

# 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 (מַלְאָךְ, malakh) to guide and guard—the Angel of the LORD, likely a Christophany (pre-incarnate Christ appearance). 'Keep thee in the way' (לְשֹׁמְרֵךְ בַּדֶּרֶךְ, 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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הֵן ה	אֲנֹכִי	שֶׁלִּי	מֵלָאֵךְ	לִפְנֵי יְיָ	לְשָׁמְרְךָ	בְּדַרְכְּךָ
H2009	H595	Behold I send	an Angel	before	thee to keep	thee in the way
		H7971	H4397	H6440	H8104	H1870
וְלָהֵב יֶאֱכַל	אֶל	הַמָּקוֹם	אֲשֶׁר	הִכְנַתִּי:		
and to bring	H413	thee into the place	H834	which I have prepared		
H935		H4725		H3559		

## 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.