Book of Exodus, Part III:

God's Dwelling with His People: the Immanuel-Principle The Angel of the Presence and the Land of God, Part II

Exodus 23:20-33 Rev. Charles R. Biggs

LAND, KING, AND KINGDOM LAW: Introduction to Part III: God's Dwelling with His People: the Immanuel Principle ("A Kingdom of Priests, A Holy Nation"-Exodus 19:6; cf. 1Peter 2:5-11; Exodus 19; 20:22-26; 23:20-33; Exodus 24)

Theme of Part One: the Angel of the Presence and the Land of God as typological of our heavenly inheritance and partial fulfillment of the Abrahamic promises (Joshua 21:43-45; Romans 4:13; Eph. 6:1-2; Hebrews 11:11-16). The Angel of the Presence, or the Angel of the Lord will be with them as they make their pilgrimage and journey.

The Kingdom of God formally constituted in the Old Covenant and ratified by blood (Exodus 19; 24; cf. Matthew 1-15, coming of the fullness of the Kingdom of God, Matthew 16-28, ratification of the New Covenant Kingdom in Christ's blood).

Introduction (Contextual)

Part I: Exodus 1-18 – The Exodus or Salvation of God's People Part II: Exodus 19-23- The Law: How God's People will Live and be sanctified by His grace.

Part III: Exodus 21-40- Worship and God's Presence: How God will dwell with his people, how they will approach and worship him.

Or to put into "Kingdom Language":

Part I: Exodus 1-18- The Redeemed People of the Kingdom

Part II: Exodus 19-23- The Law of the Kingdom

Part III: Exodus 24- The Worship and Rule of God over His Kingdom

Book of the Covenant
Ten Commandments
Laws about Altars
Laws about Slaves
Laws about Restitution
Laws about Social Justice

Laws about the Sabbath and Festivals

Scripture Lesson

Scripture Text

Exodus 23:20-33: "Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ²¹ Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. ²² "But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

The Pre-Incarnate Christ will go before the Israelites to guard and guide them to the Promised Land of Canaan.

²³ "When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out, ²⁴ you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces.

The Israelites' Mission: To destroy the people and the gods of Canaan, rooting out unrighteousness and settling the land that Adam forfeited by disobedience. The Israelites are also warned about forfeiting the land through disobedience.

²⁵ You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. ²⁶ None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

The Land of Canaan typified a perfect existence where God and man would dwell together in a way that was lost in the Garden of Eden through Adam's disobedience; would Israel, Adam 1.5 obey and keep God's covenant?

²⁷ I will send my terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. ²⁸ And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you. ²⁹ I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. ³⁰ Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land. ³¹ And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. ³² You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. ³³ They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

God promises the Israelites that they will possess the land little by little through God's power and grace. They are not to take the land through their own power or righteousness (for they have none in these impossible odds), but they are to depend wholly on God's grace and promises to Abraham.

There will be the Pre-Incarnate Christ who goes before them to "Prepare a place for them" and to never leave them nor forsake them, but to be with them, and they are to engage in eschatological holy warfare in the land of Canaan typifiying, or symbolizing God's Last Day Judgment on the world.

Themes for Sermon

Journey

Pilgrimage ("Pilgrim's Progress")

Inheritance

Guidance and Guardian and Presence of God

Edenic Worship of God and Restoration of the World (What was God's teleological-eschatological intention of Adam and Eve in the Garden of God, or the Garden of Eden?)

Exiles and Strangers in this World

Awaiting a homeland

Living by faith in a God who keeps his promises in Christ

a. God's Covenant Promises: Focused on the Land

(Gen. 12; 15; 17)

LAND WAS PERCEIVED AS "EDEN REGAINED"

- (1) Man was made from the land; the land and man were spiritually connected: man's sin caused the land to bring forth thorns and thistles; man's obedience (Israel in the land) would bring blessings and not curses (Deut. 27-29).
- (2) This Land was "God's Land" ("This land is my land" and all the earth is mine- Exodus 19:4-6)

Lev. 25:23: "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, <u>for the land is mine</u>. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

- (3) The Land was a place where God's people could fulfill the creation mandate of "being fruitful and multiply (cf. Exodus 23:25-28).
- (4) The Land was a place where righteousness would expand to the ends of the earth (in a seed form it is the New Heavens and the New Earth).
- (5) The Land was a gracious gift of God because of his grace and promises to Abraham- based on nothing- -pure grace (God's promise to Abraham- Hebrews 6:16ff). But we must understand the Mosaic Administration as being a covenant of works (Exodus 19-24) which we will look at next week in our next sermon on Law and Grace in the Two Covenants.
- (6) The Land was to be a place where God's people would show forth his righteousness throughout the world thus the reason why the people had to be obedient to God's covenant in the Book of the Covenant, and destroy all the people and the idols (Exodus 23:22-29). "Being holy as God is holy"
- (7) The Land was a gift but with stipulations (There were "ifs" for the Nation of Israel- -this is different from the Abrahamic promise- -but again, next week).

Remember: "Adam 1.0" → "Adam 1.5" → "Adam 2.0" who is Christ.

- (8) Inheritance of the land comes only through belief in God's promises and grace; it is not earned, but it can be forfeited by sin ("the land will vomit you out").
- (9) The Kingdom of Israel (the national election of Israel) is not to be confused with the Kingdom of God that is being established through Israel. The national election of Israel is not to be confused with the elect or the remnant within the nation of Israel. (More on this in the next sermon).
- (10) In Christ, the promise to Adam and Abraham, and all those who are part of God's remnant, trusting in God's promises alone, the inheritance is secured, not merely in the land--but in the whole new heavens and new earth!
- (11) The promise of the Land should be understood in light of the greater promises to Abraham and His Seed who is Christ (cf. Galatians 3:16-4:7).

