

Jethro Visits Moses

Exodus 18

by Don Falkos

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Moses received a message from his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. "I am coming to see you, and I am bringing back your wife and your two sons."

Earlier, Moses had sent his wife, Zipporah, and their two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, to stay with Jethro, who took care of them while Moses was in Egypt. When Jethro arrived at Mount Sinai, Moses told him about everything the Lord had done on behalf of Israel, rescuing them from all their troubles. Jethro was delighted and said, "Praise the Lord." Then he offered sacrifices to God.

The next day, Moses sat and listened to the disputes people had with each other. They came to find out what God wanted them to do, and Moses gave them God's instructions. All day long people waited to be heard.

Then Jethro asked Moses, "Why are you doing this all by yourself? This is not good. The job is too much for one person; you can't do it alone. You should continue as the people's representative before God. But select some capable, honest men who fear God and who won't take bribes. Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten. Any dispute that is too difficult is to be sent up to the next highest level. The major issues will make their way to you. But these leaders will handle all the everyday problems, leaving you free to do what God wants you to do: instructing the people, showing them how God wants them to live."

Moses did everything his father-in-law suggested. Then Jethro went back home to Midian.