

Exodus 18

Jethro Visits Moses

Chapter 18



Unlike the Amelkites (descendants of Esau Gen 36), Jethro, the **Midianitish priest**, (a descendant of Abraham and his wife, Keturah, Gen. 25) rejoiced in God’s people

Horeb is the mountain of God and Sinai is the mountain range of three peaks. God promised to bring Moses there (Ex. 3:12).

¹And Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses’ father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people—that the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt.

²Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses’ wife, after he had sent her back, ³with her two sons, of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, “I have been a stranger in a foreign land”) ⁴and the name of the other was Eliezer (for *he said*, “The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh”);

⁵and Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses **in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God**. ⁶Now he had said to Moses, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her.”

Jethro meets Moses at Mt Horeb (3:1) to give him his wife and sons. (after Ex. 4:24-26, she was sent home).

The Bible refers to Mount Horeb as the mountain



Mount Horeb--Sinai

of God (3:1, 18:5, 1 Ki 19:8). Although it does occasionally call Mount Horeb by the name Mount Sinai, usually the term Mount Sinai refers to the range of mountains in the desert of Sinai. This mountain range has three peaks. The central peak is Jebel Musa (Moses’ Mountain) traditionally held to be Mount Horeb, and the plain of *Sebayeh*, where the people were camped.

Psalm 121:1, “I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help?”



Lord had delivered them.

⁷So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and kissed him. And they asked each other about *their* well-being, and they went into the tent. ⁸And 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 come upon them on the way, and *how* the

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Genesis 14:18, "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was **the priest** of God Most High."

Genesis 31:54, "Then Jacob offered **a sacrifice** on the mountain, and called his brethren **to eat bread**. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain."



people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?"

¹⁵And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me **to inquire of God**. ¹⁶"When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and **I make known the statutes of God and His laws.**"

¹³And so it was, on **the next day**, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. ¹⁴So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What *is* this thing that you are doing for the

¹⁷So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do *is* not good. ¹⁸"Both you and these people who *are* with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing *is* too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. ¹⁹"Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: **Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God.** ²⁰"And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. ²¹"Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, **men of truth**, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. ²²"And **let them judge the people at all times.** Then it will be *that* every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear *the burden* with you. ²³"If you do this thing, and God *so* commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."

Genesis 26:5, "because Abraham obeyed My voice (וַיִּשְׁמַר מִשְׁמַרְתִּי) and kept My charge (בְּקִלְיִ),
 A. My commandments (מִצְוֹתִי mitzvah),
 B. **My statutes** (חֻקֹּתַי huqqah) , and
 C. **My laws** (תּוֹרָתִי torah)."

Exodus 15:25-26, "So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a **statute** (חֹק hoq) and an ordinance (מִשְׁפָּט mishpat) for them. And there He tested them, ²⁶and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments (לְמִצְוֹתָיו mitzvah) and keep all His **statutes** (חֻקֵּי huqqah), I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the Lord who heals you."

Exodus 16:28 "And the Lord said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep **My commandments** (תּוֹרָתִי -torah) and My laws (מִצְוֹתִי -mitzvah)?"

Exodus 18:16, 20

1. **God's statutes** חֻקֵּי (hoq and huqqah)
 Moral commandments and statutory covenant laws
2. **God's laws** תּוֹרָתִי (torah)
 Individual laws (Torah, but in the plural)

Natural Law - Romans 2:14-15, "for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are **a law to themselves**, ¹⁵who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

Genesis 8:21, "And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although **the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth**; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."

Romans 1:18-20, 21, "because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.** (Eph 4:17-19)

Exodus 18:20

“And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.

The Way

Exodus 23:20, “Behold, I send an Angel before you **to keep you in the way** and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

Exodus 32:8, “They have turned aside quickly out of **the way which I commanded them**. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ ”

Exodus 33:13, “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, **show me now Your way**, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people.”

The Walk

Enoch (Gen 5), Noah (Gen 6) walked with God.

Abraham -Gen 17:1 “walk before me and be blameless,” Gen 24:40 “The LORD, before whom I walk,” and all the patriarchs Gen 48:15.

Exodus 16:4, “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will **walk in My law** (torah) **or not**.

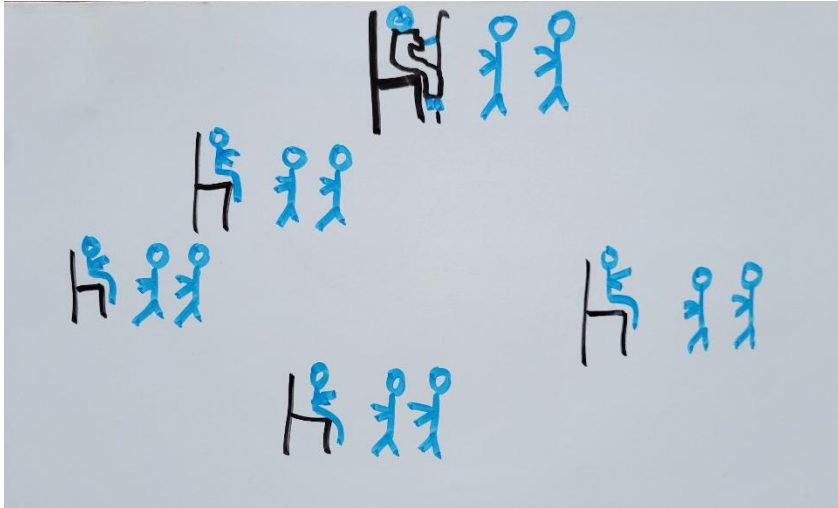
Deuteronomy 5:33, “You shall **walk in all the ways** which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and *that it may be* well with you, and *that* you may prolong *your* days in the land which you shall possess.

The Work

To walk in holiness

John 6:28-29, “Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may **work the works of God?**”

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “This is **the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**”



²⁴So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. ²⁵And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. ²⁶So they **judged** the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.

²⁷Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land.

Deuteronomy 1:13, Moses to the Israelites ¹³“**Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you....**”

Leviticus 10:8-11 ¹¹“and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”

Malachi 2:7 “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And *people* should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

Luke 10:1, “After these things the Lord appointed **seventy others also**, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go....

Matthew 28:16-18, “Then **the eleven disciples** went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.... (Luke 6:13, “...he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles...”)

Matthew 19:28, “So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, **judging** the twelve tribes of Israel. (Ephesians 2:19-20, 4:10-16)

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