

# Exodus 23:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

## Analysis

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**Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.**

God promises His Angel ( מלאך, malakh) to guide and guard—the Angel of the LORD, likely a Christophany (pre-incarnate Christ appearance). 'Keep thee in the way' ( שְׁמַרְךָ בַּדָּרוֹן, lishmarkha vadderekh) means protect on the journey. 'The place which I have prepared' is Canaan—God prepared it before they arrive. God goes before His people, preparing the way. Jesus says 'I go to prepare a place for you' (John 14:2)—same principle. The Angel's presence guarantees arrival—not without battles but with victory assured. God's presence is the pilgrim people's security.

## Historical Context

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The Angel of the LORD is a mysterious figure in the Old Testament, appearing to Hagar, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, and others. Often identified with God Himself yet distinct, suggesting pre-incarnate Christ.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the Angel going before Israel to prepare the way prefigure Christ's promise (John 14:2)?
2. What does God 'preparing a place' before His people arrive teach about His providence?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּכָה	לְשִׁמְרָה	לְפָנֵי	יְהִי	מֶלֶךְ	שֶׁל	עַתָּה	אָנֹכִ	יְהִי	הַיּוֹם
H2009	H595	Behold I send	an Angel	before	thee to keep	thee in the way			
		H7971	H4397	H6440	H8104				H1870
וְלֹא	אֲשֶׁר	הַמָּקָם	וּמְ	אֲלֵיכֶם	יְאָכֵל	בְּכָנְתֵיכֶן			
and to bring	H413	thee into the place		H834	which I have prepared				H3559
		H4725							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 33:14** (Parallel theme): And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

**Psalms 91:11** (Parallel theme): For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

**Exodus 32:34** (Parallel theme): Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

**Exodus 14:19** (Parallel theme): And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

**Exodus 33:2** (Parallel theme): And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:

**Isaiah 63:9** (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

**Matthew 25:34** (Parallel theme): Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

**John 14:3** (Parallel theme): And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

**Malachi 3:1** (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Joshua 6:2** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.