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Old Testament (BIB102)

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Writing Assignment #1

Exodus 18 tells the story of Moses's journey in doing the work of the Lord and teaching others so that they too, contribute to doing the work of the Lord. Yet, more importantly, it shows us a valuable lesson in understanding the importance of a plurality of leadership.

In Exodus 18 we see that Jethro, who at the time, was the priest of Midian and the father-in-law of Moses. After this Moses sent away his wife and two children to stay with his Father in-law. Later, Jethro sent a word to Moses stating to him “ I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons” Exodus 18:5 NIV. When Moses received this information he made his way to meet them and when he did he bowed down and kissed his father-in-law Jethro. Moses expressed to his father in law about what the Lord had done to the Pharaoh and the Egyptians; along with the struggles and obstacles they went through during his journey with the Lord to save Israel. In hearing this Jertho was so pleased in learning all that the Lord had done to save the people of Israel that he rejoiced and said “ Praise be the Lord who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly.” Exodus 18:10 NIV. Jethro continued by bringing a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God. A man by the name of Aaron along with all the elders of Israel came to eat with Moses' father-in-law to be in the presence of God. When Moses took his seat as a judge the following day, Jethro saw him in the process and

asked Moses what he was doing to the people and why he sat alone working day and night. Moses answered his father-in-law by explaining that the people come to him to seek God's will. He further explains that whenever there is an issue amongst people, it is brought to him so that he can inform them Of God's decrees and instructions. Jethro responded by explaining to Moses that he was going about this all wrong because the Job requires so much time and effort it is not sufficient for a person to do it alone. Jethro continues by suggesting to Moses that he should make a selection of men and appoint them as judges over many so that they too can carry out the duties of the Lord. With this new sound suggestion, Moses followed his father's instructions and found men from Israel and made them the officials over many, by serving as judges for the people at all times.

In chapter eighteen of the book of Exodus, we are introduced to Jethro who is the father-in-law of Moses. Father of Zipporah and grandfather to Greshom (named because Moses was a foreigner in a foreign land) and Eliezer (named because God helped Moses and saved him from the Pharaoh's sword). Jeroth in this chapter seems to be a devoted father but not much of a strong believer in Christ. His delight to hear that the Lord saved the people in Israel seemed very phony in that his faith and happiness in the Lord is due to him hearing about the good that the Lord has done.

Jethro's advice to Moses was very analytical in that he saw that Moses' process was not sufficient for the people nor Moses himself. In verse fourteen Jethro is asking Moses questions and one of the questions concerns the people, it states; “ Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening” Exodus 18:14. This verse is very important in my opinion because I can only imagine how many people Moses had to judge and the patients that the people had to have during that time to wait to be seen, no matter how long it

took. I don't think that at the time Moses could see the impact of judging hundreds of thousands of people on his own in the long run. Over time Moses judging so many people would have not only a negative impact on his health but I believe it possibly would have affected Moses negatively in a spiritual way as well.

Overall, I learned the true meaning of understanding that the best leaders are the best followers. Moses in this chapter was a good leader being that he was able to take someone else's advice, and was open-minded.

Works Cited

House, Zondervan Publishing, and Zondervan. *Holy Bible*. 2013.