

Sheril A Hall

Old Testament Bible 102

Prof: David Emanuel

January 29,2023

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 Moses. Describe what Moses was doing wrong and the possible effects it could have on him. What can you learn from this chapter that you can apply to your life?

After leaving Egypt with so many people Moses had quite an awesome task to lead the children of Israel in the way of the Lord. His father in law was a Midianite Priest from another nation who joined him at the right time and was of great help. He was inclined to listen to the report about the Israelites God and learn about Him. As a priest of Midian his responsibility would have included giving counsel and probably building a system to function in the Midianites clan, therefore he was in a position of authority in such matters. This level of insight on his part was well needed to help with the administration of Israel's new found freedom. It would become the pinnacle that set the country's judicial system in place , thus implementing God's rule and regulations to govern Israel and the current nation at large.

Moses was given a charge over the nation of Israel. This was indeed a large task for any one man to see to its overall happenings. Having seen the struggles to move from one location to another and the vast majority of people who were in need of direction, counsel and to relearn the way of their forefathers was indeed a challenge for Moses. This task was something Moses was trained

in, as he grew in the household of the Egyptians, from a leadership position as a Prince; however when it came time for him to administer those training, he was faltering.

Jethro, his father in law who was a priest over a nation, saw his challenge, even though Moses didn't see it that way. Moses did not presume that this would be an issue, or maybe he wasn't even thinking along those lines.

However, Jethro, who was accustomed to leading people as a priest, saw the error of Moses' way and intercepted his action. Jethro offers advice on how Moses should proceed. He advised Moses to find men who possess the character of fearing God, trustworthy, and cannot be bribed. These characteristics must be evident because Moses will be placing them over a people group of Thousand, Hundreds and Fifty who were coming out of a mentality of harsh cruelty and even bribery.

These leaders would be called to make decisions concerning the people, but matters that concern God to the people Moses was responsible for. This became the judicial system of Israel and even to an extent this land.

What Moses was doing when he decided to be counsel, jury and judge of all the people, would have caused him great ill health. as well as poor decision making after having to listen to all these people by himself for hours on any given day. It might have become a cause for great anarchy in the land that would result in blood shed or the occurrence of idol worship. Because more emphasis might be placed on these matters than on the true worship of God.

As christian we are sometimes placed in positions of authority and we ourselves know of our calling, so we choose to step out in our strength to do that task. The task might be more than one individual is able to manage, yet we proceed to do this task on our own. This can prove to be futile in our own life. Putting us at great risk or even endangering our lives by the strain we would have caused ourselves. If we reject

the multitude of counsel that the Lord so graciously provides for us in his word, and those who are older and have had much experience in a similar situation, that we might just be encountering, then we would have failed in our endeavor, making our choices of no effect.

Chapter 18 of Exodus set the precedence for the establishment of laws or the judicial system of Israel. It outlines the different conduct of operation that is seen in today's society. Each group of operations has its own set of rules that interlink into the entire system creating an ordered society that will enforce the Laws of Yahweh to His people. This structure still continues even to today judging from the book of the Torah to the present system of this land. As a people who are seeking to know the will and operation of God it's imperative that we seek counsel from those who are ahead of us in experience and knowledge, so that we can be wise in our action when administering, therefore seeking Godly counsel is a must in our daily walk.