

Exodus 18:1-12 **Moses' Family Brought to Him at Rephidim**

¹ "And 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. ² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, ³ with her two sons, of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, 'I have been a stranger in a foreign land') ⁴ and 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'); ⁵ and 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. ⁶ Now he had said to Moses, 'I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her.'

⁷ So 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. ⁸ And 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 LORD had delivered them.

⁹ Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the LORD had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. ¹⁰ And Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them." ¹² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Moses had sent his family out of Egypt for safety back to his father in law's house in Midian while God was sending plagues against Egypt to deliver the Children of Israel from bondage.
- ✧ Jethro the priest of Midian, the father in law of Moses, heard about all that had happened in Egypt that ELOHIYM had done for Moses and for Israel as Yehowah had brought Israel out of Egypt.
 - ◇ This tells us that travelers were passing from Egypt to Midian and the news of what God was doing was spreading around the world.
 - ◇ God's work is out in the open for anyone to see and know that God had done it, thus by the evidence of eyewitnesses the knowledge of God is spread abroad for anyone who will consider the accounts of those who have seen it.
 - ◇ Also obvious is the fact that people were passing from Egypt to Midian without having to cross the Red Sea by simply following the existing trade routs which crossed over land north of the end of the Red Sea which today is called the Gulf of Elat, according to Israel or called the Gulf of Aqaba by Arabs.
- ✧ Since they were in the land of Midian, they were out of reach of the Egyptians and within the area where Jethro lived.
- ✧ Jethro sent a messenger to Moses to let Moses know that his father in law was bringing Moses' wife and two sons to him.
- ✧ Jethro, Moses' father in law brought Moses' wife and children to Moses in the wilderness at Horeb, the Mountain of God, where they were encamped in the land of Midian.
 - ◇ Zipporah, the wife of Moses.
 - ◇ Gershom, (foreigner), the first born son of Moses.
 - ◇ Eliezer, (God of my father my help), second son of Moses.

- ✧ When Moses took his father in law into his tent he told about everything God had done in bringing them out of Egypt which not only confirmed the report Jethro had heard from those who had brought the news.
 - ✧ Moses' account also filled in all the information that might have been missed by those who had come before.
 - ✧ Moses also told him about the troubles they had encountered coming to Mount Horeb and how God had provided for them along the way.
 - ✧ Water sweetened by the tree at Meribah, Manna and Quail, Water from the rock at Rephidim, Victory over the Amalekites.
 - ✧ Since they were still at Rephidim, Jethro could see with his own eyes the water God was providing from the rock along with the manna and quail.
- ✧ Jethro the priest of Midian acknowledged all that God had done and rejoiced at the report, saying; "Blessed be Yehowah (the LORD), who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians."
- ✧ Then Jethro affirmed the fact that he was now convinced, saying; "Now I know that Yehowah (the Lord) is greater than all ha-elohiym (the gods); for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them."
- ✧ Jethro, Moses father in law took a burnt offering and sacrifices for Elohiym.
- ✧ Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father in law before Elohiym.
 - ✧ The word Elohiym is a plural Hebrew word meaning more than one god but is often translated as God singular when referring to the God of creation and the God of Israel, as in verse 12 when the text mentions they ate before ha-elohiym.
 - ✧ But it is translated as gods plural when in reference to all other multitudes of gods of the pagans as in verse 11 when Jethro said that Yehowah is greater than ha-elohiym.