

EXODUS 23:20-33 — God's Protection Plan

Sermon Outline Handout

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Text: Exodus 23:20-33

Big Idea / Theological Principle:

When you walk in God's ways, He battles for you.

Introduction

- Recap from previous weeks: obedience out of love, the law strengthens community, justice restores, and worship memory keeps God first.
- It's easy to obey in peacetime. It's much harder to obey in the fog of war—when life feels like a battlefield.
- Key truth: It is through obedience that you win the war.

I. The Assurance of God's Protection (vv. 20–22)

Main Point: While you walk in God's ways, He fights for you.

1. God's Messenger (Angel) – Sent ahead to guard and guide. Role of angels in the OT; role of the Spirit in our lives today.
2. Our Role: Obey His Voice – Protection comes with listening and following.
3. Takeaway: God battles for those who stay on His path.

II. The Risk of God's Protection (vv. 23–24)

Main Point: God destroys your enemies, but you must destroy their gods.

1. God's Plan: He will defeat the people; you must overthrow their gods.
2. Our Modern 'Gods':
 - Loneliness → culture says 'casual sex' → God says 'delete and block the number.'
 - Anger → culture says 'vent to everyone' → God says 'practice silence.'
 - One-upmanship → culture says 'spend to keep up' → God says 'be content.'

III. The Reward of God's Protection (vv. 25–28)

Main Point: God promises both temporary and eternal rewards.

1. Temporary Reward (Specific to Israel in that era) – provision, health, long life, children.
 - Dispensationalism - *The belief that God shows his grace to people in different ways during different time periods in history.*
2. Eternal Reward – God's terror goes before you, confuses enemies, makes them flee.
3. Takeaway: God's eternal promise is to chase away your true enemies.

IV. The Pace of God's Protection (vv. 29–33)

Main Point: God drives out your enemies at the speed of your maturity.

1. *Not All at Once* – prevents the land from being overrun by wild beasts.
2. Purpose of Gradual Victory – builds trust, teaches patience, gives 'muscle memory' to turn to Him.