

Noah Brill

Professor David Emanuel

BIB102: Old Testament Literature

January 31, 2023

Written Assignment 1

Read Exodus 18. Summarize the events in the chapter. What can you learn about Jethro's character from this one chapter (be sure to provide evidence). In your own words, describe the advice Jethro gives to Moses. Describe what Moses was doing wrong and the possible effects it could have had on him. What can you learn from this chapter that you can apply to your life?

Exodus 18 is a powerful chapter that contains several important lessons for personal and professional development. First, it emphasizes the importance of delegation, which can lighten the burden of work and allow individuals to focus on what they do best. Second, the chapter emphasizes the importance of having a system in place to manage the affairs of the people. The chapter describes the visit of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, to the Israelites in the wilderness. The chapter begins with Jethro, the priest of Midian, hearing about all the good that God has done for the Israelites and how he delivered them from Egypt. Jethro brings Moses' wife and children to him and Moses tells him all that God has done for the Israelites.

Jethro is portrayed as a person who believes in God and is very close to religion. This is evidenced by his actions in offering sacrifices to God and listening to Moses' account of God's deliverance of the Israelites. In addition, Jethro is very concerned about the welfare of Moses and the Israelites. Seeing Moses trying to deal with all the disputes and problems of the Israelites on

his own, Jethro gives him advice on how Moses can best delegate his tasks so that Moses is not overburdened.

Jethro advises Moses to select capable men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain, and appoint them as leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. He tells Moses that by doing so, it will make the burden of judging easy on Moses and the people will be able to find justice more easily. Jethro explains how this system will work, with the smaller disputes being handled by the leaders over smaller groups and the larger disputes being brought to Moses. . Jethro believes that this will relieve Moses of the burden of judging the Israelites and make it easier for the people to come into their own. This shows that Jethro is a wise and prudent person who is aware of the limitations of a single person and how important it is to have a system in place to manage the affairs of the people.

Moses was overburdened, tired and had no time for himself, his family or God. He was trying to solve all the disputes of the Israelites by himself, which was not practical and could have led to burnout, resentment, and poor judgment. By delegating responsibilities to capable and qualified individuals, Moses is able to focus on the bigger issues and also take care of himself and his family.

The chapter teaches us the importance of delegation, organization, and having people with the right qualifications to help us in our work. It also teaches us the importance of taking care of ourselves and not overburdening ourselves with too many responsibilities. It is important to learn to delegate and trust others. In our personal and professional lives, we often find ourselves trying to do everything by ourselves, but this can lead to burnout and poor decision-making. By delegating tasks and responsibilities to others, we can focus on what we do best and also take care of ourselves.

It also teaches us the importance of having a system in place to handle the affairs of the people. By having a system in place, we can ensure that justice is served and people can find a resolution to their disputes easily.

In addition, the chapter also teaches us about the importance of having leaders who fear God, who are honest and truthful, and who dislike dishonest gain. Such leaders are more likely to make fair and just decisions and will not be swayed by personal gain. This is an important lesson for anyone in a leadership position.

In conclusion, Exodus 18 teaches us valuable lessons about delegation, organization, and leadership. It shows us the importance of having a system in place to handle the affairs of the people and the importance of having leaders who are fair, just, and honest. It also teaches us the importance of taking care of ourselves and not overburdening ourselves with too many responsibilities. These lessons are applicable to our personal and professional lives and can help us become more effective leaders and better people.