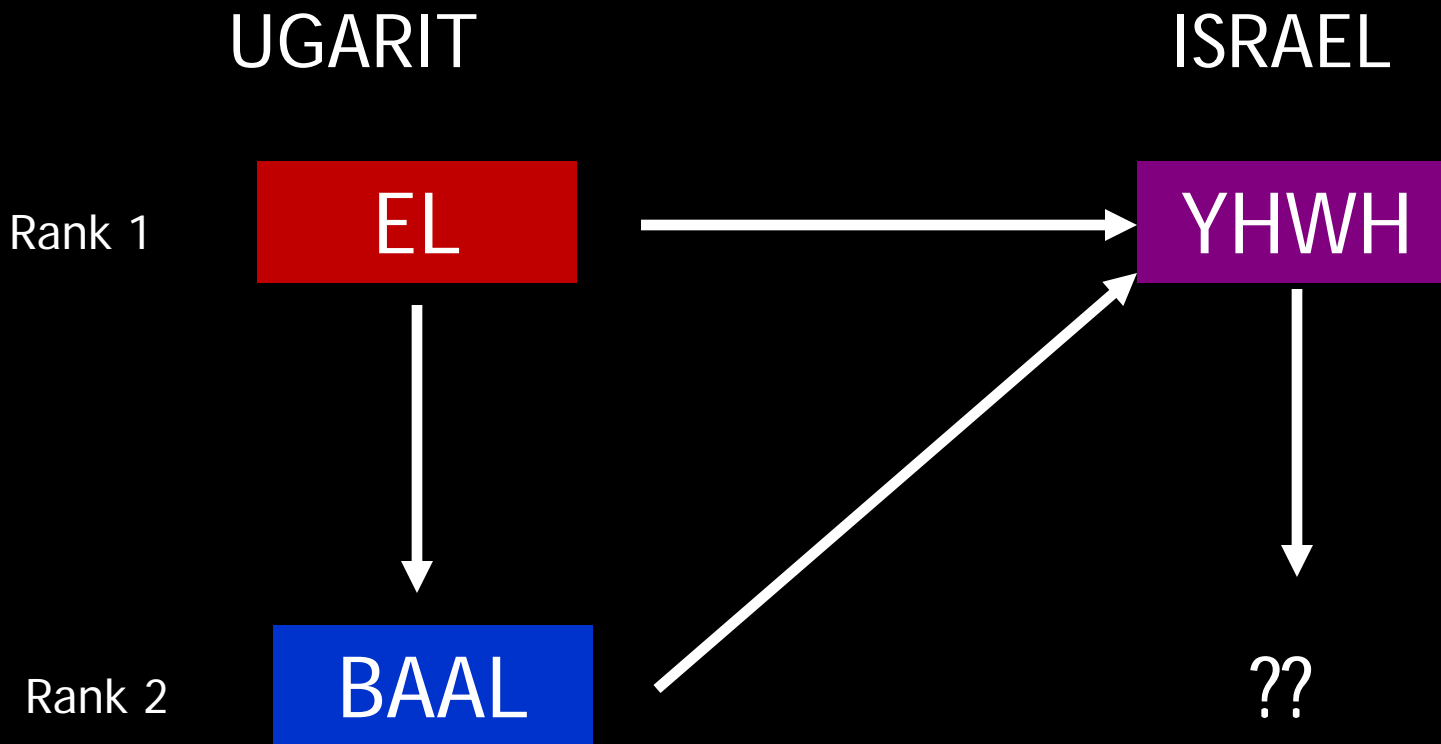


Rank 2
of top tier
Co-regent

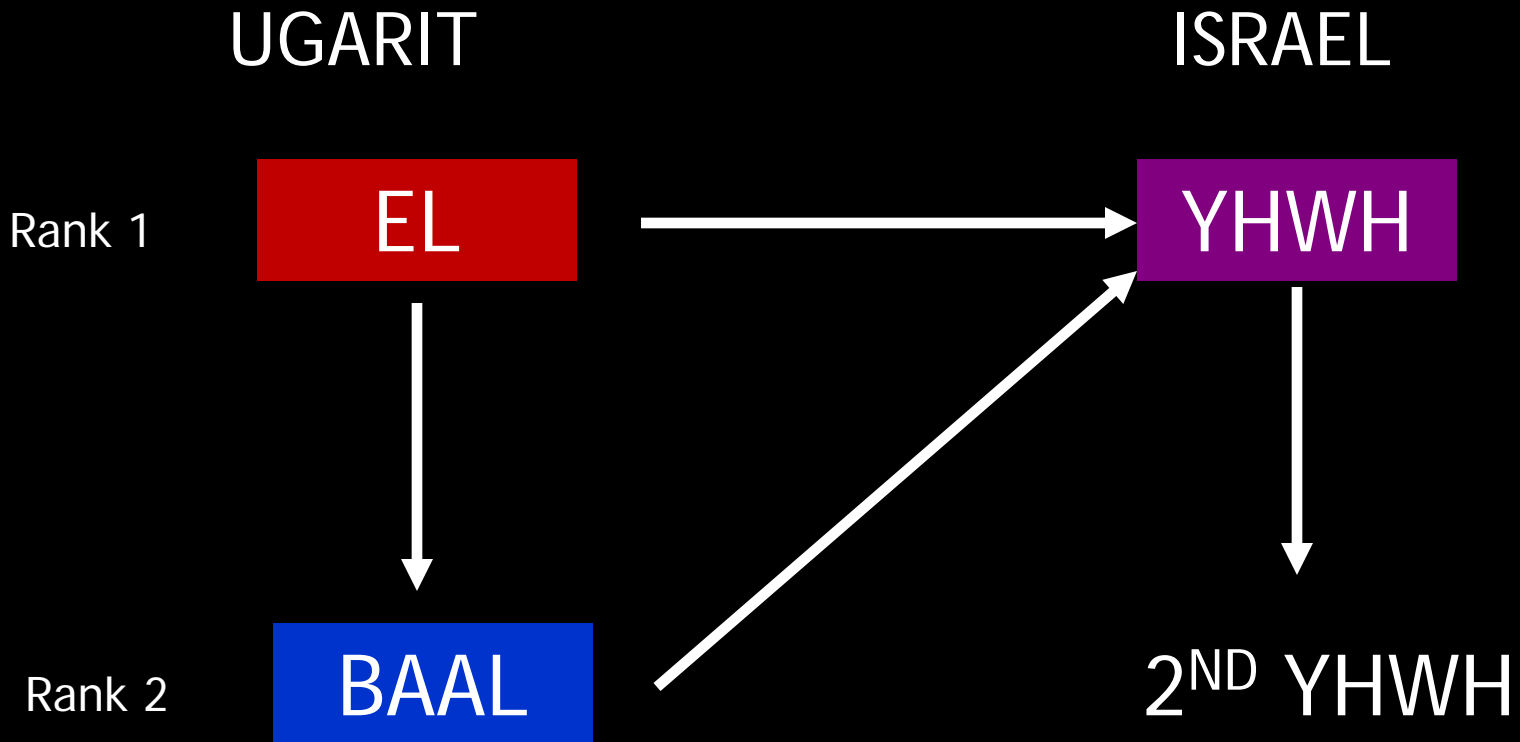
Baal

- Outranks all other sons of El
- co-ruler of all with El
- warrior; fights El's battles

Divine Council Top Structure



Divine Council Top Structure



“He Who Rides the Clouds”

Religious Texts from Ugarit, 2nd Edition

KTU 1.3:3:30-1.3:3:34

1.3 iii 35

Above, her face sweated,
the tendons of her back contracted,
(as did) the muscles⁴⁷ of her shoulders.

She lifted up her voice and cried:
‘Why have Gupan and Ugar come?
What manner of enemy has arisen **against Baal**,
of foe **against the Charioteer of the Clouds**?
Surely I smote the Beloved of El, Yam?
Surely I exterminated Nahar, the mighty god?

Deuteronomy 33

²⁶ "There is none like God, O Jeshurun, **who rides through the heavens** to your help, through the skies in his majesty.

Psalm 68

³² O kingdoms of the earth, sing to **God**; sing praises to the Lord, *Selah* ³³ **to him who rides in the heavens**, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. ³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

Psalm 104

1 Bless **the Lord**, O my soul! **O Lord my God**, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, ² covering yourself with light as with a garment stretching out the heavens like a tent. ³ He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; **he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind.**

Isaiah 19

An oracle concerning Egypt.

