

Zipporah

Exodus 4:18-31

by Don Falkos

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Moses left Midian with his wife, Zipporah, and their two sons and started for Egypt. The Lord said to Moses, "Use your staff to perform for Pharaoh the miraculous signs I have empowered you to do. He will not let the people go. So tell him, 'This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son. Since you refuse to let him go, I will kill your firstborn son.' "

When Moses and his family stopped for the night, the Lord came and held Moses in a death grip because he had not circumcised his son. Zipporah had been appalled when Moses circumcised their first son as an infant and had absolutely refused to allow him to circumcise their second son "until he is much older," she had said. But now seeing her husband incapacitated with death looming, she picked up a flint knife and, repressing her revulsion of the ritual, she immediately circumcised her son. She threw the bloody foreskin down at the feet of the Lord. Then turning to her son she said, "You are a bridegroom of blood to me." She said this because her people, the Midianites, performed the ritual of circumcision on a young man in preparation for his marriage.

The Lord released Moses. Moses sent Zipporah and their two sons back home.

God told Aaron, the brother of Moses, to go to Mount Sinai. From there he and Moses went to Egypt and met with the people of Israel. Moses performed the miraculous signs God had given him, and Aaron spoke to the people. They believed and worshiped the Lord.