

August 23, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“The LORD’s Encouragement of Victory” – Exodus 23:20-33

Questions for Younger Ones (ages 5-18) to Answer from the Text:

1. Whom would God send with Israel into the land (v. 20)?
2. How was Israel to treat this person (v. 21a)?
3. What was special about this person whom God would send before Israel into the land (v. 21b)?
4. If Israel obeyed the LORD, how would He treat Israel’s enemies (v. 22)?
5. What was Israel to do to the inhabitants of the land and their idols once they entered the land (vv. 23-24)?
6. How would God bless Israel if they served the LORD faithfully in the land (vv. 25-28)?
7. How quickly would God drive out the people of the land? Why? (vv. 29-30)?
8. What borders did God set for Israel (v. 31)?
9. What was Israel forbidden to make when they entered the land (v. 32)?
10. Why did God prohibit the Canaanites to live in the land (v. 33)?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

11. What was the hornet (or, the hornets)?
12. How does the LORD’s “driving out” the Canaanites from the land (v. 28) fit with the total annihilation of the Canaanites (Deuteronomy 20:16)?
13. Can modern-day Israel claim the Old Testament boundary prescriptions to legitimately expand their present borders? Explain.
14. What Old Testament prophet specifically spoke to the matter of God’s sovereign right either to bless or to judge any particular nation or kingdom He pleases?
15. Are national borders important? Why or why not?

16. What is meant by God's "decretive" compared with God's "preceptive" will?
17. How do we know that the Angel of the LORD spoken of in this passage is not an ordinary person?
18. How does the promise of Israel's victory over her enemies point forward to the work of Christ on our behalf today?
19. How might we reconcile the twin motifs of Scripture that we are pilgrims facing many trials and temptations on our way to our eternal home with the promise that God will subdue the nations and rule them through His people (e.g., Isaiah 32, 60, et al.) and the power of the Gospel?
20. How does Israel's gradual conquest of Canaan picture the Christian life?