Behold, **the Lord is riding on a swift cloud**

and comes to Egypt;

and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence,

and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

Daniel 7

⁹ As I looked, thrones were placed, and **the Ancient of days** took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; **his throne** was **fiery flames**; its **wheels** were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened . . .

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and behold, upon the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

The NAME

Deuteronomy 12

¹ These are the laws and rules that you must carefully observe in the land that the Lord, God of your fathers, is giving you to possess, as long as you live on earth
.
⁴ Do not worship the Lord your God in like manner, ⁵ but look only to **the site that the Lord your God will choose** amidst all your tribes as His habitation, **to establish His name there**. There you are to go, ⁶ and there you are to bring your burnt offerings and other sacrifices, your tithes and contributions, your votive and freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and flocks
¹¹ you must bring everything that I command you to **the site where the Lord your God will choose to establish His name**

Is “the Name” just another way of referring to YHWH?

Psalm 20:1, 7

May **the Lord** answer you in the day of trouble!
May **the name of the God of Jacob** protect you!
Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but **we trust in the name of the Lord our God**

Psalm 44:5-6

- ⁵ You are my king, **O God**;
decree victories for Jacob!
- ⁶ Through **You** we gore our foes;
through **Your name** we trample our adversaries

2 Samuel 6:1-2

¹ David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there **the ark of God**, which is **called the Name**, the name of the Lord [**יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ** · **יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ**] of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim.

Isaiah 30:27

Behold **the name of the Lord**
Comes from afar
In blazing wrath,
With a heavy burden—
His lips full of fury,
His tongue like devouring fire,

Exodus 33:17-23

¹⁷ And **the Lord** said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the **name of the Lord**. [many translations: "will proclaim before you my name, 'the Lord' - **אֶפְדֶּה לְפָנֶיךָ אֶת־שְׁמִי יְהוָה**] And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and **while my glory passes by I will put you** in a cleft of the rock, and **I will cover you with my hand** until I have passed by. ²³ Then **I will take away my hand**, and **you shall see my back**, but my face shall not be seen."

Exodus 34:5-7

⁵ The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord [Ἰσραήλ ὁ Θεός] ⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Two Ways to Parse This

One figure is present: YHWH, enshrouded in a cloud beside Moses, steps out of the cloud in embodied form, reaches out with his hand and shields Moses. There are not two figures. YHWH is the Name, and the Name is embodied.

Two figures are present: YHWH, enshrouded in a cloud draws Moses' attention to a second embodied deity passing by, who is the Name of the Lord. The Name then shields Moses with his hand as the YHWH in the cloud announces the passing of the Name. There are two figures, and one (the Name) is embodied.

A Critical Passage

Exodus 23:20-24

²⁰ I am sending **an angel** before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have made ready. ²¹ Pay heed to him and obey him. Do not defy him, for he will not pardon your transgressions, since **my Name is in him** . . .

Point: The Name, synonymous with YHWH elsewhere, is embodied as a being distinct from YHWH.

The ANGEL of YHWH

Exodus 3

¹ Now Moses, tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, drove the flock into the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. He gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. ³ Moses said, "I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?" ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And He said, "Do not come closer. Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. ⁶ I am," He said, "the God of your 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 at God.

Exodus 13:21; 14:19-20a

²¹ And **the Lord** went before them by day **in a pillar of cloud** to lead them along the way, and by night in a **pillar of fire** to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

¹⁹ Then **the angel of God** who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and **the pillar of cloud** moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel.

Genesis 31:10-13

¹⁰ In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled.

¹¹ Then **the angel of God said to me** in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' ¹² And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

¹³ **I am the God of Bethel**, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.' "

Genesis 32

²³ That same night he [Jacob] arose . . . ²⁵ Jacob was left alone. And **a man** wrestled with him until the break of dawn. ²⁶ When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he wrenched Jacob's hip at its socket, so that the socket of his hip was strained as he wrestled with him. ²⁷ Then he said, "Let me go, for dawn is breaking." But Jacob answered, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁸ Said the other, "What is your name?" He replied, "Jacob." ²⁹ Said he, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with **God / a god (elohim)** and man, and have prevailed." ³⁰ Jacob asked, "Pray tell me your name." But he said, "You must not ask my name!" And he took leave of him there. ³¹ So Jacob named the place Peniel, meaning, "**I have seen God / a god (elohim)** face to face, yet my life has been preserved."

