

## Exodus 4:18-31 **Moses returns to the Children of Israel in Egypt**

18 So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." 19 And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men are dead who sought your life." 20 Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand. 21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. 22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' ' "

24 And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the LORD met him and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you are a husband of blood to me!" 26 So He let him go. Then she said, "You are a husband of blood!"--because of the circumcision.

27 And the LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him. 28 So Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him. 29 Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. 30 And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Moses returned to his father-in-law Jethro and asked to go back to Egypt, and Jethro said, "Go in peace."
- ✧ God spoke to Moses again reassuring him that all those who had sought his life were dead.
- ✧ Moses started toward Egypt with his wife, his sons, a donkey, and the rod of God in his hand.
- ✧ Yehowah spoke to Moses again and told him to be sure to do all those wonders before Pharaoh that God has put in Moses' hand.
- ✧ Yehowah again told Moses that God would harden the heart of Pharaoh, so that Pharaoh will not let the people go, and instructed Moses what he should say to Pharaoh.
  - ◇ Israel is My firstborn so I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.
- ✧ God spoke of the final plague, the death of the firstborn, before Moses arrived in Egypt demonstrating God's intention was fully established before He called Moses at the Burning Bush.
- ✧ At the first encampment on the way to Egypt after leaving Jethro in Midian God met them and sought to kill Moses. They were still well in the midst of the land of Midian and had not yet reached Mount Horeb, the Mountain of God.
- ✧ I don't know in what way Yehowah sought to kill Moses, but the reason must have been very clear to everyone present, and the seriousness of the occasion such that prompted Zipporah to act quickly in performing the required circumcision of her son, though the act itself was repulsive to her as can be seen by her response when the deed was completed.

- ✧ It seems a bit strange that circumcision should cause such a reaction from Zipporah in the first place, because Zipporah is a daughter of the priest of Midian, and Midian is a descendant of Abraham through Keturah.
- ✧ Midian was born the fourth son of Keturah, in the last 38 years of Abraham's old age. [\[Genesis 25:2\]](#) The Covenant of Circumcision was well established to be done on the eighth day, [\[Genesis 17:12\]](#) and Abraham would have passed it on to Keturah's children. Sarah died when Abraham was 137 years old and Abraham married Keturah after the death of Sarah. Abraham died at the age of 175 so the sons of Keturah would have been born and grown in the last 38 years of Abraham's life.
- ✧ It also is interesting that the Arabs circumcise their children at age 13 because Ishmael was circumcised at that age, but all the sons of Keturah would have been circumcised on the eighth day.
- ✧ The fact that God released Moses as soon as the circumcision was completed, is evidence that God had been very clear in informing them of the purpose of the attack.
- ✧ It is interesting to realize that due to the timing and location of the meeting, the information of God speaking to Aaron instructing him to go into the wilderness to meet Moses, is not in its chronological order, because Aaron was in Egypt in the land of Goshen near Rameses and Moses was in Midian in Arabia.
- ✧ At the Burning Bush on Mount Horeb God had said, "Aaron is coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart." [\[Exodus 4:14\]](#)
- ✧ They met at the Mountain of God at Horeb in Midian where Moses had been tending the sheep of Jethro his father in law when he saw the Burning Bush, so Aaron needed a large head start.
- ✧ Moses told Aaron all the words Yehowah had said to him and the signs God had commanded him to perform.
- ✧ Moses and Aaron went and gathered together the elders of the Children of Israel.
- ✧ Aaron spoke to the elders of Israel all the words Yehowah had spoken to Moses, then he did the signs in the sight of the people.
- ✧ The people believed and bowed their heads and worshiped, when they knew that Yehowah had looked on their affliction and established a deliverance for them.
- ✧ This fulfilled the promise of God when He had told Moses that, "They (the Children of Israel) will heed your voice." [\[Exodus 3:18\]](#)