

# Exodus – HDRT

Exodus 33:1-6 – Scene 7: YHWH Won't Go with the Israelites.		
1a	Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go!	▪
1b	Go up from this [place]— you and the people whom you brought up	
1c	from the land of Egypt, to the land	
1d	which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’	
2	I will send a messenger before you and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.	▪ See Exodus 3:2. Messenger of YHWH at the burning bush.
3	[Go up] to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst—, for you [are] a stiff-necked people, —lest I destroy you on the way.”	▪
4	When the people heard this evil [ <i>i.e. disastrous</i> ] word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments upon himself.	▪ Ornaments were used for the calf ▪ “A man did not put on his ornaments upon himself.”
5a	For the LORD [ <i>had</i> ] said to Moses, “Say to the sons of Israel, ‘You [are] a stiff-necked people; [I/] I go up in your midst for one moment, I [ <i>would</i> ] destroy you.	▪ NET: Removing the ornaments is a call to repentance. If they repented God would know how to deal with them. ▪
5b	Now, take off your ornaments from upon you, that I will know what I will do to you.”	
6	So the sons of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb [ <i>onward</i> ].	▪

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<b>Literature Type:</b> ➤ Story	▪
<b>Main Character:</b> ➤ YHWH (the LORD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ YHWH is the one speaking in this scene.</li> </ul>	▪
<b>Other Characters:</b> ➤ Moses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ YHWH speaks to Moses (3:1).</li> </ul> ➤ A messenger (3:2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is this a human messenger, an angel, or YHWH himself?</li> </ul> ➤ The people (3:3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ They are stiff-necked, yet they did obey the command to remove ornaments.</li> </ul>	▪ Note that in Exodus 3:12, the “messenger of YHWH” was specified, which turned out to be YHWH himself. Yet, the identity of the messenger is vague in this passage.
<b>Story Obstacles</b> ( <i>new tensions</i> ): (1) Obstacle #1: YHWH essentially disavows the Israelites when he states to Moses, “the people, whom <u>you</u> brought up from Egypt (3:1).” ➤ <b>Tension increases:</b> Has YHWH abandoned us? (2) Obstacle #2: YHWH will send a messenger to drive out the Canaanites (3:2), but he himself will not go with them. ➤ <b>Tension increases:</b> How will we make it if YHWH does <u>not</u> go with us? (3) Obstacle #3: YHWH will destroy the people, if he goes with them for even a moment. ➤ <b>Tension increases:</b> How will we make it if YHWH <u>does</u> go with us?	▪
<b>Plot Summary</b> ( <i>obstacles + resolution</i> ): ➤ YHWH opts to send a messenger in his place, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ because he (YHWH) would destroy the people,</li> <li>▪ if he went with them for even a moment.</li> </ul>	▪ <i>What is the main point of this scene?</i>
<b>Theme</b> ( <i>to original audience</i> ): ➤ YHWH graciously withholds his presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ so that Moses and the messenger can bring</li> <li>▪ the people safely into the land of the Canaanites.</li> </ul>	▪ <i>What is the author's main point to his ancient audience?</i>

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<p><b>Theological Statement</b> <i>(for all audiences)</i>:</p> <p>(1) <b>Option 1: Contrast</b> our New Testament position in Jesus <b>with</b> the Israelites after the golden calf treachery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Unlike</b> the Israelites leaving Egypt, we who trust Jesus:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ will never be separated from God's love (Romans 8:35-36; 38-39),</li> <li>▪ for we are more than conquerors because of his love for us in Jesus (Romans 8:37).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(2) <b>Option 2: Connect</b> the implicit warning in Exodus 33:1-6 <b>with</b> one of the explicit warning passages in the book of Hebrews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Just like</b> the Israelites leaving Egypt, we who trust in Jesus           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ must not harden our hearts (Hebrews 3:8, 13, 15),</li> <li>▪ but must hold fast to the faith until the end (Hebrews 13:6, 12, 14).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>This is a general statement based on the Theme that works for any audience.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Old Testament passages many need filtering by the New Testament.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>These verses are considered the "warning passages" of the book of Hebrews: (1) 2:1-4; (2) 3:7-4:13; (3) 5:11-6:12; (4) 10:19-39; (5) 12:14-29.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Big Idea</b> <i>(for our audience)</i>:</p> <p>(1) Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Trust God's presence... especially in his silence <i>(for those suffering)</i>.</li> <li>➤ Rest in his unchanging love... especially when you've blown it <i>(for those with guilt over past sin)</i>.</li> </ul> <p>(2) Option 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hold on. Baby, hold on <i>(for those discouraged by suffering)</i>.</li> <li>➤ Soften your heart while you can <i>(for those intentionally walking away)</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>These are examples of Big Ideas for a few specific audiences.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The Big Idea should be based on the Theological Statement.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>"Hold On" is a soft rock song by the band Kansas.</i></li> </ul>