

Sermon Handout

Obeying God

Exodus 23:20-25

I. The promise of God's presence v. 20

The Angel (a messenger)

a. Moses (and Joshua) *see* Ex 16:6-8 murmurs vs. Moses = vs. God *cf.* 23:21
See also I Cor 10:1-2 "baptized into Moses"

b. The preincarnate Christ (visible in the pillar of cloud & fire)

Ex 13:21-22; 14:19; Ex 32:34; 33:1-2 *cf.* I Cor 10:4; Josh 5:14-15; 6:2

Leading the people v. 20b *cf.* v. 23

"In the way" – protecting them during the journey

"Bringing them to the place [God] prepared for them" *cf.* Jn 14:1-3

II. Asserting the angel's status v. 21

a. Beware of him (place your trust in him)

b. Obey his voice (this is the voice of God) *cf.* Mt 28:20

c. Do not provoke him (don't rebel against him)

d. "My name is in him" (He is, after all, God himself)

e. He will not pardon your transgressions

Rebellion against him is rejection of salvation (from Egypt)

Temporal judgment is certain.

III. The promises (the fruit of obedience) vv. 22-25 (actually all the way to v. 33)

a. Our enemies will be God's enemies vv. 22-23

God will destroy them before us

But men are responsible to reject idolatry v. 24 *cf.* Ex 20:4-6

b. Our food will be blessed (abundance) v. 25

c. The blessing of rain will be provided v. 25

d. Good health will be given vv. 25-26a (including progeny)

e. General prosperity & long life are given v. 26b *cf.* Jn 10:10; Ex 20:12; Eph 6:3

These blessings prefigure the blessings in Christ Rom 15:4; II Tim 3:16; I Cor 10:11

Therefore, do not rebel against the Christ! Heb 3:7-15; 4:1-2