

The Book of Exodus

Moses Reunited with His Family

Text: Exodus 18:1-27

I. The Reunion

(Exodus 18:1-7)

- A. Moses had lived with his father-in-law while he tended sheep in Midian (2:21; 3:1).
 - 1. He is called both Jethro and Reuel (2:18) [or, Raguel (Num. 10:29)].
 - 2. The name Reuel means, “Friend of God.”
 - 3. The name Jethro means, “Excellency” and was possibly used as a title.
- B. When Moses left Midian to return to Egypt, his wife and children remained behind with her family (cf. 4:25-26).
- C. Now, having heard of Israel’s escape from Egypt, Jethro brought his daughter and grandsons to be reunited with Moses.
 - 1. The first son was named Gershom, meaning, “Refugee or exile” – for Moses was a foreigner in a strange land.
 - 2. The other son was named Eliezer, meaning, “God is help” or “God of help.”
- D. The reunion was a happy one – seen in their greeting of and hospitality toward one another.

II. The Rejoicing

(Exodus 18:8-12)

- A. Moses related to Jethro all the wonderful things God had done for Israel.
- B. Upon hearing this, Jethro rejoiced and praised Jehovah.
- C. He declared, “Now I know that Jehovah is greater than all gods!”
- D. Then, he offered a burnt offering and sacrifices to God.
- E. Aaron and the elders of Israel joined in a meal with Moses and Jethro.

III. The Recommendation

(Exodus 18:13-27)

- A. As the spokesman for God, Moses was presented with the legal cases of the people of Israel.
 - 1. Imagine the burden that must have been felt by Moses as the only prophet of God.
 - 2. Yet, this situation provides important lessons and principles for men to learn.
- B. When the people wanted to know the will of God, they had to ask Moses.
 - 1. This illustrates the burden upon Moses and also upon the people.
 - 2. It demonstrates the need for God’s written revelation.
 - a. The Ten Commandments
 - b. The Books of Moses
- C. Jethro gave Moses some good advice: “You will wear yourself out trying to do this alone.”
- D. Moses would deal with the most difficult cases that needed divine judgment.
- E. But, other appointed judges would hear the smaller, less significant cases.
 - 1. The teaching of the law was paramount.
 - 2. The character of the selected judges was vital.
- F. Thus, the burden was lessened for both Moses and the people.