

18:1-6

Given 16:1 & 19:1, it seems that we are about 6-7 weeks following the Exodus.

And ^aJethro, this is a title, probably, rather than a proper name. **the priest of Midian**, This is a portion of what we now call “Saudi Arabia.” **Moses’ father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people—that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. 2 Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, Called Ruel in chapter 2. took Zipporah, Moses’ wife, after he had sent her back, 3 with her two sons,** We see them making a debut in chapters 3 and 4 (although Gershom is the only obvious son in the context). **of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, “I have been a stranger in a foreign land”)** Moses named them after his experiences. **4 and the name of the other was Eliezer (for he said, “The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh”); 5 and Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness, where he was encamped at ^gthe mountain of God.** Called Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb as well (See 3:1). God here promised Moses they would return to this place with His people. He was there looking after this same “Jethro’s” flocks. This is where Moses first met God in the burning bush and when God describes Himself as “I AM”. Furthermore, Jesus identifies Himself thusly (John 18:1). Therefore, Moses has brought others to Christ.

where he was encamped at the mountain of God. Good lesson here for Moses...when we return to where we first met Jesus (to get right), we have a better opportunity to get our kids around Him too. It seems like good leaders know how to get people to where they were, emotionally and spiritually and socially, when God found them.

⁶ Now he had said to Moses, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her.”

⁷ So Moses ^hwent out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and ⁱkissed him. This man had given Moses a place to hide and work and belong when everyone Moses knew personally was looking for him to seek his life. **And they asked each other about *their* well-being, and they went into the tent. ⁸ And Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel’s sake, all the hardship that had come upon them on the way, and *how* the LORD had ^jdelivered them.** These stories cannot be told by Moses to his father-in-law if Moses did not obey God, or in the NT sense, if Moses didn’t bring his family to the place where He first met the I AM/Christ (see above). They had met there already (Exodus 4:26). **⁹ Then Jethro rejoiced for all the ^kgood which the LORD had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. ¹⁰ And Jethro said, ^l“Blessed be the LORD,** this man seems to have become acquainted with the God of the Hebrews as he simply does not need much prompting or prodding to worship. **who has delivered you out of the hand**

^aEx. 2:16, 18; 3:1

^gEx. 3:1, 12; 4:27; 24:13

^h Gen. 18:2

ⁱ Gen. 29:13; Ex. 4:27

^j Ex. 15:6, 16; Ps. 81:7

^k [Is. 63:7–14]

^l Gen. 14:20; 2 Sam. 18:28; 1 Kin. 8:56; Ps. 68:19, 20

of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, *and* who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ Now I know that the LORD *is* ^mgreater than all the gods; ⁿfor in the very thing in which they ⁴behaved ^oproudly, *He was* above them.” ¹² Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, ⁵took a burnt ^poffering and *other* sacrifices *to offer* to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel ^qto eat bread with Moses’ father-in-law before God. These folks were not going to regret all the time it took them to build a fire, kill an animal, and prepare food.

^m Ex. 12:12; 15:11; 2 Chr. 2:5; Ps. 95:3; 97:9; 135:5

ⁿ Ex. 1:10, 16, 22; 5:2, 7

⁴ acted presumptuously

^o Luke 1:51

⁵ So with MT, LXX; Syr., Tg., Vg. *offered*

^p Ex. 24:5

^q Gen. 31:54; Deut. 12:7