

## Exodus 18

King James Version (KJV)

(Parenthetical chapter)

**18** When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt; (Jethro = His Excellency – a title; His name was Ru-el)

<sup>2</sup>Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,

<sup>3</sup>And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land: (land of the Kenites. Jethro was a Median priest, a descendant of Abraham & his second wife, Katurah) See Genesis-25 (Gershom= stranger in a strange land)

<sup>4</sup>And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh:

<sup>5</sup>And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: (This is at Sinai = the bush of God)

<sup>6</sup>And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her.

<sup>7</sup>And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.

<sup>8</sup>And Moses told his father in law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the LORD delivered them.

<sup>9</sup>And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians.

<sup>10</sup>And Jethro said, Blessed be the LORD, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. (It was God who delivered Israel, not Moses. Jethro knows that)

<sup>11</sup> Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them. (Each of the plagues of Egypt was to show God's superiority over some Egyptian idol)

<sup>12</sup> And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God.

<sup>13</sup> And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. (Thousands of people waiting to see one judge)

<sup>14</sup> And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? (It is too much for one man to do)

<sup>15</sup> And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: (To settle disputes)

<sup>16</sup> When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

(Moses understands the difference between statutes, ordinances and the law. The 10 commandments are the law. The blood ordinances and other rules are statutes. This is why Jesus fulfilled all the sacrifice statutes and the blood ordinances forever, never to be done again; and yet He said – I change not one jot or tilde of the law)

<sup>17</sup> And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. (Moses needs to hire some helpers. He can't settle disputes for 2 million people, and still do God's work for the whole crowd)

<sup>18</sup> Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

<sup>19</sup> Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: (I'll give you some advice but you need to go ask God for permission to do this; Jethro was a priest and obeyed God)

<sup>20</sup> And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. (Moses' main job was to teach the people what God expected of them and lead them through the wilderness; not to sit in judgment of petty disputes) (Our own court system is structured this way, with the Supreme Court at the top, and city courts at the bottom)

<sup>21</sup> Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: (Hierarchical government structure – but he needs to find honest people to be judges) (men = ish<Hebrew> – it applies to both men and women)

<sup>22</sup> And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. (Moses would be like the high court)

<sup>23</sup> If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. (It will help Moses, as well as the people who need judgment decisions)

<sup>24</sup> So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. (He appointed people who knew God's laws to be judge over the people – like the lower courts today)

<sup>25</sup> And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

<sup>26</sup> And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

<sup>27</sup> And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.