

Message Eleven
The Angel of Jehovah
for His People to Take Possession of the Promised Land

AY Hymns 701, 396

Scripture Reading: Exo. 23:20-33

- Exo 23:20 I am now sending an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.
- Exo 23:21 Be careful before Him, and listen to His voice; do not rebel against Him, for He will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in Him.
- Exo 23:22 But if you will indeed listen to His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.
- Exo 23:23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.
- Exo 23:24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars into pieces.
- Exo 23:25 And you shall serve Jehovah your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will take sickness away from your midst.
- Exo 23:26 No one shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.
- Exo 23:27 I will send My terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people to whom you will come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.
- Exo 23:28 And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.
- Exo 23:29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the animals of the field multiply against you.
- Exo 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have become fruitful and inherit the land.
- Exo 23:31 And I will set your border from the Red Sea even to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out from before you.
- Exo 23:32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.
- Exo 23:33 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.

I. The title *the Angel of Jehovah* in Exodus 3:2 refers mainly to Christ, the Son of God, as the One sent by God (cf. John 8:42) to save His people from their situation of suffering (cf. Judg. 6:12-22; 13:3-22):

- Exo 3:2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.
- John 8:42 Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I came forth out from God and have come from Him; for I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me.
- Judg 6:12 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him and said to him, Jehovah is with you, valiant warrior.
- Judg 6:13 And Gideon said to Him, Please, my lord, if Jehovah is with us, then why has all this happened to us? And where are all His wondrous deeds that our fathers recount to us, saying, Did not Jehovah bring us up out of Egypt? But now Jehovah has abandoned us and delivered us into the hand of Midian.
- Judg 6:14 Then Jehovah turned to him and said, Go in this strength of yours, and save Israel from the hand of Midian. Indeed I have sent you.
- Judg 6:15 And he said to Him, Please, Lord, by what way can I save Israel? My clan here is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.
- Judg 6:16 And Jehovah said to him, Surely I will be with you, and you will strike the Midianites as one man.
- Judg 6:17 And he said to Him, If now I have found favor in Your sight, perform a sign for me that it is You who are speaking with me.
- Judg 6:18 Do not depart from here until I come to You and bring my present and set it before You. And He said, I will remain until you return.

- Judg 6:19 So Gideon went and prepared a kid and an ephah of flour in unleavened cakes. He put the flesh in a basket and put the broth in a pot, and he brought it out to Him under the terebinth. And he presented it.
- Judg 6:20 And the Angel of God said to him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock; and pour out the broth. And he did so.
- Judg 6:21 And the Angel of Jehovah put forth the end of the staff that was in His hand and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And fire came up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the Angel of Jehovah went from his sight.
- Judg 6:22 And Gideon saw that He was the Angel of Jehovah. And Gideon said, Alas, O Lord Jehovah! For I have seen the Angel of Jehovah face to face.
- Judg 13:3 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to the woman and said to her, Now you are barren and have borne no children; but you will conceive and bear a son.
- Judg 13:4 And now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink nor to eat anything unclean;
- Judg 13:5 For you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy will be a Nazarite to God from the womb; and he will begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.
- Judg 13:6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came to me; and His appearance was like the appearance of an angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask Him where He was from, nor did He tell me His name;
- Judg 13:7 But He said to me, You shall conceive and bear a son. And now do not drink wine or strong drink, nor eat anything unclean; for the boy will be a Nazarite to God from the womb until the day of his death.
- Judg 13:8 Then Manoah entreated Jehovah and said, Oh, my Lord! Let the man of God, whom You sent, come again to us, I pray; and let Him teach us what we should do with the boy that is to be born.
- Judg 13:9 And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the Angel of God came again to the woman while she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her.
- Judg 13:10 And the woman hurried and ran off; and she told her husband and said to him, The man who came to me that day has just appeared to me.
- Judg 13:11 And Manoah rose up and followed his wife and came to the man. And he said to Him, Are You the man who spoke to this woman? And He said, I am.
- Judg 13:12 And Manoah said, Now when Your words come to pass, what rule shall the boy follow, and what shall he do?
- Judg 13:13 And the Angel of Jehovah said to Manoah, Observe all that I spoke to this woman.
- Judg 13:14 She is not to eat of anything that comes forth from the grapevine, nor is she to drink wine or strong drink, nor is she to eat anything unclean; she shall observe all that I commanded her.
- Judg 13:15 And Manoah said to the Angel of Jehovah, Let us detain You, we pray, that we may prepare a kid for You.
- Judg 13:16 And the Angel of Jehovah said to Manoah, If you detain Me, I will not eat your food; but if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it up to Jehovah. For Manoah did not know that He was the Angel of Jehovah.
- Judg 13:17 Then Manoah said to the Angel of Jehovah, What is Your name, so that when Your words come to pass, we may honor You?
- Judg 13:18 And the Angel of Jehovah said to him, Why do you ask about My name, since it is wonderful?
- Judg 13:19 And Manoah took the kid with the meal offering and offered it up upon the rock to Jehovah; and He acted wondrously, while Manoah and his wife looked on.
- Judg 13:20 And when the flame went up from the altar to heaven, the Angel of Jehovah went up in the flame of the altar, while Manoah and his wife looked on; and they fell on their faces to the ground.
- Judg 13:21 And the Angel of Jehovah did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of Jehovah.
- Judg 13:22 And Manoah said to his wife, We will surely die, for we have seen God.
- A. According to Exodus 3:2 and 6, the Angel of Jehovah, the sent One, was Jehovah Himself, the sending One (cf. Zech. 2:6-11), and Jehovah is the Triune God (Exo. 3:6, 15).
- Exo 3:2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.
- Exo 3:6 And 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 at God.

