

JESUS PROTECTS US

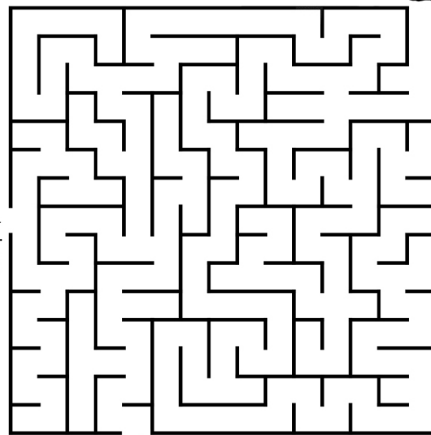


Connect

Did you find your way out of the maze? No? All the exits are blocked! That's why

This is a strange maze. But you will understand the maze after we read our Bible story.

→
START
HERE



Read the Word

The story today is very interesting! Jesus, THE angel of the Lord, appeared to an unbeliever! This, He did because of His great love for His people, the Israelites!

The king of the Moabites, King Balak was afraid of the Israelites and he called on a sorcerer, Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites. Balaam knew God and at first, he sought to obey God and did not want to go. Balak tried to persuade him again, and this time, even when Balaam knew God did not want him to go, he told the king's messengers that he would consult God again. In order to test him if he would really go, God said yes.

Let's read what happens next in Numbers 22:

22 But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road. 24 Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. 25 And when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he struck her again. 26 Then the angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. 27 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. 28 Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" 29 And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you." 30 And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No."

1 Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. 32 And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. 33 The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and taken her life." 34 Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back." 35 And the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you." So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

is so interesting that Jesus appeared to Balaam. You see, Balaam was not a follower of God. Although he knew God, he also believed in other gods. God loved the Israelites and He would not allow anyone to put a curse on them. Even when the Israelites had no idea what was coming to them, Jesus was already there to protect them.

That is God's love for us - that no matter what, He will fight for us. As it says in Romans 8:38-39:

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Parent to Kid/s: 2-6 years old

- Who do you think protects you everyday? Why do you say that?

7-12 years old

- Do you recall ever being in real danger? Who was here to protect you?
- Do you ever call on the name of Jesus when you feel you are in danger?

Kid/s to Parent:

- How does Jesus protect us?

We are God's children, and just like He protected the Israelites from being cursed, God also protects us. He not only protects us from harm every day but He also protects us from the biggest threat of all - sin. He already sent Jesus to die for us so we can be free from sin. And today, we can call on the name of Jesus and He will help us live a godly life.



Dear God, thank you for protecting us everyday. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for us in order to save us from sin's clutches. Please help us to hear you clearly so we can obey and live a life that glorifies You. In Jesus' name, Amen!



In our past 5 stories, we met this character the Bible refers to as "the angel of the Lord", who we have learned is actually Jesus. But the interesting thing is, the Bible never mentions the name Jesus. So how did people know it was Him?

1. There were other angels in the Bible but they were simply referred to as an angel. The angel of the Lord will always refer only to the same character, who is Jesus.
2. The angel of the Lord always speaks as if He is God or Yahweh. Ordinary angels will not speak this way.
 - He tells Hagar in Genesis 16:10, "The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."
 - He says to Abraham in Genesis 18:14, "Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."
 - He tells Balaam in Numbers 22:32-33, "I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared it."

There are other indicators but they will require deeper study of the Scripture. Suffice to say that indeed, Jesus came down to earth on different missions and his ultimate mission was when He came as a baby, lived as a man and died as a sinner in order to save all of us from eternal destruction. Oh, what amazing love He has for us!

Source: <https://bibleproject.com/blog/who-is-the-angel-of-the-lord/>