

Mishpatim 5786

Rambam, Guide for the Perplexed, 2:34

Without doubt, this instruction was to the masses, and angels do not appear to the nation's masses and do not instruct them, such that they would be instructed not to rebel against him. Rather, HaShem informed them that He would establish a prophet among them, and the angel would speak to the prophet and instruct him, and Gd warned us not to rebel against that angel, whose words the prophet would transmit to us.

Rashi on Exodus 23:20

Here they were told that they were going to sin, and the Shechinah said, 'I will not ascend into your midst.'

Ibn Ezra on Exodus 23:20

Many have become confused with this. Some say the malach is a Torah scroll, because it says, 'My Name is within him.' Others said it was the Ark of the Covenant, and 'Listen to his voice' means to listen to what is written within it... All of this is wind. All of Scripture is filled with material along these lines, like, 'He will send His malach before you,' 'The malach who redeemed me from all evil,'... This malach is Michael.

Joshua 5:13-15

13) Once, when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a figure standing before him, drawn sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and asked him, "Are you one of us or of our enemies?"

14) He replied, "No, I am captain of G-D's host. Now I have come!" Joshua threw himself face down to the ground and, prostrating himself, said to him, "What does my lord command his servant?"

15) The captain of G-d's host answered Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

Ohr HaChaim on Genesis 48:16

Jacob may also have expressed the hope that the reputations of the patriarchs would be enhanced by the conduct of Joseph's sons in the future. We find such an idea in

Proverbs 23,24: "the father of the righteous will rejoice greatly;" we also have a similar statement in Proverbs 17,6: "Grandchildren are the crown of their elders." All of this is predicated on the grandchildren following in the footsteps of their illustrious forebears.

Ha'emek Dvar on Genesis 48:16

After all, even the angel does not bless except by the knowledge of his Creator, but rather it is in a lower regard than the act that comes from the Almighty God in His glory.

Sforno on Exodus 33:15

now already when we are still encamped, seeing that You have withdrawn Your presence, then You better do not bring us any further from here for it would be preferable for us to remain here in the desert than to enter the Holy Land without Your Presence among us. By staying right here, we would at least be exposed to the manifestation of Your continued Presence.

Rashi on Exodus 32:1

[THAT MAN] THAT BROUGHT US UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, and who used to show us the way we had to go; now that he is dead we need gods which shall go before us.