- Zech 2:6 Ho! Ho! Flee from the land of the north, declares Jehovah, for I have spread you out like the four winds of the heavens, declares Jehovah.
- Zech 2:7 Ho, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.
- Zech 2:8 For thus says Jehovah of hosts, After the glory He has sent Me against the nations who plunder you; for he who touches you touches the pupil of His eye.
- Zech 2:9 For I am now waving My hand over them, and they will be plunder for those who served them; and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me.
- Zech 2:10 Give a ringing shout and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for now I am coming, and I will dwell in your midst, declares Jehovah.
- Zech 2:11 And many nations will join themselves to Jehovah in that day and will become My people; and I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me to you.
- Exo 3:15 And God also said to Moses, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial from generation to generation.
- B. For the purpose of calling and sending Moses, God, the sending One, appeared to him as the sent One—cf. John 20:21; Acts 7:30-31.
- John 20:21 Then Jesus said to them again, Peace be to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.
- Acts 7:30 And when forty years had been fulfilled, an Angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai in the flame of a thornbush fire.
- Acts 7:31 And when Moses saw it, he marveled at the vision; and as he approached to examine it, there came the voice of the Lord:

II. “The Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them”—Exo. 14:19:

- A. The Angel of God in Exodus 14:19 is the Angel of Jehovah who called Moses; the Angel of Jehovah is Christ as God’s sent One—3:2, 4.
- Exo 14:19 And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.
- Exo 3:2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.
- Exo 3:4 And when Jehovah saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the midst of the thornbush and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here I am.
- B. The fact that God’s sent One went before the camp of Israel indicates that Christ was the One who was leading the people.
- C. When the Angel of God moved, the pillar moved also, showing that the Angel and the pillar were one; Christ and the leading Spirit cannot be separated— John 14:17-20; 16:13; 2 Cor. 3:17; Rev. 5:6.
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- 2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

III. The Angel of Jehovah in Judges 2:1 is God Himself in His Divine Trinity serving His elect as a Servant (cf. Heb. 1:14):

Judg 2:1 Then the Angel of Jehovah went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And He said, I caused you to go up out from Egypt, and I brought you into the land that I swore to your fathers. And I said, I will never break My covenant with you,

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth for service for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

A. The embodiment of the Triune God is Christ, and Christ is the Angel of Jehovah, who took care of Israel as Jehovah in action in the Old Testament.

B. For Christ to be the Angel of Jehovah means that God has appointed and commissioned Himself in His Divine Trinity to act in caring for His people.

C. Because Israel did not act as a proper wife, the very Jehovah who was the Husband, the Head, and the King of Israel became a Servant to His wife:

1. He came to her not as a Husband, Head, or King but as the Angel of Jehovah, who was sent by Jehovah—Zech. 2:9-11.

Zech 2:9 For I am now waving My hand over them, and they will be plunder for those who served them; and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me.

Zech 2:10 Give a ringing shout and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for now I am coming, and I will dwell in your midst, declares Jehovah.

Zech 2:11 And many nations will join themselves to Jehovah in that day and will become My people; and I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me to you.

2. Since Israel did not regard Jehovah as the Head, He became a Servant to serve her; His word to Israel in Judges 2:1-3 was not a rebuke or a command but the admonition of a servant.

