

# The Importance of God's Presence

## Exodus 23:20–33

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Israel has now been camped at Sinai for 11 months, and were getting ready to leave to Kadesh Barnea to face the Promised Land. We know they will fail to cross over and will wander for 40 years. An important part of Israel's success was that the Lord would be with them. Without the Lord they would not be able to survive. A promise is given to send the Angel of the Lord to go before them.

*Angel — a messenger, an angel. The term often denotes one sent on business or diplomacy by another (human) personage.*

### I. The Person of the Angel of the Lord

A. An Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_ appearing of Christ is called a *Theophany* or *Christophany*.

1. Christ would appear as a \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 18:2).
2. Christ would appear in His \_\_\_\_\_ state (Da. 10:5–6; Rev. 1:13–15).

B. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_, a messenger of God (John 1:1–2; 14; Mal. 3:1).

C. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (John 1:18).

- *declaration — to tell, lead forward. To bring or lead out, declare thoroughly and particularly.*

D. Christ's Preincarnate appearances (Nu. 20:16; 1 Co. 10:4)

*"In the Old Testament, the 'angel of the Lord' is generally interpreted to be the Lord Himself, who occasionally came to*

earth (a theophany) to deliver an important message. It was probably the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead, in a temporary preincarnation appearance.” Warren Wiersbe

1. Walking with Adam (Ge. 3:8)
2. Meeting Abraham (Ge. 12:7-8; 18:1-3,33; 22:11-15)
3. Wrestling Jacob (Ge. 32:24-32)
4. The Burning Bush (Ex. 3:2-6)
5. Withstanding Balaam (Nu. 22:22-35)
6. Encouraging Gideon (Ju. 6:11-22)
7. Announcing the birth of Samson (Ju.13:3-21)
8. Promising Hagar (Ge. 16:6-15)
9. The fiery furnace (Da. 3:22-26)

## II. The Purpose of the Angel of the Lord (Ex. 23:20; Nu. 20:16; Ro. 7:24–25; Ga. 1:3–4; 6:14)

A. \_\_\_\_\_—to go before (Ex. 23:20; Psa. 48:14)

1. There are \_\_\_\_\_ victories for God’s people if the Lord does not go before us (Nu. 14:41–45).
2. The pillar of cloud and fire \_\_\_\_\_ Israel (Ex. 13:21–22; 14:19 19:24; Isa. 30:21; 42:16).
3. Moses refused to go without God’s presence.
  - a. God \_\_\_\_\_ His presence because Israel worshipped the golden calf (Ex. 33:1–3).

b. Moses petitioned God to have His presence go before them based on \_\_\_\_\_, and God agreed (Ex. 33:12–17).

B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 23:20; 27–28; Isa. 63:9 c.f. Ju. 2:1-4)

- *Keep—to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; generally, to protect, attend to*
- *way—a course of life or mode of action*

C. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex.23:20; Jo. 14:1–4)

### III. The Priority given to the Angel of the Lord

A. \_\_\_\_\_ of Him (Ex. 23:13, 21c.f. Eph. 5:15-17)

- *Beware—beward, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep(-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard*

B. \_\_\_\_\_ His voice (Ex. 23:21)

- *Obey — to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience)*

1. Obedience would guarantee that the Angel of the Lord would stand against their \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 23:22).

2. We must understand that the Lord will fight for us if we choose to obey His Word (Deut. 11:27; 1 Pe. 4:17; Heb 13:17; Eph. 6:1-3).

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Him Not

- *Provoke (KJV) — bitterness 3, bitter 2, bitterly 2, choler 2, grieved 2, vexed 2, grieved him 1, provoke 1*

1. Israel \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Nu. 11:4; 21:4–6).

2. Israel's failures were given to us as a \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Co. 10:4–12; Eph. 4:30–31).

3. The Angel of the Lord has divine authority to not \_\_\_\_\_ sin if provoked (Ex. 23:21c.f. Matt. 6:14–15; 1 Jo. 1:7).
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ from the world and **serve** God exclusively (Ex. 23:23–28; 32–33 c.f. 2 Co. 6:14–18).
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ as God prepares our path (Ex. 23:29–31).
  1. The Lord expects us to progressively grow into His will for our lives (Eph. 4:15; 1 Pe. 2:2; 2 Pe. 3:18; Ro. 12:2; Heb.13:20–21; Jo. 17:17).
  2. Our goal should be to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s will for our lives (Col. 4:12; Eph. 2:10; Heb. 11:24–26; 2 Jo. 7–8; Heb. 10:35–36; Col. 2:18; Rev. 22:12)