

Exodus 23:20-33 **Instructions for inheriting the Promised Land**

20 "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

22 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. 23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.

24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars.

25 So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. 26 No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

27 "I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. 28 And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.

29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.

31 And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

32 You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ We remember that the Children of Israel were eyewitnesses as God spoke the moral law in the hearing of Israel. We find that the Children of Israel are standing far back from the mountain while Moses is standing near, but the Children of Israel can still hear the words being spoken by God. [\[Exodus 20:21\]](#)
- ✧ The Angel of Yehowah will be personally present with Israel all the way and all the time from the departure from Egypt to the inheritance of the Promised Land demonstrating God's faithfulness in following through to the finish with whatever He begins.
- ✧ He is keeping His promise to Abraham made about 650 years before.
- ✧ The Angel of Yehowah represents God Himself, and God's name is in him. He **will not** pardon your transgressions.
- ✧ As such He is to demonstrate the strictness of God and will not tolerate disobedience. This is required to let mankind know that God really means what He commands.

- ✧ If God had begun by allowing the people to disobey and get away with it, whom He is using as an example to the world to reveal Himself and His ways, then there would be no reason for mankind to ever take seriously anything God says, or to expect His promise of punishment to ever be enacted.
- ✧ Even today, people feel that they can negotiate with God regarding His commandments. This is so, even after God demonstrated His strictness with the people of Israel in the wilderness, when He was obviously present, and later when He scattered them from their own land because of their disobedience.
- ✧ We need to know that God's commandments are nonnegotiable and that He is not obligated in any way to tolerate deviance from His laws.
- ✧ The only reason God has not yet destroyed the earth and all the sinners in it, is purely because of His mercy and grace, not because He accepts our deviant ways.
- ✧ Obedience to the commandments of God enables Him to help us without destroying our testimony to the world around us. It also enables Him to keep His promise to Abraham.
 - ✧ "For I (God) have known him (Abraham), in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of Yehowah, to do righteousness and justice, that Yehowah may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." [\[Genesis 18:19\]](#)
- ✧ Therefore, God said, "**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."
- ✧ So when the Angel of Yehowah speaks, it is Elohiym speaking, and carries all the authority of God Himself.
- ✧ God declared that His Angel will continue to go before Israel into the Promised Land and will cut off the designated nations before Israel.
- ✧ Again God speaks of the gods and people of the land, as He instructs Israel not to bow down to their gods, nor to serve them, nor to follow their works.
- ✧ Then God commanded Israel to "utterly overthrow them, and completely break down their idols.
 - ✧ Allowing the idols of the people of the land to remain will be too great a temptation for Israel, and will lead them to destroy themselves by disobedience to the commandments of God.
 - ✧ Humanistic concepts of tolerance of all so called religions, compromises our ability of standing for truth and righteousness, and places us in danger of deviating from the truth of God's word, which will bring us into a position to be facing the wrath and judgment of God.
 - ✧ Israel is not to tolerate idolatry of any kind.
- ✧ So you shall serve Yehowah Elohey (the Lord your God).
 - Only by obedience to God can Israel expect to receive the continued blessings of Yehowah:
 - ✧ God will bless your bread and your water, and take sickness away from the midst of you.
 - ✧ No one will suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land.
 - ✧ God will fulfill the number of days He has allotted to you.
 - ✧ God will send His fear before you, and cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.
 - ✧ God will send hornets before you which will drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, the Hittite from before you
- ✧ Then God let them know that it will not be sudden destruction of all the population of the Promised land at once, and He tells them why:

- ✧ I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.
- ✧ I will drive them out from before you little by little, until you have increased and you inherit the land.
- ✧ **The boundaries of the land will be:**
 - ✧ From the Gulf of Elat (the east branch of the Red Sea) to the Mediterranean Sea at Gaza (the land of the Philistines).
 - ✧ From the desert of the Negev to the river Euphrates. [\[Genesis 15:18\]](#)
- ✧ **Then God came back to the problem of idolatry:**
 - ✧ Do not make a covenant with the people of the land or with their gods.
 - ✧ They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me.
 - ✧ Because, if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.
 - ❖ This snare will cause the Children of Israel to be destroyed from the face of the earth. [\[Deuteronomy 6:14-15\]](#)
 - ❖ You shall surely perish. [\[Deuteronomy 8:19\]](#)
 - ❖ You will perish quickly from the good land Yehowah is giving you. [\[Deuteronomy 11:16-17\]](#)
- ✧ All these words were heard by Moses and by the Children of Israel as God spoke from heaven, while His awesome presence was visible on the mountain in the most spectacular display of power. [\[Exodus 19:9-19, 20:18, 20:22\]](#)