

AMBASSADORS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

EXODUS 23:20-33

November 16, 2025

Theme: God's covenant pledge and instructions concerning the conquest of Canaan.

Context: Abrahamic Covenant, Ten Words, Book of the Covenant

I. Ex 23:20-23

God's Command: Be on your guard; obey his voice; do not be rebellious (vs. 21)

God's Promised Action: They will be guided and kept in their way through the wilderness to the land of promise and He will destroy the inhabitants (vs. 20-23)

Israel's Responsibility: Be observant of, and obedient to this angel whom God would send before them (v. 21)

Results of Obedience: He will be an enemy to their enemies ... (vs. 22)

Results of Disobedience: He will not pardon their transgression (vs. 21)

II. Ex 23:24-26

God's Command: Do not worship or serve their gods but utterly overthrow them; Serve the Lord your God (vs. 24)

God's Promised Action: They will settle comfortably in the land of Canaan, (which they hoped to be in possession of in a few months, though it proved otherwise (vs. 24-26)

Israel's Responsibility: They should serve their own God only (the only one true God). They must not worship the gods of the nations (which were no gods at all) and for which they had no reason at all to have any respect. But they must utterly overthrow them and break down the sacred pillars, to demonstrate their great abhorrence of idolatry, their resolution never to worship idols themselves, and their care to prevent others from worshipping them (vs. 24-25b)

Results of Obedience: The comfort of their food; the continuance of their health; the increase of their wealth; the prolonging of their lives to old age (vs. 25b-26)

Results of Disobedience: None of these blessings and worse (the curses of Deut 28:15ff)

III. Ex 23:27-33

God's Command: Make no covenant with them or their gods (vs. 32)

God's Promised Action: They will conquer and subdue their enemies. The present occupants of the land of Canaan, who must be driven out completely to make room for them (vs. 27-33)

Israel's Responsibility: They should not make any friendship, nor have any familiarity, with idolaters (vs. 32, 33)

Results of Obedience: Their boundaries will be set, they will possess the land (vs. 30-31)

Result of Disobedience: A snare that will result in sin against God (vs. 33)

Why was Exodus written? The edification of the church (us). (1 Cor 10:11)

Three important lessons:

- The victory belongs to God (Eph 2:8-9)
- Victory does not come all at once but little by little (Luke 8:15)
- There is no room for us to make any compromise with ungodliness (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Questions to ask ourselves:

- What do I need to get rid of?
- What temptations do I need to avoid?
- What is keeping me from total obedience to Christ?

If we don't get rid of these things, we'll be snared. So don't settle for a partial victory that falls short of full obedience to Christ!

NEXT WEEK – Nov 23 - Combined SS – Meet in the gym

TWO WEEKS – Nov 30 – People Affirm Their Covenant with God -Ex 24:1-18