

the Shaliah

Agent of God

John 10:22-38 ²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" ³³ The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?" ³⁵ If he called them gods to whom the word of God came- and Scripture cannot be broken- ³⁶ do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?" ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; ³⁸ but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father

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^{NKJ} **Psalm 82:6** I said, "You *are* gods, And all of you *are* children (sons) of the Most High.

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^{NKJ} **Psalm 82:8** Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.

^{NKJ} **John 3:1-2** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."



Fig. 1

Since they knew He was sent by God, they would have also known that He could be considered to be God. Why? Because of the ancient Hebrew custom of “agency”.



AGENCY

In this study:

- discover what agency is all about
- see examples of agency in the scriptures
- see how this understanding will help us grow in knowledge of our Messiah

AGENCY

“Shariah – An Introduction to the Law of Agency”

Raymond James Essoe

<http://www.christianmonotheism.com/media/text/Raymond%20Essoe%20--%20Shariah.pdf>

the Shaliah

“shalach” (שָׁלַח – St. 7971)

“to send”

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“shalach” (שָׁלַח – St. 7971)

“to send”

Even though the literal meaning of “shalach” is “to send”, or to “send away”, when used in the context of a person being sent on a mission (like Moses), or with a message (like the prophets), it implies even more, for when you are sent with a purpose, you now become a “shaliah”.

“shaliah” (שָׁלִיחַ) – “one sent with a purpose”

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“A power of attorney (POA) or letter of attorney is a written authorization to represent or act on another's behalf in private affairs, business, or some other legal matter, sometimes against the wishes of the other. The person authorizing the other to act is the principal, grantor, or donor (of the power). The one authorized to act is the agent . . .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_of_attorney

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“The Law of Agency deals with the status of a person (known as the agent) acting by direction of another (the principal), and thereby legally binding the principal in his connection with a third person. The person who binds a principal in this manner is his **agent**, known in Jewish law as sheluah or sheliah (one that is sent): the relation of the former to the latter is known as agency (shelihut). The general principle is enunciated thus: **A man's agent is like himself** (Kid. 41b)” (emphasis mine)

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/894-agency-law-of>

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“All Old Testament scholars and commentators recognize that in Jewish custom whenever a superior commissioned an agent to act on his behalf, the agent was regarded as the person himself. This is well expressed in The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion: Agent (Heb. Shaliah): The main point of the Jewish law of agency is expressed in the dictum, “a person’s agent is regarded as the person himself” (Ned. 72B; Kidd, 41b). Therefore any act committed by a duly appointed agent is regarded as having been committed by the principle, who therefore bears full responsibility for it with consequent complete absence of liability on the part of the agent.”

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“Come and hear: If one says to a guardian, 'Annul all the vows which my wife may make between now and my return from such and such a place', and he does so: I might think that they are void, therefore Scripture teaches, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void. This is the view of R. Josiah. Said R. Jonathan to him: But we find in the whole Torah that a man's agent is as himself! Now, even R. Josiah ruled thus only because it is a Scriptural decree, 'her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void': but both agree that a man's agent is as himself; but he [the husband] did not hear the vows!” (emphasis mine)

Tractate Nedarim 72b

http://www.come-and-hear.com/nedarim/nedarim_72.html

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Eliezer of Damascus

^{NKJ} **Genesis 24:4** " . . . go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

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Eliezer of Damascus

^{NKJ} **Genesis 24:4** " . . . go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

^{NKJ} **Genesis 24:47** "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter *are you?*' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.

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Eliezer of Damascus



“ . . . a man's agent is as himself.”

Tractate Nedarim 72b

The example of Eliezer:

- sent on a mission
- spoke the words and performed the deeds for which he was sent
- returned with that which he was sent to obtain
- It was as if Abraham had done it himself

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Angels at Sodom

^{NKJ} **Genesis 19:1** Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. ² And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet . . . ⁴ Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. ⁵ And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight?"

