

Intro:

Epilogue of the judicial case laws. Mirrors prologue (Ex. 20:22-26).

Main Point of Text: God prepares the people to take and enjoy the Promised Land by promising Jesus still goes ahead of them and prepares them to survive as they patiently follow Him in obedience while He finishes the job.

Sermon Point: *Follow Jesus into Heaven.*

Move 1: Run after God's promises to cross life's finish line in heaven.

Vss. 22-23, 25-26, 28b, 31. All promised to Abraham: Gen. 15; and His seed, Ex. 3:8, 17. More fully now, most fully in heaven: Rev. 21:7; Ps. 37:11; Mt. 5:5; Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:7-9, 29. Be encouraged by Heb. 11-12:3: All who ran by faith in God's Word call you not to faint running. Hear them!

Move 2: Listen only to Christ's voice on earth to qualify for His victory race.

Vss. 21-22, 24, 31c, 32-33. As commanded/shown in all Exodus, survival from adversaries and through Sea and wilderness depends on hearing/obeying God. Including not listening to the world's "negotiations" to compromise. Vs. 32: Cassuto, not reciprocal undertaking, but amnesty granted by a conqueror to the conquered. If listen to unbelievers, will die. History: often did due to spiritual deafness, so the concern today: Mt. 13:15, Acts 28:27, Heb. 5:11; Mt. 11:15; Revelation, seven times in 2-3; James 1:19.

Move 3: Be patient with His course, remembering that sprinters never complete marathons.

Vs. 29-30; 31a Pilgrim's journey is a long one, but the right/safe one. God never lets things happen as quick as the Church would like. But that's how He keeps us alive and running. Mile upon mile. Quench your thirst in Christ, the living water, along the desert way (1 Cor. 10:4; Ex. 17:6), and do not complain against Him: 1 Cor. 10:9-10. Do not make His marathon a bitter thing: vs. 21, "provoke" is verb Marar, like "Mara" in Ex. 15:23-24). How do you make it bitter? Your transgressions (Hebrew, "rebellion/revolt/contesting of ownership"). Hebrews 12:4: *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.* Heb. 12:1 don't be drug down by the sins that so easily beset (chapters 3-4: sin of provoking w/ hard hearts and no hearing).

Move 4: Focus on Jesus Who blazed your trail, runs with you, and prepares your reward of rest.
Vss. 20, 23, 27-28: Jesus is the Angel of the Lord Who will go before (and behind) them and fight for them, just as He had already in Ex. 3:2ff; 14:14, 19. 1 Cor. 10 again confirms this is Jesus. With vss. 20-28 in mind: He keeps you in the way, because He is the Way of the people of the Way (John 14:6; Acts 24:14). He brings you to the eternal Promised Land, because He promised to prepare a place for you there to be with Him (John 14:2-3). Listen to His voice as God said in the presence of Moses at the Mt. of Transfiguration, “This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Mt. 17:5). God’s name is in Him, for He is Emmanuel, having brought the Kingdom “in your midst” or “within you” in Himself (Lk. 17:21). Christ told Phillip he had seen the Father, for He had looked on His Son, and they are one (Jn. 14:9). Jesus is conquering the Babylon and the Beast and the Dragon as we speak, and is conquering your adversary the Devil (Rev. 12; 1 Pet. 5:8). He will heal all your iniquities and give you eternal life (Mt. 9:12-13; Lk. 5:23-24; Rev. 21:1-5). He will put the fear and dread of Him in the demons that fight you (vs. 28, “hornets” an idiom for “fear, dread, unreasoned panic, flight”) (Mt. 4:24; Mark 1:32-39; 5:1-19). Heb. 13:5; thus, Heb. 12:1-2). Israel’s following the Angel of the Lord to the Promised Land is a type/figure/picture of the Church now following Jesus Christ into heaven. By answering His Gospel call. He calls, “Follow Me.”

Conclusion:

- Examples Not to Follow in responding to “Follow Me” and Christ’s Qualification: Mat. 19:21; Lk. 9:59-61
- Examples to Follow in responding to “Follow Me” and Christ’s Affirmation: Mt. 4:18-19; Mt. 4:20-21; Mt. 9:9; John 1:43ff
- Christ’s Call to “Follow Me” on the Elect and Their Promised Reward: John 10:27; 12:26
- Peter’s Stumbling and Fumbling with Christ’s Call to “Follow Me”, and Christ’s Confirmation or rewards on earth and in heaven: Mat. 16:24-25 (Luke 9:23: “daily”); John 21; John 13:36; Mark 10:28-30.

Follow Jesus into Heaven.