Judg 2:1 Then the Angel of Jehovah went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And He said, I caused you to go up out from Egypt, and I brought you into the land that I swore to your fathers. And I said, I will never break My covenant with you,

Judg 2:2 And you shall not make a covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars. But you did not listen to My voice. What is this that you have done?

Judg 2:3 Therefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they will be like thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a snare to you.

IV. Christ is the Angel of the covenant in Malachi 3:1:

Mal 3:1 I am about to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me; and suddenly the Lord, whom you seek, will come to His temple. And the Angel of the covenant, whom you desire, He will come, says Jehovah of hosts.

A. Christ's coming suddenly as the Angel of the covenant will be to execute upon Israel the covenant that He enacted through His death—Matt. 26:28.

Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

B. In His first coming Christ came in the way of an Angel, a serving one (cf. Heb. 1:14), to serve God in forming the new testament (Mark 10:45).

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth for service for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

C. When He established His table on the night in which He was betrayed, He enacted the new covenant (Luke 22:20), in which God is obligated to forgive our sins and to dispense Himself into our being to be our life, our law of life, and our everything as our inward content that we may live Him (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12).

Luke 22:20 And similarly the cup after they had dined, saying, This cup is the new covenant established in

- My blood, which is being poured out for you.
- Jer 31:31 Indeed, days are coming, declares Jehovah, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
- Jer 31:32 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by their hand to bring them out from the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was their Husband, declares Jehovah.
- Jer 31:33 But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Jehovah: I will put My law in their inward parts and write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.
- Jer 31:34 And they will no longer teach, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for all of them will know Me, from the little one among them even to the great one among them, declares Jehovah, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.
- Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them He says, "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, and I will consummate a new covenant upon the house of Israel and upon the house of Judah,
- Heb 8:9 Not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.
- Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.
- Heb 8:11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.
- Heb 8:12 For I will be propitious to their unrighteousnesses, and their sins I shall by no means remember anymore."

D. As the Angel of the covenant, Christ in resurrection executes the new covenant as its surety, making it real to us by assuring us that our sins have been forgiven and by dispensing the riches of the covenanted Triune God into us—7:22; Jer. 31:31-34.

- Heb 7:22 By so much Jesus has also become the surety of a better covenant.
- Jer 31:31 Indeed, days are coming, declares Jehovah, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
- Jer 31:32 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by their hand to bring them out from the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was their Husband, declares Jehovah.
- Jer 31:33 But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Jehovah: I will put My law in their inward parts and write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.
- Jer 31:34 And they will no longer teach, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for all of them will know Me, from the little one among them even to the great one among them, declares Jehovah, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

V. In the book of Revelation Christ is another Angel in His work in the divine administration—7:2; 8:3; 10:1, 5, 9; 18:1:

- Rev 7:2 And I saw another Angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom authority was given to harm the earth and the sea,
- Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
- Rev 10:1 And I saw another strong Angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon His head, and His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire;
- Rev 10:5 And the Angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up His right hand to heaven
- Rev 10:9 And I went to the Angel and told Him to give me the little scroll. And He said to me, Take it and devour

it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.

Rev 18:1 After these things I saw another Angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was illumined with His glory.

A. In the book of Revelation He is called “another Angel,” the unique, special Angel, because He is the One sent by God to carry out His economy.

B. As another Angel, Christ takes care of God’s people, both the sons of Israel and the believers:

1. In 7:2-8 He takes care of the chosen remnant of Israel and is unveiled as another Angel in relation to “a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel”—v. 4.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another Angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom authority was given to harm the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 Saying, Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the slaves of our God upon their foreheads.

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:

Rev 7:5 Out of the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand sealed; out of the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand;

Rev 7:6 Out of the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand;

Rev 7:7 Out of the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand;

Rev 7:8 Out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand sealed.

2. In His work as another Angel, Christ takes care of the believers, the redeemed saints of the church, preserving them throughout all the tribulations—vv. 9-17.

Rev 7:9 After these things I saw, and behold, there was a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands.

Rev 7:10 And they cry with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,

Rev 7:12 Saying, Amen. The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanks and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where did they come from?

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Because of this they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will tabernacle over them.

Rev 7:16 They will not hunger anymore, neither will they thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat upon them, nor any heat;

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to springs of waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

3. Christ as God’s Angel controls the whole universe, directing the other angels to carry out God’s judgment upon the earth—vv. 2-3.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another Angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom authority was given to harm the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 Saying, Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the slaves of our God

upon their foreheads.

C. In 8:3-5 Christ as another Angel executes God's administration over the earth by ministering to God as the High Priest with the prayers of His saints:

Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.

Rev 8:5 And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake.