Hosea 12:3-5

1 The Lord once indicted Judah, and punished Jacob for his conduct, requited him for his deeds. 2 In the womb he [Jacob] tried to supplant his brother; grown to manhood,

he strove with a god / God (*elohim*),

He strove with an angel and prevailed—

Genesis 48:14-16

¹⁴ But Israel [i.e., Jacob] stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head—thus crossing his hands—although Manasseh was the first-born. ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph, saying:

“The **God** in whose ways my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked;
The **God** who has been my shepherd from my birth to this day—¹⁶
The **Angel** who has redeemed me from all harm—

May **he** bless these lads.”

Judges 6

¹¹ Now **the angel of the Lord** came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And **the angel of the Lord appeared** to him and said to him, "**The Lord** is with you, O mighty man of valor." ¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

¹⁴ And **the Lord** turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" ¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." ¹⁶ And **the Lord** said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." ¹⁷ And he [**Gideon**] said to him **the Lord / YHWH**, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me. ¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before **you**." And he said, "I will stay till you return."

¹⁹ So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight. ²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the Lord. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." ²³ But the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die."

Summary Points thus far

- YHWH, the God of Israel, is at times indistinguishable from a second being—it is as though YHWH and the second being are the same, since the second entity is called YHWH.
- YHWH and the second being who is YHWH made visible are at times distinguished and simultaneously present
- This “second YHWH” takes human form and is embodied.

The WORD

Genesis 15

¹ After these things **the word of the Lord came to Abram** in a **vision**, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

1 Samuel 3

¹ Now the young man Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. And **the word of the Lord was rare** in those days; there was no frequent **vision** . . .

⁷ Now Samuel had not yet experienced the Lord; **the word of the Lord** had not yet been **revealed** to him.

⁸ And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the young man. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place . . .

¹⁰ And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

¹⁹ And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. ²¹ And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Jeremiah 1

⁴ Now **the word of the Lord** came to me saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then I said, “**Ah, Lord God!** Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But **the Lord said to me**, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” ⁹ **Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth**; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

YHWH in human form

Genesis 18

¹ And **the Lord [YHWH]** appeared to him [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant . . . ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before **them**. And he stood by them under the tree while **they ate**.

Exodus 24:9-11

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰ and **they saw the God of Israel**. There was under **his feet** as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; **they beheld God**, and ate and drank.

Ezekiel 1:26-28

²⁶ And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of **a throne**, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was **a likeness with a human appearance**. ²⁷ And upward from what had the appearance of **his waist** I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of **his waist** I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him.

Jesus in Context

The Name and the Angel

Exodus 23:20 - I am sending **an angel** before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have made ready. ²¹ Pay heed to him and obey him. Do not defy him, for he will not pardon your transgressions, since **my Name is in him** . . .

John 17

¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in **your name, which you have given me**, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in **your name, which you have given me**. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

The Angel

Jude 5

⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that **Jesus**, who **saved a people out of the land of Egypt**, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Exodus 23:20 - I am sending **an angel** before you to guard you on the way and **to bring you to the place** that I have made ready.

Judges 2:1 - Now **the angel of the Lord** went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "**I brought you up from Egypt** and brought you into the land that **I swore** to give to your fathers.

The Word

John 1:1-3, 14, 18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The One Who Rides the Clouds

Daniel 7

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and behold, upon the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

Matthew 26

⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ...
⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy."

Trinity in the OT? An Example

English Standard Version
Isaiah 63:7

The LORD's Mercy Remembered

⁷ I will recount the steadfast love of **the LORD**,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
^u and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.

⁹ ^vIn all their affliction he was afflicted,³
and **the angel of his presence** saved them;
^w in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
^x he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰ ^yBut they rebelled
^z and grieved **his Holy Spirit**;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.

¹¹ Then he remembered ^athe days of old,
of Moses and his people.⁴

^b Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who **put in the midst of them**
his Holy Spirit,

Psalm 78

⁴⁰ How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved **him** in the desert!

⁴¹ They tested **God** again and again and provoked the **Holy One of Israel**.

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