

## Exodus 48 – Of God and God: Smoke and Flame

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World  
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 23:20-33

### Confusion of Angels

- Angel is fate in Etruscan
- Lasa (Lasae) present at death to escort the dead
- Turan, goddess of Love, associated with Lasa
- Basis for Christian angels



### The True Word is Messenger

- מַלְאָךְ (Malak) -Hebrew for messenger, "sent one"
  - True in Greek also (ἄγγελος), origin of English, angel
  - Angel (English) refers to specific spirit beings created by God as ministering spirits Heb 1:14
  - Not every time does the Bible mean angel (En) when malak or ayyelos is used though translated as angel
- Source of confusion when angel (En) is used

## God Sends Them God

- The voice they had been hearing was the Father
  - The voice is present simultaneously with the Son (Ex 3:1-22)
  - This defeats idea of modalism (Antitrinitarianism)
- God is on Mt Horeb while Christ is the pillar of fire and cloud amidst the people (Ex 13:18-22)
  - His manifestation is similar to the Father's but different
  - Smoke and fire: Judgment (Father); Guidance (Son)

## God Presents God

Father



From an oil painting by Sir John Everett Millais (1858)

Son



## Son Identified with Israel

- Defeats idea of:
  - Father identified with Israel (Husband-wife bond)
  - Son identified with Church alone (Husband-wife bond)
- Promotes understanding of:
  - Father is source of all the Son is and does (Jn 12:44-50)
  - Son does will of Father
  - Groom to all who become saved, OT/NT (Ex 23:1-4)

## Warning: Son is Holy

- God's messenger (angel) is His Son (Christ) is sent with this mission:
  - Guide people to Promised Land (Eretz Israel)
  - Protect them from other peoples
    - On the way
    - In the land
  - Help them conquer the land, gradually

## People Warned – He is Holy

- People warned, God has put His name in Him (vs 14&110):
  - Obey His voice
  - Do not rebel – He will not pardon your rebellion (vs 1-16:11)
- People rebelled:
  - Later as we shall learn in Exodus
  - When He came in the flesh, they killed Him  
(Mt 11:27-30, Jn 8:34-58)

## God Defines the Borders

- Israel partially realized these borders under Solomon  
(1Kg 4:21)
- Land given to Abraham and throne to David  
(Gn 15:17-21, 2 Sa 7)
- Zionists (not true Jews) used this to est. modern Israel – not God's Israel  
(Jed 3:12-16)



## God Sends His Terror Ahead

### Terror (אימה)

- Fear of the Lord
- Hate for God's people
- Failing strategies
- Allow Hebrews to win over time, gradually

### Hornets (קוצרעה)

- Only used 3 times in same context
- Joshua did not write of stinging insects used to capture the land
- Euphemism for terror (De 9:1-11)

## Warned Against Covenants

- Hebrews warned not to make covenants (treaties) with any other peoples
  - Covenants denote similarity of foundational beliefs
  - Covenants imply similarity of worship (idolatry) (De 15: 23-26)
  - Means changing dependence on God to dependence on Satan to gain something **not possible** from God (De 4:7-10)
  - Hebrews did and do this, making friends of the world (Is 41:1)

## Cause of Israel's Failure - Sin

- Israel never realized they were sinners in need of saving
  - Since Egypt they saw themselves as *special*, above others
  - As a people they did not see their need (Saul)
  - Individuals did come to see their sin and need (David)
- False Jews took over the nation (History) bringing defeat and banishment, even today till God calls them

## Rejection of Messiah

- God Who was in the cloud and fire in the Wilderness
  - Was the Son Who came to bring them salvation in Him
  - The one they were told:
    - Not to sin (rebel) against
    - To listen to His words
  - This was the Holy One they rejected (Ex 8:24-30, 14:38)
  - They did not listen - They rebelled against His voice

## Sin Not Pardoned

- God told them His Son would not pardon their sin
  - Imagery of judgment: Smoke and Fire; like the Father's
  - Used to guide them to their "Promised future"
- Their rejection of Him resulted in Dispersion (Dt 28:37-39)
  - Demonstrated mercy and long suffering
  - They had "hearts of stone" to sin
  - Judgment was their bitter feast even to this day

## Deadly Duo

- Hebrews did, and do, two things warned not to do:
  - They rejected God's (Son's) guidance
  - They made covenants with the world's (Satan's) nations
- God is not finished with them yet:
  - He will gather the nations for judgment (Isa 3:12-17)
  - His people will repent and call on His name (Isa 45:20, 46:1-2)

## Rest is Coming

- Christ came to offer them rest:
  - They were to have rest from their enemies in the Promised Land
  - Christ offered them rest from their sin (He 10:27-30)
  - He will give them rest at His Second Advent
- Requires two things to obtain rest: (He 10:5-10)
  - Repentance from sin
  - Acceptance of Christ's salvation

## Day of the Lord - A Continuum

- Church raptured
- Earth returns to pre-Flood
- Antichrist arises
- God separates true Jews
- Christ returns to est. Millennial Kingdom



## Hebrews Promises Rest (He 4:1-13)

- Hebrews did not enter His Rest due to unbelief
- He promises that rest *Today* if they will listen
- He will give Hebrews rest on the *Day* they do hear Him
- He implores them to heed the lessons their Fathers ignored in the Wilderness, applies to us also - *Listen!*