

Translation Exodus 18:1-18

18

1 Jethro priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard all that God had done for Moses and for Israel, God's people, how THE ETERNAL had brought Israel out from Egypt.

2 So Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after she had been sent home,

3 and her two sons—of whom one was named Gershom, that is to say, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land";

4 and the other was named Eliezer, meaning, "My ancestors' God was my help, delivering me from the sword of Pharaoh."

5 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' sons and wife to him in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God.

6 He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, with your wife and her two sons."

7 Moses went out to meet his father-in-law; he bowed low and kissed him; each asked after the other's welfare, and they went into the tent.

8 Moses then recounted to his father-in-law everything that THE ETERNAL had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardships that had befallen them on the way, and how THE ETERNAL had delivered them.

9 And Jethro rejoiced over all the kindness that THE ETERNAL had shown Israel when delivering them from the Egyptians.

10 "Blessed be THE ETERNAL," Jethro said, "who delivered you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

11 Now I know that THE ETERNAL is greater than all gods, yes, by the result of their very schemes against [the people]."

12 And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices for God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to partake of the meal before God with Moses' father-in-law.

13 Next day, Moses sat as magistrate among the people, while the people stood about Moses from morning until evening.

14 But when Moses' father-in-law saw how much he had to do for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing to the people? Why do you act alone, while all the people stand about you from morning until evening?"

15 Moses replied to his father-in-law, "It is because the people come to me to inquire of God.

16 When they have a dispute, it comes before me, and I decide between one person and another, and I make known the laws and teachings of God."

17 But Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing you are doing is not right;

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18 you will surely wear yourself out, and these people as well. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.