### Exodus

## Chapter 18

1Meanwhile, His Excellence (the priest of MidiAn, Moses’ father-in-law) heard of all that Jehovah had done for his people IsraEl by bringing them out of Egypt.  
  
2So His Excellence [went to see Moses], bringing along Moses’ wife SepPhora (since [Moses] had sent her 3and her two sons away).  
  
[One of his sons] was named GerSam [meaning, Visitor], because, as [Moses] said:  
  
 ‘I was a visitor in a strange land,’  
  
4And [the other was named] EliEzer [meaning, My God is my Helper], because as [Moses] said:  
  
 ‘The God of my fathers is my helper and He rescued me from the hands of PharaOh.’  
  
5His Excellence then took [Moses’ family] to him in the desert… To his camp on the Mountain of God. 6And when Moses was told, ‘Look! His Excellence (your father-in-law) is coming and he’s bringing your wife and two sons with him,’ 7Moses went out to meet them.  
  
Then [Moses] bowed low before his father-in-law and kissed him, then they hugged each other, and he led them into his tent, 8where Moses told his father-in-law about everything that Jehovah had done to PharaOh and to the Egyptians for IsraEl’s sake, as well as about all the things that had happened to them along the way, and of the way Jehovah had rescued them from the hands of PharaOh and the Egyptians.  
  
9Well, His Excellence was amazed by all the good things that Jehovah had done for them by rescuing them, 10and he said:  
  
 ‘Praise Jehovah, because He rescued them from the hands of PharaOh and the Egyptians!  
  
 11‘Now I know that Jehovah is higher than all [other] gods; for He did this to those who were treating [the children of IsraEl so poorly].’  
  
12Then His Excellence presented whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for God, and Aaron and all the elders of IsraEl came to eat bread before God, along with Moses’ father-in-law.  
  
13Well, the next morning, Moses sat down to [serve as] judge for the people, and they [kept coming to] him all day long. 14Then when His Excellence noticed all that [Moses was doing], he asked:  
  
 ‘Why are you sitting there all by yourself as the people come to you from morning until night?’  
  
15And Moses replied:  
  
 ‘The people are coming to me to receive God’s decisions. 16So whenever they have any disagreement, they come to me and I judge each [case].  
  
 ‘I teach them the Laws of God and [I judge by] His Laws.’  
  
17However, Moses’ father-in-law told him:  
  
 ‘You aren’t handling this thing right, 18for this will just wear you down… And your people will get tired of it too. You won’t be able to keep on doing this all by yourself.  
  
 19‘So, listen to me; I’m going to tell you what to do, and God will be with you.  
  
 ‘You can be [the one] that [leads] the people in matters that pertain to God, and you can take their problems before God. 20You should also [teach] them God’s [ways] and His Laws, and show them how to act and the things that they should be doing.  
  
 21‘But, keep an eye out among the people for capable, righteous men who fear God… Righteous men who hate pride. Then appoint them as chiefs over thousands, chiefs over hundreds, chiefs over fifties, and chiefs over tens… 22Let them spend all their time judging.  
  
 ‘And whenever a problem is too great, then they should bring it to you. Let them help you to free up your [time] by judging the smaller cases.  
  
 23‘And if you do that, God will strengthen you, you’ll [have time to take care of more important matters], and these people will [return to their tents] more peacefully.’  
  
24Well, Moses paid attention to his father-in-law’s suggestion and did everything that he said. 25He chose capable men throughout all of IsraEl and made them chiefs of thousands, chiefs of hundreds, chiefs of fifties, and chiefs of tens.  
  
26Then they judged the people, and whenever a matter was too weighty, they brought it to Moses, while they judged the lighter matters.  
  
27Then after that, Moses [said goodbye] to his father-in-law, and [His Excellence] returned to his own land.