

Steffany Jane Warain

Professor David Emanuel

Old Testament Literature BIB102 OB

January 29, 2023

Written Assignment 1: Exodus 18

Exodus 18 tells the story of Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses's father-in-law, who decided to visit Moses with his wife and two sons in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God. Upon Jethro's arrival, they asked each other how they both have been, and Moses recounts the story of the Israelites' escape from Egypt to him. Upon hearing all the marvelous works that God has done to save His people from the hands of the Egyptians, Jethro rejoiced and glorified God for their deliverance. They make offering and sacrifices. He 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. 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. - Ex 18:10-11, NKJV

The next day, Jethro saw Moses sitting in front of the people, the only judge and counsel among all of them. Seeing this, Jethro, taught that what Moses is doing is not

sustainable, so he offered his advice to Moses on how to govern the people and delegate his authority, His advice to Moses on Ex 18:17-23, in my own words would be like him saying that Moses should teach his people how to stand on their own and use God's gift to them which is their heart and mind, their logic, their likeness to God. It is God's gift to them from the beginning therefore they must learn how to use that. They have been freed and they are not slaves anymore so they must not think like slaves anymore but like a leader. He should teach the people of Israel God's wisdom, God's countenance and make it as much as possible their own. Practice what they've learned on leadership from Moses to leading ten people as a beginner but as they get better and more competent they can lead more people, to fifties, hundreds, then to a thousand. There must be no weak links, only good leaders and good followers so, from this, they can make a great nation, a people of God, and not a nation of slaves nor dependents. Not a tree with no fruits nor branches but a fruitful tree as that is what God wants.

From this chapter, it shows that Jethro is faithful to God and he cares for his son-in-law. From his showing gratitude and marveling at God's faithfulness to his promise in saving the Israelites from Pharoah, to giving his advice, as mentioned above to Moses, his son-in-law. It speaks of the importance of good leadership and the qualities he possessed. He was used by God to teach Moses what he was doing wrong and what a good leader means. A leader who thinks he alone can do everything or someone who thinks that only he alone is good enough for the task. This is not good because if it continues, he will go mad and the people will grow old stupid and who don't have a real

connection to God to know His greatness. Or people who don't live up to their calling because of burnout. A leader must be someone who delegates. Someone who creates more competent people like him to carry the job that God entrusted them. Be a leader to a few, then create fewer followers who need to be led and more people that know the righteousness of God.

What I learned from this chapter that I am applying to my life is the importance of family and accepting elderly advice. To not be afraid to ask for help. And that no man is an island, we all need someone. We all need, at some point in our life help. And although Moses was the one who was called by God and was in direct communication with God, but it took a visit from his father-in-law to point out to him what he was doing wrong. He must have felt anxious as well as it is his father-in-law visiting, but only through that visit that his burden became light and his heart grew more peaceful. And as Moses heeds Jethro's advice, he act on it leading the people of Israel better than what they used to be. His father-in-law left and went to his own land, Midian.

Works Cited:

NKJV, Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, Hardcover, Red Letter: Bringing to Life the Ancient World of Scripture. Zondervan, 2017.