

# EXODUS

v o l u m e 3

## Conquest & Covenant

(Exodus 23:20-24:18)

**Bottom Line:** What God has promised us has been secured by the blood of Jesus, therefore we can pursue His plan for us with unrelenting confidence.

One time I was trapped at a traffic light that was stuck on red and not changing. Usually when this happens, I would just wait for a moment, make sure it's safe, then cross the intersection. But this time, in the lane across from me, there was a police officer. And there was also construction going on that prevented me from seeing the cross-traffic to determine if it was safe to cross. No way was I going to intentionally run this red light with him watching me, nor was I going to risk getting into an accident. So, I resigned myself to just waiting. But then, the officer pulled forward a bit, reached his hand out of his window, and waved for me to cross the intersection even though the light was still red. Suddenly, all my fear of retaliation from the law was gone, my fear of being in an accident disappeared, and I proceeded to cross the intersection, venturing into unknown territory, with confidence knowing that my actions were supported and endorsed by a greater authority who was watching out for me.

**Have you ever been in a similar situation? When has the presence or authority of another person given you confidence to pursue something big in your life?**

These two passages in Exodus provide the same kind of illustration for us. In Exodus 23:20-33, God outlines for the Israelites an enormous and difficult task that He is going to lead them to do: they are going to secure their future as a nation by conquering the Canaanites and claiming for themselves the land that God had promised them they would inherit. And to assure the Israelites of His commitment to help them do this, God, again, confirms His covenant with Israel in chapter 24. Through the sacrifices of animals and the sprinkling of their blood, God was reaffirming to the Israelites that He would see them through what He has called them to. *His promise to them was secured by blood.* God was telling Israel that even though their path to the Promised Land would be hard, they could have confidence in the fact that God, the highest authority in the universe, was committed to their cause.

**Read Hebrews 10:19-23.**

The author of Hebrews is making an allusion to the events in Exodus 24 here. God told Israel they were going to conquer Canaan and inherit the Promised Land. God gave them confidence in His promise by sealing it through the sprinkling of the blood of a sacrifice. In the same way, we can “draw near to God with full assurance.” How? Because our hearts have been sprinkled by the blood of Jesus. The promises that God has made to us, to save us, to redeem us, and to sanctify us, are secured by the blood of Jesus Christ. We’ve been “ransomed from our former way of life with the precious blood of Christ” and have been “born again to a living hope...to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (1 Peter 1). Just like the Israelites, we should have all the confidence in the world to pursue God’s plan for us knowing that our future is secured by the blood of Jesus.

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So now that we have the proper context of what's happening in Exodus and how it relates to us today, let's unpack this a bit more:

**Read Exodus 23:20-22. What role does our obedience play if we are going to fulfill God's plan for our lives? Who/what are the "angels" that we have today that we can look to for guidance and direction? What does obedience look like for us as a church? How do you individually contribute to the obedience of the church?**

**Read Exodus 23:29-30. God promised Israel they would receive the Promised Land, but it wouldn't be immediate, it would take a while. According to these verses, how should we understand the "slow" times in our lives when it feels like we're "stuck?" According to these verses, what might the Lord be waiting for? What should we devote ourselves to during these times?**

**Read Exodus 23:32-33. God gave this instruction for Israel to follow *after* they had inherited the Promised Land. Why might they have been tempted to do this even after receiving what God promised them? How do we fall back into idol worship even after we are saved? What are some examples of this? How can we protect ourselves from this?**

**What has God called you to pursue? Is this pursuit in line with godly desires and a Kingdom focus? What "barriers" do you see preventing you from pursuing this? How do the truths we've discussed today encourage you to press on?**

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**Reflection:** Read these aloud, using your discretion about which questions should be pondered and which questions should be discussed.

**The Lord has promised an inheritance that is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, being kept in heaven for you." (1 Peter 1), but this inheritance is only reserved for those who have sought forgiveness through the shed blood of Jesus. Without repenting and trusting in Christ, you will have no part of this blessing. Do you desire a greater purpose for your life? Do you long for assurance that your life is going to matter? Then give yourself to Christ. Repent of your sin, place your faith in Jesus, and begin to pursue Him and His plan for your life, which is to make much of Him in everything you do.**

**Do you lack direction in your life? Do you feel like you're wandering aimlessly, unsure of what God has for you? Sometimes God's precise will for our life is not clear, but His general will is. He wants you to glorify Him by finding joy in Him as you make disciples. What can you do to pursue that purpose?**

**Do you lack optimism about your future? Do you feel as though serving God is a hindrance to obtaining your dreams rather than a help? Where is this lack of trust coming from? What has God done to cause you to lack faith in His plan for your life? How can you take a step of faith to renew your trust in God's desires for your life?**