



THE GIFT OF GUIDING PRESENCE • EXODUS 23:20-33

In this epilogue to the Book of the Covenant (Exodus 23:20-33), the Lord gives good reason for his people to be filled with cheerful anticipation of the future. Though they cannot see what life beyond Mount Sinai will look like, these words are given to bolster them with joyful confidence that the God who redeemed them will also lead them with “The Gift of Guiding Presence.” For Israel to enjoy all of the blessings that await them, they must cultivate a specific way of living that included *Careful Obedience and Wonderful Promises*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you didn't carefully follow instructions or directions and it didn't go well. (Assembling, baking, driving, etc.)
2. In verses 21-22, twice God uses the word *careful* to describe how to listen to Him. What does it mean to pay careful attention when listening? How can we carefully listen to God's word in a way that produces obedience?
3. What common idols do you see in our culture? Which ones are a snare to you, possibly distracting or hindering your walk with the Lord? (Materialism, comfort, self-worship, etc.)

PRAYER

Pray that we will be reminded of the warning to walk in careful obedience. Pray also that our hearts will be filled with hope and trust in the gift of God's guiding presence.