

## Study Notes and Questions for Exodus 23 and 24

- Study Note: **Glory** has a rather different connotation in the OT than it does in English usage. The English word suggests something thin and passing—the glory of a sunset, the glory of last year’s winning team. The root idea of the Hebrew word for glory is “heaviness” or “solidity.” It connotes “significance” or “worth,” the absolute opposite of “vanity” or “nothingness.” When God’s glory appears, it is not merely a bright light or a glittering cloud, but a visible expression of his absolute reality.
- **Verses 1 and 2 of chapter 23** have to do with justice and fairness. Why are those important elements to a stable and healthy society? What are some examples of injustice today?
- Read **verses 10-12**. How was the Sabbath intended to benefit people and animals? What other benefits come from resting one day each week? How serious should we be about resting one day a week today?
- What three feasts were required for the men of Israel to attend each year as described in chapter 23?
- What is the law of the firstfruits all about? (23:19)
- God promises to send an angel with His Name (His character, the authority to represent His presence). What will this angel do (see 23:20–23, 27–28)?
- While God promised to clear Canaan of its inhabitants, what task did He charge Israel to complete (see 23:23–24, 31–33)?
- What other specific benefits would the Israelites experience as a result of obeying the Lord (see 23:25–26)?
- Was Israel’s greatest danger physical or moral and how did God instruct the nation to avoid this danger?
- How is this advice relevant to Christians today?
- What is the Lord teaching Israel about Himself through His instructions in 24:1–2?
- Describe the ceremony by which God and Israel confirmed their covenant (see 24:4–11).
- Why do you think the Lord used dramatic natural phenomena (see 24:17) and a long period of time (see 24:18) when He revealed His laws to Moses for Israel? How does this compare to the way He revealed Himself through Christ, as portrayed in the Gospels?
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23–26. How was the ratification of the New Covenant like that of the Old Covenant in Exodus?