

## Exodus 33:1-6 **Promise to Lead to Promised Land**

**1** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' **2** "And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the **Canaanite** and the **Amorite** and the **Hittite** and the **Perizzite** and the **Hivite** and the **Jebusite**. **3** Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way for you are a stiff-necked people."

**4** And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. **5** For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.' " **6** So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ God's desire was to dwell in the midst of (or among) the Children of Israel, His people. [Exodus 25:8, 29:45-46, Numbers 5:3, 35:34, Ezekiel 43:7-9, Zechariah 2:10-11, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Revelation 7:15, 21:3]
- ✧ However, since their rebellion with the Golden Calf, He cannot be among them as He desired to do, because God cannot dwell with sin and thus appear to tolerate it by His presence.
- ✧ So, God told Moses to take the people he had brought out of the land of Egypt to the Promised Land in keeping with His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- ✧ God promised to send His angel before them into the Promised Land and to drive the six specifically named nations.
- ✧ God promised that the land would retain its abundance and reputation as a "Land flowing with Milk and Honey."
- ✧ However God will not go with them in their midst as He originally desired to do, because He would then have to consume them on the way, for they are a "Stiff Necked People" and God knew that they would fail to obey Him many times on the way.
- ✧ Even with all their promises to obey everything God required of them, they had already failed to stand in faith many times. [Exodus 5:19-23, 6:9, 14:10-12, 15:22-24, 16:1-8, 16:27, 17:1-7, 20:18-19, 32:1-6]
- ✧ God said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you.'"
  - ◇ This warning was to focus their attention on their sinfulness to bring their attention to the fact that they needed to be sincerely careful to obey all that God might say and all that He had already said.
  - ◇ Also that there was a great danger if they failed to remain obedient.
  - ◇ They are being established as an example to reveal God to the world around them and thus God must be very strict in enforcing His commandments, and in doing so, God was setting legal precedent in regard to all His Laws.
- ✧ God commanded that they remove all their ornaments **so He would know what to do with them.**
  - ◇ This was to humble them and give them an opportunity to demonstrate their obedience.
  - ◇ Humble obedience was and is the thing that determines God's acceptance of our actions or His punishment against us for our actions.
  - ◇ God had already specified the results coming in response to their obedience or disobedience.

- ✧ When the Children of Israel heard this, they mourned and stripped themselves of all their ornaments.
  - ✧ It is a sobering thing to be brought face to face with the fact that God is so displeased with our actions that He is contemplating taking action that would consume us for our sins.
- ✧ This truth holds today as well as it did in that day at Mount Horeb.
  - ✧ God does see all our sins and has provided a Lake of Fire for everyone who does not obey all the commandments of God and who rebels at the fact that our only righteousness is that which we receive from God as He imputes His righteousness to us when we stand depending on His acceptance of the blood of Christ on our behalf.
  - ✧ We dare not attempt to approach and please God our own way, as Aaron did when he built an altar to Yehowah in front of the golden calf and called for a feast to Yehowah.
  - ✧ It was their golden ornaments that they had given to Aaron to make the golden calf in the first place that brought this judgment upon themselves. [\[Exodus 32:1-6\]](#)
- ✧ We know today that God has promised the Lake of Fire for all who do wickedness. [\[Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 20:14-15, 21:8, 22:15\]](#)
  - ✧ This knowledge should have the same effect on us as it did on the Children of Israel at Mount Horeb. It should cause us to mourn because of our sins and fear the judgment of God enough to prevent us from continuing in our sins any more.
  - ✧ God is watching to see what we will do toward His revealed Word so He will know what to do with us.
  - ✧ There are two possibilities;
    - ❖ One is the Lake of Fire for the rebels and wicked as mentioned above.
    - ❖ The other is the New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem, the Tree of Life, and the River of Life for those who are faithful to “keep the commandments of God and have a testimony of Jesus Christ.” [\[Revelation 12:17, 14:12, 21:27, 22:14\]](#)
  - ✧ Choose wisely, your outcome is based on your own choices. [\[Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 22:12\]](#)