1. The incense altar (the golden altar) is the executing center of God's administration.
2. The golden censer signifies the prayers of the saints (5:8), and the incense signifies Christ with all His merit to be added to the saints' prayers.

Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.

3. When the prayers of the saints ascend to God with the incense of Christ, God carries out His administration—8:5:

Rev 8:5 And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake.

- a. God's administration needs the saints' prayers, which are their response to Christ's heavenly ministry; as we pray, He administrates, and as He administrates, we pray.
- b. Christ first offers our prayers to God and then pours out God's answers; the pouring out of God's answers to our prayers equals God's universal administration.

D. In 10:1-2 Christ comes as another Angel to take possession of the sea and the land:

Rev 10:1 And I saw another strong Angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon His head, and His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire;

Rev 10:2 And He had in His hand a little opened scroll. And He placed His right foot on the sea and the left on the land;

1. His having one foot on the sea and the other on the land signifies that He is coming to take possession of the whole earth—v. 2b.

Rev 10:2b ... And He placed His right foot on the sea and the left on the land;

2. Although the earth and the sea have been usurped by God's enemy, one day Christ will no longer tolerate this usurpation, and He will come to claim His rightful inheritance—Psa. 2:8; 24:1.

Psa 2:8 Ask of Me, / And I will give the nations as Your inheritance / And the limits of the earth as Your possession.

Psa 24:1 The earth is Jehovah's, and its fullness, / The habitable land and those who dwell in it.

E. In His work as another Angel, Christ will come to declare God's judgment over Babylon the Great and to appear in glory to make the whole earth the kingdom of God—Rev. 18:1-2; 11:15.

Rev 18:1 After these things I saw another Angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was illumined with His glory.

Rev 18:2 And He cried with a strong voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a hold of every unclean spirit and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird;

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

VI. "I am now sending an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring

you into the place which I have prepared”—Exo. 23:20, cf. vv. 21-33:

- Exo 23:20 I am now sending an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.
- Exo 23:21 Be careful before Him, and listen to His voice; do not rebel against Him, for He will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in Him.
- Exo 23:22 But if you will indeed listen to His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.
- Exo 23:23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.
- Exo 23:24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars into pieces.
- Exo 23:25 And you shall serve Jehovah your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will take sickness away from your midst.
- Exo 23:26 No one shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.
- Exo 23:27 I will send My terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people to whom you will come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.
- Exo 23:28 And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.
- Exo 23:29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the animals of the field multiply against you.
- Exo 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have become fruitful and inherit the land.
- Exo 23:31 And I will set your border from the Red Sea even to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out from before you.
- Exo 23:32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.
- Exo 23:33 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.

A. That the decree of the law concludes with a portion regarding the Angel and the good land indicates that the purpose of the decree of the law is that those who received the law would enter into the good land—vv. 20-33.

Exo 23:20-33 be omitted.

B. The Angel of Jehovah typifies Christ as the One sent by God to keep His people in the way and to bring them into the good land, and the good land typifies Christ in His all-inclusiveness as the allotted portion of God’s people—Deut. 8:7; Col. 1:12.

Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

C. Thus, Christ as the sent One brings God’s people into Himself as the good land; the goal in God’s purpose is to bring His people into the full enjoyment of Christ as the all-inclusive land.

D. Regarding the Angel of Jehovah, Exodus 23:21 says, “My name is in Him”; the name of Jehovah is identical to His person, indicating that the Angel of Jehovah is Jehovah Himself.

Exo 23:21 Be careful before Him, and listen to His voice; do not rebel against Him, for He will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in Him.

E. Christ, the sent One of God, speaks for God within us; if we would take possession of Him, we must learn to obey His voice; that the Angel’s voice was Jehovah’s speaking proves strongly that the Angel and Jehovah are one—vv. 21-22.

Exo 23:21 Be careful before Him, and listen to His voice; do not rebel against Him, for He will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in Him.

Exo 23:22 But if you will indeed listen to His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

F. The various pagan tribes that occupied the land signify the different aspects of our natural life—v. 23:

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

1. The gods (idols) of the pagan tribes (v. 24), with the demons behind them (cf. 1 Cor. 10:20), represent the spiritual forces of evil (Eph. 6:12).

Exo 23:24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars into pieces.

1 Cor 10:20 No, but that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become those who have fellowship with demons.

Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

2. Behind our natural life are the forces of evil (cf. Matt. 16:23), who utilize, manipulate, and direct the aspects of our natural life to frustrate us from taking possession of the all-inclusive Christ and enjoying His riches.

