

Exodus 18-19

Jethro Visits Moses & The Israelites at Sinai

Read Exodus 18:1-12 - "*Jethro Visits Moses*"

Moses is re-united with his wife Zipporah and his two sons Gershon and Eliezer. Apparently Moses sent his family back to Midian at some time, perhaps during the plagues of Egypt. Even though he was raised in all the wisdom and education of Egypt, Moses no doubt learned much about leadership from the priest and shepherd Jethro - whose flocks Moses tended until God called him. Jethro knew the Lord and had told Moses: "*Go, I wish you well*" (Exodus 4:18).

Read Exodus 18:13-27 - "*The Advice of Jethro*"

v.13-22 - The partnering with Aaron (4:14), and the previous chapter where Aaron and Hur assist Moses in "*raising holy hands*" foreshadow this Godly counsel by Jethro. Because Moses knew the Word of God, he was equipped to settle disputes among the children of Israel. But bearing all this responsibility alone was a massive burden. His energies were spent unwisely. Moses had to delegate, as in Acts 6:2-4 where the apostles chose men *full of the Spirit* to share the duties.

v.23-27 - Notice how Moses listened to Jethro. He recognized the value of hearing godly counsel from a man like Jethro. For Moses to effectively delegate, he had to teach the Word of God not only to those who would hear the disputes, but also those who might cause disputes. If the people knew God's word for themselves, many disputes could be settled quietly.

"It is better to set a hundred men to work than to do the work of a hundred men." - D.L. Moody

Read Exodus 19:1-13 "*Israel at Mount Sinai*"

v.1-2 – Three months after leaving Egypt the Israelites arrive in the Wilderness of Sinai. We find them here until Numbers 10. More than 57 chapters of Scripture are devoted to what happened to Israel in the year they camped at Mount Sinai.

Sinai was the place where Moses had his "burning bush" experience with God (Exodus 3:2 – *Horeb is another name for Mt. Sinai*).

v.4-6 – This covenant re-established the covenant God had made with Abraham 600 years earlier. God intended for Israel to be a special treasure to Him. He wanted them to be a people with a unique place in God's great plan, a people of great value and concern to God. Look up: Ephesians 1:18. How do we fit in to God's plan today? Look up: 1 Peter 2:9

v.8 – Powerful words are spoken here. Our vows to the Lord should never be made frivolously. Look up: Numbers 30:2

v.10-11 – To consecrate meant to set themselves apart from sin and even ordinarily daily routines in order to dedicate themselves to God. Outward preparations symbolized the inward consecration of God's people.

v.12-13 – God's presence on the mountain made the whole mountain holy. The sin of the people required them to remain apart from the mountain and God's holiness. What does this tell us about the Law that was to come from that mountain?

Read Exodus 19:14-25

v.15 - The Bible does not say that there is anything impure with sexual-relations within their proper confines (1 Cor 7:4-5). In *this situation* however, God wanted His people to demonstrate their desire for Him by restraining their flesh.

v.16-19 – We might be tempted to think that if there was more of the *thunder, fire and trembling of Mount Sinai* today it might keep people from sin. But, not forty days from this event, the whole nation will be getting drunk, indulging in revelry, and giving glory to a man-made idol (a false god) for delivering them out of Egypt.

v.21- Despite the people's promise of verse 8, and the explicit instructions in verses 12-13, God knows human beings. In His loving grace He repeats the instruction that He had previously given. Look up: Psalm 86:15, 2 Peter 3:9

Read Hebrews 12:18-24

The Bible tells us that under the New Covenant we come to a different mountain, that our salvation and relationship with God is centered not at Mount Sinai, but at Mount Zion (*The Heavenly City*). But there is still much for us to learn at Mount Sinai. We learn to sanctify ourselves until the coming of our Lord.

- We must receive God's word. · We must be set apart. · We must be cleansed. · We can come after *the third day*.
- We must respect God's boundaries. · We must restrain the desires of the flesh · We must know we come to a holy God.