


Jethro Blesses the Lord and Blesses Israel

Exodus 18:1 – 27


Presented by Bob DeWaay
July 6, 2008



Moses' father-in-law

- **Exodus 18:1**

Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people, how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt.



Moses' Family

- **Exodus 18:2 - 4**

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Moses' wife Zipporah, after he had sent her away, and her two sons, of whom one was named Gershom, for Moses said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." The other was named Eliezer, for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh."



A Family Reunion at Horeb/Sinai

■ **Exodus 18:5, 6**

Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was camped, at the mount of God. He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her."



Moses treats Jethro as an honored guest

■ **Exodus 18:7, 8**

Then Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, and he bowed down and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had befallen them on the journey, and how the LORD had delivered them.



Jethro blesses Yahweh and Israel

■ **Exodus 18:9, 10**

Jethro rejoiced over all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, in delivering them from the hand of the Egyptians. So Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD who delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians."



Jethro believes in Yahweh

■ **Exodus 18:11**

“Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; indeed, it was proven when they dealt proudly against the people.”



“Now I Know”

■ **2Kings 5:15b** = Naaman

“Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now.”

■ **1Kings 17:24b** = widow of Zarephath

“Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”



A fellowship meal before God

■ **Exodus 18:12**

Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law before God.



Moses alone was rendering legal judgments and Jethro sees the problem

- **Exodus 18:13-18** – Moses judges based on statutes and laws



God is the source of Israel's law

- **Exodus 18:19, 20**

“Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do.”



Jethro suggests godly leadership

- **Exodus 18:21, 22**

“Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.”



Moses listened

■ **Exodus 18:23, 24**

"If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace." So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

■ **Exodus 18:24 – 27** = Summary of implementation



Applications and Implications

- 1) God will bless those who bless Israel
- 2) We should narrate God's mighty acts
- 3) We should recognize Western Civilization's debt to God's work through Moses



- 1) God will bless those who bless Israel
The Amalekites were cursed, Jethro the Midianite blessed

■ **Genesis 12:2, 3**

And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.



1) God will curse those who curse Israel

■ **Obadiah 1:10 - 12**

Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever. On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem You too were as one of them. Do not gloat over your brother's day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast In the day of their distress.



2) We should narrate God's mighty acts

■ **Psalms 145:4, 5**

One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.



2) We should narrate God's mighty acts

■ **2Corinthians 5:19**

... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.



3) We should recognize Western Civilization's debt to God's work through Moses

■ **Deuteronomy 17:14, 18, 19**

When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, "I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me," . . . Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,



3) We should recognize Western Civilization's debt to God's work through Moses

■ **Romans 13:1, 2**

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.