

# Exodus 33:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee.

## Analysis

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**Ye are a stiffnecked people**—God repeats the diagnosis, emphasizing Israel's chronic rebellion. The warning 'I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee' shows that God's presence among sinful people is like fire among dry stubble. The command to remove ornaments becomes a test: will they humble themselves? This stripping prefigures the deeper work needed—circumcision of heart (Deuteronomy 10:16), which only God can perform (Deuteronomy 30:6).

## Historical Context

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This incident occurs during the forty days while Moses received the second set of tablets. The removal of ornaments created a visible, corporate sign of repentance that distinguished Israel's camp from surrounding nations.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways does your heart still exhibit 'stiff-necked' resistance to God's will?
2. How does this passage point forward to the need for heart transformation that only the Holy Spirit can accomplish?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	אָמַר	אֶל	בְּנֵי
Say	For the LORD	H413	unto Moses	Say	H413	unto the children
H559	H3068		H4872	H559		H1121
יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶתְּ	עַם	קָשָׁה	עַל	רֶגַע	אֶתְּ ד
of Israel	H859	people	Ye are a stiffnecked	H6203	moment	of thee in a
H3478		H5971	H7186		H7281	H259
אֶעֱלֶה	בְּקִרְבְּךָ	וְאֶכְלֶתְךָ	וְעַתָּה	הוֹרֵד		
I will come up	into the midst	and consume	H6258	thee therefore now put off		
H5927	H7130	H3615		H3381		
עֲדִיב	מֵעַל יְךָ	וְאֶדְעָה	מֶה	אֶעֱשֶׂה	לָךְ:	
thy ornaments	H5921	from thee that I may know	H4100	what to do	H0	
H5716		H3045		H6213		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 139:23** (Parallel theme): Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

**Numbers 16:21** (Parallel theme): Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.

**Isaiah 22:12** (References Lord): And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth:

**Psalms 73:19** (Parallel theme): How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

**Job 34:20** (Parallel theme): In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.

**Genesis 22:12** (Parallel theme): And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

**Deuteronomy 8:2** (References Lord): And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

**Lamentations 4:6** (Parallel theme): For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.