

# Exodus 32:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

God redirects Moses: וְעַתָּה לךְ נְחֵה אֶת־הָעָם (ve'ata lech necheh et-ha'am, Now therefore go, lead the people) to the promised land אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי לָךְ (asher-dibbarti lach, of which I have spoken to you). God reaffirms His covenant promise while maintaining distance—הִנֵּה מַלְאָכִי יֵלֵךְ לִפְנֶיךָ (hinneh mal'achi yelech lefanecha, behold, My angel shall go before you). This 'angel' (מַלְאָךְ, mal'ach) may be the Angel of the Lord (Ex 33:2), but the shift from God's personal presence (Ex 33:3) indicates strained relationship. The warning וּבְיוֹם פְּקֻדֵי וּפְקֻדָּתִי עָלֵהֶם חַטָּאתָם (uveyom pokdi ufakadti alehem chattam, nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them) promises future reckoning—sin's consequences aren't eliminated even when immediate judgment is stayed.

## Historical Context

This 'visiting' occurred repeatedly in Israel's history (wilderness deaths, exile, etc.). Forgiveness doesn't always remove temporal consequences, teaching that sin is serious even under grace.

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### Study Questions

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1. How does deferred judgment demonstrate both mercy and justice?
2. What does the distinction between immediate forgiveness and future 'visiting' teach about sin's consequences?

### Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	אֶל	הָעָם	אֶת	נָחָה	לִי	וְעַתָּה
H834	H413	H5971	H853	H5148	H1980	H6258
		the people		lead		
מֵלֶאכֶי	הֵנָּה	לִי	דָּבַר		רַחֲמֵי	
H4397	H2009	H0	H1696		unto the place of which I have spoken	
unto thee behold mine Angel						
עֲלֶיהָ	וּפָקַדְתִּי	וּפָקַדְתִּי	וּבִי	לִפְנֵי		יְלִי
H5921	H6485	H6485	H3117	H6440		H1980
	I will visit	I will visit	thee nevertheless in the day	before		
חַטָּאתָם:						
their sin						
H2403						

### Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 32:35** (Parallel theme): To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

**Exodus 23:20** (Parallel theme): Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

**Matthew 23:35** (Parallel theme): That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

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