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Genesis 1:1 offers the broadest perspective to start with. For the remainder of chapter one, Moses changes from the general picture presented in Genesis 1:1 to one more detailed one. There is no void. The only question remains how God focused on a tiny portion of the larger image and created the entire universe from nothing. He emphasizes the origins of humans and other animals more in Genesis 2. He takes his time explaining how God slept on the seventh day of creation after six days of creation. Then, emphasis is placed on the fifth and sixth days of creation. After the Fall of Man in Genesis 3, Moses elaborates on the first family of creation and their descendants. Cain and Abel argue over whose offerings are better, causing conflicts. God accepts Abel's offerings, making Cain to murder Abel. Cain is displaced as the one who carries the godly line by Seth, the third son born from Adam and Eve, with Cain being omitted from God's intentions for the Earth. Through Genesis 4-6, we witness both the Cain and the Seth lines. They include genealogies that describe the relationships and contrasts between the Cain and Seth lines.

Noah was the only moral person in the land. God gives Noah the task of building a large vessel known as an ark. Together, they endure the deluge and continue their creative work

afterward. Since Noah's day, sin and evil have persisted on Earth. We can see that humans still had horrible aspirations, including the yearning to ascend to the sky, where only God resided, through stories like the Tower of Babel. Here, we looked at the differences between various countries and tongues. The table of nations demonstrates the numerous branches of Noah's family from which different countries descended. We meet Abraham at the close of Genesis chapters one through eleven. Abraham is the man God Himself chooses to build the nation.

Despite the consequences of sin, abundantly evident in Genesis 1–11, God goes to considerable lengths to build relationships with people. These eleven chapters lay the groundwork for God's desire to live in harmony with people among his creation. Throughout history, he has interacted with people, only to realize that we are his creation and that he will always be with us.

Reading 2

Discovering the Old Testament: Story and Faith is a fascinating introduction to the Old Testament for students. The style has a Meeting the Old Testament feel to it. Each chapter's introduction includes a list of learning objectives, reflection questions, and critical terms. At the end of each chapter, there are summary remarks, contemplation questions, and sources for additional reading. There are several images, many of which are from modern Judaism. The appendix contains a chronology of Jewish history from 331 to 63 B.C.

A summary of Bible verses makes up most of the book's material. The reader is encouraged to review the theological sidebars, which, when appropriate, explain New Testament interpretation to absorb the notions into one's own beliefs. In terms of biblical content and

practical applications, this book will serve as an essential and delightful introduction to the Old Testament. The book contains numerous illustrations to explain modern Judaism and Israel to the reader.

Exodus Chapter 18

Summary

God reveals what He has done for the Israelites to Moses' father-in-law and a priest from Midian, Jethro. Aaron and the elders join Jethro in eating bread after hearing all the details of how God delivered the Israelites. Jethro offers offerings and blesses the LORD. The following day, Moses presides over all public hearings. Moses says that whenever there is a disagreement among the people, he intercedes on their behalf before God when Jethro questions him about it. Jethro knows Moses will become tired and must choose judges to serve over the different Israelite tribes, as well as to advocate for their needs before God and to instruct them accordingly. The judges Moses appoints have responsibility for tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even only a few hundred people.

What Moses did wrong

Moses used to evaluate the people of Israel by himself as God chose him to guide the Israelites. Jethro warned Moses that he was going about it the wrong way, even if deciding between the parties and informing them of God's decrees and instructions was the correct thing to do.

Life Lessons from Exodus 18

Exodus 18 teaches us that sometimes we can do the right thing in the wrong way and that many hands really do make light work in accomplishing greater tasks. The lesson that I was able to learn from the chapter is a regular of our struggle and how using it to take God will always make good on his promises to see us through. So, whatever our situation maybe we can believe and trust in him.

We are taught to listen to others' opinions. Moses could ignore Jethro but chose to listen and follow his instructions (Exodus 18:19-24 NRSV). Just as Moses was receptive to Jethro's advice, we should be open to other people's wisdom. God speaks to us through other people. The final lesson is that many hands to do outstanding work. Any duty is easier with the additional assistance (Exodus 18:21-22 NRSV). According to Jethro, Moses was to appoint wise people to lead thousands, hundreds, fifty, and tens of others to make his work easier.

Works Cited

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