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

3. History shows that the pagan tribes in the land were the source of Israel's sin against God (cf. Exo. 23:33); this indicates that our natural life is the source of our sins.

Exo 23:33 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.

4. In the sight of God, those who live according to the natural life are sinning continually, whether they do good or evil; because the natural life frustrates us from possessing Christ and enjoying Him, we must hate it (Luke 14:26) and, as we grow in Christ, be willing to drive it out.

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and moreover, even his own soul-life, he cannot be My disciple.

G. The blessings in Exodus 23:25-26 signify spiritually that God will give us bread (the Word—Matt. 4:4) to nourish us and water (the Spirit—John 7:37-39) to satisfy us, will cause us to grow and be fruitful, and will take away our sicknesses that we would not suffer a premature death (cf. 1 Cor. 11:30; 1 John 5:16) but would grow in the divine life to maturity, to full age (Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28), in order to gain the all-inclusive Christ as our possession for our enjoyment (Phil. 3:8).

Exo 23:25 And you shall serve Jehovah your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will take sickness away from your midst.

Exo 23:26 No one shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

1 Cor 11:30 Because of this many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

- Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

H. God will not cut off our natural life, signified by the pagan tribes, all at once, because this would leave us inwardly vacant and in danger of being taken over by demons, signified by the animals of the field—Exo. 23:29; cf. Matt. 12:43-45:

- Exo 23:29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the animals of the field multiply against you.
- Matt 12:43 When the unclean spirit goes out from the man, it roams through waterless places, seeking rest, and does not find it.
- Matt 12:44 Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came out. And it comes and finds it unoccupied, swept, and decorated.
- Matt 12:45 Then it goes and takes along with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter in and settle down there. And the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. Thus shall it be also with this evil generation.

1. God cuts off our natural life gradually, little by little, according to the degree of our growth in the divine life—Exo. 23:30; cf. Col. 2:19.

Exo 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have become fruitful and inherit the land.

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

2. The more Christ increases in us, the more He will replace our natural life.

I. “I will set your border from the Red Sea even to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out from before you”—Exo. 23:31:

1. The seas and the river in verse 31 signify the waters of death, and the wilderness signifies barrenness.

Exo 23:31 And I will set your border from the Red Sea even to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out from before you.

2. That the promised land, an elevated land full of life and the abundance of fruit (Deut. 8:7-8), was surrounded by water and wilderness indicates that outside of Christ, the reality of the good land, there is nothing but death and barrenness.

Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;

Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;

3. Making a covenant with the pagan tribes signifies compromising with, tolerating, our natural life—Exo. 23:32.

Exo 23:32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.

4. God promised to drive out the pagan tribes, but God’s people had to cooperate with Him by taking the initiative in destroying them; the more Christ increases in us, the more we will be able to cooperate with God in driving out the natural life—vv. 29-33; cf. Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Sam. 15:9, 15, 23 and footnotes.

Exo 23:29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the animals of the field multiply against you.

Exo 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have become fruitful and inherit the land.

Exo 23:31 And I will set your border from the Red Sea even to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand,

- and you shall drive them out from before you.
- Exo 23:32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.
- Exo 23:33 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.
- Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.
- Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.
- Col 3:5 Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry;
- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- 1 Sam 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fatlings, and the lambs and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them; but everything that was despised and worthless, this they utterly destroyed.
- 1 Sam 15:15 And Saul said, They have been brought from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice to Jehovah your God, and the rest we have utterly destroyed.
- 1 Sam 15:23 For ¹rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim. / Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, / He has also ²rejected you from being king.
- note 1 Doing good according to our own will is actually an act of rebellion against God's throne and His economy (see note 161 in Exo. 17). Saul's disobedience exposed him as being a rebel against God and an enemy of God (see note 171 in ch. 22). What Saul did was as evil as contacting an evil spirit for the purpose of carrying out the intention of that spirit, not God's intention. Samuel's word in this verse indicates that sparing the good aspects of our flesh involves us with evil spirits and idolatry.
- note 2 If we are not absolute in dealing with our flesh, we, like Saul, will lose our kingship. This account of Saul's disobedience is a warning, indicating that we should not do anything in the kingdom of God by our flesh. In everything we must crucify our flesh with its passions and its lusts (Gal. 5:24; Rom. 8:13) and faithfully exercise our spirit to follow the Lord, who is the life-giving, consummated Spirit indwelling our spirit and who is one with us (1 Cor. 15:45; 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22; Gal. 5:16, 25). Then the kingdom of God, the church as the intrinsic Body of Christ (Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17; Eph. 1:22-23), which will consummate in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2), will be built up.