

GUIDED BY GOD

The Promise and Blessings of God's Guidance

Exodus 23-20-33

God's Promise to His People

Exodus 23:20-21 (KJV) 20 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

- At the base of Mt. Sanai are 2-3 million Israelites
- God has delivered them from 400 years of slavery at the hands of the Egyptians
- They are at Mt. Sanai because God had just given Moses the Ten Commandments
- God said to the Israelites, I'm sending an angel ahead of you to lead you safely on your journey the Promised Land that He has *prepared* for them
- The Promised Land
- Their journey was both *physical* and *spiritual*
- This journey would not be easy
- There were going to be trials and enemy attacks along the way
- To make this journey they would need God's help
- That's why God sent an angel to go before the Israelites to lead out of Egypt, through the wilderness, to the Promised Land that God has already promised and prepared for them
- The very name of God was *in* this angel, this messenger God Himself
- That's why the angel says *this angel* must obeyed and never rebelled against
- If you disobey this angel, you are literally disobeying God Himself
- It is God that has the power and authority to forgive sins, we want to make certain we obey His words
- God is guiding us through the wilderness of life in this world to our Promised Land
- Our responsibility is to *listen*, *obey* and *do* all and exactly what God says

Blessing 1: God's Presence and Protection

22 But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. 23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring

GUIDED BY GOD

The Promise and Blessings of God's Guidance

Exodus 23-20-33

thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

- If Israel is careful to obey all of God's instructions, God promises to bless them with *His presence* and *His protection*
- God promises to be an enemy to their enemies and an adversary to their adversaries
- God promises to guide Israel and protect them from the enemies of the world
- God also promises *His presence* to guide Israel to the Promised Land
- God's angel will literally walk in front of Israel as they journey
- God promised to bring an *obedient* Israel into the Promised Land
- The same God that did it for ancient Israel is doing for us today
- As we *faithfully obey* God's plan for our lives, God promises to bless us with *His presence* and *His protection*
- We must realize the blessings come *after* our obedience
- And we have Jesus, Our Savior and Guide who has already gone before us and prepared the way; all we have to do is obediently follow His path ***John 14:6 (KJV) 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

Blessing 2: God's Provision

24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. 25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. 26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

- God promised to provide for Israel in many ways as they journeyed to the Promised Land
- God promised to bless Israel food and water; protection from illness, no miscarriages or infertility, and give them long and full lives
- These amazing blessing were theirs if they followed God's guidance by obeying His Word
- God was going to make certain their journey was without problems along the way

GUIDED BY GOD

The Promise and Blessings of God's Guidance

Exodus 23-20-33

- But the Israelites *must* do their part to experience God's blessings
- God's people had to follow and worship God and God alone.
- God knew as they journeyed, they would be "exposed" to other religions, but they must stay committed to God
- No matter how enticing the gods of Canaan may be, they must reject them and stay true to God
- Their allegiance to the true and living God would result in God fulfilling His promise to bless them on their journey
- We must worship God and God alone
- There is only one true and living God, only one Creator, and only one Sovereign God
- When God is faithfully followed and worshipped, we can expect God to fulfill His promise of meeting the needs in our lives **Matthew 6:33 (KJV) 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**
- When we keep our promise to God, God will keep His promise to us **Deuteronomy 29:9 (KJV) 9 Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.**

Blessing 3: God's Power

27 I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. 28 And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. 29 I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. 30 By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. 31 And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. 32 Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

- As Israel journey to the Promised Land, they would constantly face enemies

GUIDED BY GOD
The Promise and Blessings of God's Guidance
Exodus 23-20-33

- Their only hope was God's power to conquer their enemies
- God made four specific promises to Israel
 1. God would cause their enemies to *fear*, become *confused* and *flee*
 2. God would send hornets ahead of Israel, another sign of God's power
 3. God would give Israel the victory by defeating their enemies *little by little*
 4. God would give them the Promised Land
 - But again, these promises were *conditional*
- Israel had to live a life of spiritual separation
- They were not to let their unbelieving neighbors live with them
- The same is true of us as we journey through life
- God will cause our enemies to fear and scatter ***Deuteronomy 28:7 (KJV) 7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.***
- God may not send hornets to defeat our enemies, but God will display His power
- God will often bless us not all at once but *little by little*
- Even though we want all the promise of God *now*, He knows what's best for us
- Sometimes God's blessing is ready for us, but we are not ready for the blessings
- God has a Promised Land ready for us as well
- God still requires of us a life of *separation* and *sanctification*
- But as we commit to live a life that pleases God, He promises to guide and bless our lives