

Exodus 18 Advice from Jethro

Exodus 18: 1-12 Jethro is the father-in-law of Moses and the father of Zipporah, the wife of Moses. She was with Moses when he traveled to Egypt from Midian, along with their two sons: Gershom and Eliezer. Gershom means sojourner and Eliezer means Yahweh, the God of his father, is his help. Their names helped to remind Moses that God had delivered His people from Egypt, and that they were sojourning in a foreign land, for he was looking for the Holy City, not just Jerusalem, but heaven.

Jethro heard all that God had done for Moses and Israel, so he brings Zipporah and his sons to Moses. He sent word he was bringing them to Moses, and Moses came out to greet him and welcomed him with a kiss and by bowing down before him.

Romans 16:16, I Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, I Thessalonians 5:26, and I Peter 5:14. In the Middle East, a kiss on the cheek was a common greeting, signifying friendship and acceptance.

Jethro met Moses at the mountain of God, Mt. Sinai. Jethro exhibits great faith in proclaiming joy in what he hears from Moses. He accepted by faith what Moses told him as he exclaimed, "Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods..." He also brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and he had a fellowship meal with Moses and the elders.

In Exodus 18:13-27 Moses endeavored to resolve disputes by educating individuals on God's commandments. However, the burden proved overwhelming for him. Jethro offered prudent advice, recommending that Moses designate judges over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.

Moses was wise in accepting Jethro's wise counsel.

In our state government, we have the magistrate, district judge, and supreme court.

What can we learn from this?