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Angels at Sodom

^{NKJ} **Genesis 19:13** "... **we** will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the **LORD has sent us to destroy it.**"

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Angels at Sodom

^{NKJ} **Genesis 19:13** "... we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

^{NKJ} **Genesis 19:14** So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for **the LORD will destroy this city!**" .

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NKJ Genesis 19:24-25 Then the **LORD** rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ So **He** overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

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Angels at Sodom



“ . . . a man's agent is as himself.”

Tractate Nedarim 72b

The example of the Angels at Sodom:

- sent on a mission
- spoke the words and performed the deeds for which they were sent
- it was as if YHVH did it Himself

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Angel of YHVH

^{NKJ} **Exodus 3:1-6** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² 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. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

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Angel of YHVH

⁴ 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." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "**I am 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 upon God.

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Angel of YHVH



“ . . . a man's agent is as himself.”

Tractate Nedarim 72b

The example of the Angel of YHVH:

- sent to meet with Moses
- spoke the words given by YHVH
- it was as if YHVH spoke the words Himself

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Angel of YHVH

Acts 7:30 "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

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Angel of YHVH

Acts 7:30 "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

Acts 7:35 ³⁵ "This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent *to be* a ruler and a deliverer **by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush.**

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Moses and Aaron

NKJ **Exodus 3:11** But Moses said to God, "Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a sign to you that **I have sent you**: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

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NKJ Exodus 4:12 "Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

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Moses and Aaron

NKJ Exodus 6:28 - 7:2 ²⁸ And it came to pass, on the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, ²⁹ that the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "I *am* the LORD. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you." ³⁰ But Moses said before the LORD, "Behold, I *am* of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?" **Exodus 7:1** So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you ~~as~~ God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. ² "You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.

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Moses and Aaron

^{KJ} **Exodus 7:17** 'Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I *am* the LORD. Behold, **I will strike** the waters which *are* in the river with the **rod that is in my hand**, and they shall be turned to blood.

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^{NKJ} **Exodus 7:19** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "**Say to Aaron,** '**Take your rod** and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood.

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Moses and Aaron



“ . . . a man's agent is as himself.”

Tractate Nedarim 72b

The example of the Moses and Aaron:

- sent to deliver the children of Israel
- Moses became “God” to Pharaoh, Aaron become Moses’ prophet
- spoke the words and did the deeds commanded by YHVH
- it was as if YHVH spoke the words Himself

the Shaliah

Joseph

Genesis 45:4-7 ⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I *am* Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; **for God sent me** before you to preserve life. ⁶ "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ "And **God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth**, and to **save your lives** by a great deliverance.

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Joseph

NKJ Genesis 41:39-44 ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, *there is* no one as discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." ⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ . . . So he set him over all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁴ Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I *am* Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

the Shaliah

Joseph



“ . . . a man's agent is as himself.”

Tractate Nedarim 72b

The example of the Joseph:

- sent to preserved and save the children of Israel
- Became #2 in the kingdom
- all things were place in his hands
- it was as if Joseph were Pharaoh himself
- A precursor of Messiah Yeshua

NKJ **John 10:32** Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?"
³³ The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy . . .



the Shaliah - Review

- Jewish law regards the shaliah – the sent one - as if he were the person who sent him
- Scripture clearly shows that Moses was considered by YHVH to be a “god” to Pharaoh
- The “angel of YHVH” was a representation of YHVH and thus had the authority to make statements accredited to YHVH
- Yeshua was recognized by many of the Jews of His day as the shaliah of YHVH
 - Thus when he spoke on behalf of YHVH, it was as if YHVH were speaking Himself
 - and in the Hebrew mindset of the Jewish people, that makes Yeshua and the one who sent Him – ONE.

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You Now Know what They Know!

NKJ Isaiah 43:11 *I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.*

NKJ Luke 2:11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

NKJ Isaiah 43:15-25 ¹⁵ *I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.* . . . ²⁵ *"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.*

John 1:29 ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

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Fig. 3 – Jesus Walks in Solomon’s Court by James Tissot, Public domain, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Alechim

Peace be Unto You