ESV Galatians 3:9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:16-19, 22-29: Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. ¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in

Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

WHAT IS TYPOLOGY?

1. What is typology? Define: typological/type-anti-type

Earthly types that reveal and signify heavenly realities.

Type is a pointer, an Anti-Type is the person, place or thing pointed to!

- <u>People types</u>: Joseph, David, Daniel are "types of Christ".
- Place types: the Land, Jerusalem, and Zion as "types of the heavenly inheritance" - -God's eternal dwelling again with man.
- <u>Thing types</u>: sacrifices = coming final sacrifice God will provide.
- Typological Example in Exodus 23:23-27: Holy War and Material Blessings typify or signify spiritual warfare and the spiritual blessings of the eternal Kingdom in the New Testament.

Earthly types that showed forth heavenly realities.

ii. The land signified the heavenly, eternal New Heavens and New Earth wherein dwells righteousness (2 Peter 3:11ff).

ESV <u>2 Peter 3:9-14</u>: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

iii. The land signified the whole world, but the land was the center focus of God's grace and revelation that was destined by his power and presence to spread throughout the world (Romans 4:13; Hebrews 11:11-15).

Romans 4:9-14: We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. ¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

ess Hebrews 11:12-16: Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

iv. The land signified the eternal presence of God and the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ with his people (Rev. 21-22).

Revelation 21:1-4: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:22-22:5-And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day- and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Conclusion

- I. The land signified much more than Abraham or Israel could have dreamed!
- II. <u>Land in the Old Covenant</u> finding fulfillment in all the earth in the New Covenant.
- III. The earthly land of Canaan was a type of heaven: Keep looking for the City and Land whose builder and founder is God—not putting your hope in a world passing away, but in a New Heavens and New Earth.
- IV. Know your Inheritance is sure in Christ: For both Jew and Gentile, our inheritance is found only in Abraham's Seed who is Christ!

<u>Galatians 4:1-7</u>: I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, *God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,* ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Psalm 37:

ESV **Psalm 37:3** Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

- ESV **Psalm 37:9** For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
- ESV **Psalm 37:11** But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.
- ESV **Psalm 37:22** for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.
- ESV **Psalm 37:29** The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.
- ESV **Psalm 37:34** Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.
- ESV **Matthew 5:5** "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- ESV **Ephesians 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Land was promised to Abraham because of God's grace (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:17-21; Gen 24:7; connect with Exodus context: Exodus 2:24-25; Deut. 1:7-8).

- ESV <u>Exodus 2:24-25</u>: And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ God saw the people of Israel- and God knew.
- Exodus 6:1-5: But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." ² God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.

Partial Fulfillment of this promise in Joshua 21:43-45

LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. 44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. 45 Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Struggle to take the land "little by little" (Exodus 23:30) in Judges because of disobedience.

Think if the Parables of the Kingdom, how the Kingdom would progress slowly like a small mustard seed, like leaven, having insignificant beginnings, but remarkable endings!

The disobedience seems inevitable because of sin. Moses says before his death as the Israelites were about to take the land (yet remember they are already redeemed people this shows real consequences for sin even though having been shown the grace of God, cf. Hebrews 6:4-6):

ESV Deuteronomy 30:1-6: "And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you. 2 and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. 5 And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. ⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

ESV <u>Judges 2:1-4</u>: Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, ² and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? ³ So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you." ⁴ As soon

as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.

<u>Fulfillment of promise of Land in Davidic Kingdom</u> (2 Sam. 7:1-2)

1 Kings 4:20-21

ESV <u>1 Kings 4:20-21</u>: ²⁰ Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy. ²¹ Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

Exile...Remnant

Somewhere along the way in Israel's history, the KINGDOM OF GOD was at best confused, and at the worst eclipsed by the KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. It is important to keep these two things distinct.

THE WILDERNESS (CF. HEBREWS 3-4)

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness until they reached the Promised Land but failed to stay in the land because of the curses on their disobedience given in Deuteronomy 28-29.

The New Testament tells us that even though they entered the land of Canaan under Joshua, they did not enter into the full rest that the land signified.

Hebrews 3:6-19: Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, ⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works ¹⁰ for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' 11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest." 12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." ¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:5-16: And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." ⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from

his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace. that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

<u>The Church is called a "Wilderness Community" as well</u>. We have yet to reach the Eternal Promised Land, although we are already redeemed in Christ.

The Israelites did not enter into their eternal rest signified by the Canaan Land, neither did their Mediator Moses enter it! This points all of the Old Testament people back to the promises to Adam and Abraham, and forward to a Mediator who will successfully enter God's rest. This must be a Mediator greater than Moses, and a Warrior greater than Joshua - -the Seed of the Woman (Gen. 3:15), and the Seed of Abraham (Gen. 12; cf. Gal. 3:16ff)!

The Lord Jesus the true Messenger of YHWH's Presence, God in the flesh, has entered into the rest at God's right hand, not merely in an earthly geographical location, but in the spiritual reality which is the very presence of God *for us*.

Hebrews 1:1-5: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

Jesus sat down for his eternal Sabbath rest and will come again for his people at the end of this age.

Israel and the Church are One People, One House (Heb. 3:1-6; cf. Ex. 19:6, 1 Peter 2:4-11). The Apostle Paul actually tells us that the wilderness wanderings of Israel after the Exodus were written for our instruction in 1 Corinthians 10:

ESV 1 Corinthians 10:1-14: I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

THE SABBATH REST AND INHERITANCE