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GRACE**

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Exodus 18

(2020)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Exodus 18.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- Jethro takes Moses' sons and his wife to Moses at the mountain of God.
- Moses went to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him.
- Moses tells Jethro all God had done for Moses and for Israel.
- Moses judges the people from morning till evening.
- Jethro sees Moses and the people standing from morning till evening.
- Jethro warns Moses, it's not good what he's doing, he will wear himself out.
- Jethro tells Moses to look for men who are trustworthy and hate bribes.
- Moses appoints able men over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.
- Heads of Israel judge small matters Moses judges the harder cases.
- Jethro departs from Moses and returns to his own country.

INTRODUCTION: in the book of Exodus, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by multiplying Abraham's descendants into a great nation delivering them from slavery in Egypt to journey to the Promised Land, and then binding them to Himself with a covenant at Mount Sinai. Moses, under the direct command of God and as leader of Israel, received the Ten Commandments from God, along with other laws governing Israel's life and worship. He also led the nation in building the Tabernacle, a place where God's presence can dwell among his people and where they can make sacrifices for sin. Most Jews and Christians recognise Moses as the author, writing sometime after the Exodus from Egypt (about 1445 B.C.). Note: the promise God made to Abraham will be perfectly fulfilled when Christ returns in glory and all those (Jews and Gentiles) who belong to God's Kingdom are gathered to him. (See also the introduction to chapter one).

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Moses two sons: Moses named one of his sons Gershom because Moses had been a sojourner in a foreign land, he named his other son Eliezer because the God of Moses' father was his help and delivered him from the sword of Pharaoh.

Jethro: was the priest of Midian and the father-in-law of Moses.

When Moses sent his wife Zipporah and his two sons Gershom and Eliezer home Jethro took them in and later went to Moses in the wilderness at the mountain of God with Moses two sons and his wife. Moses goes out to meet his father-in-law and bows down and kisses him. Moses then tells his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians. Jethro rejoiced that the LORD had delivered Israel out of the hand of the Egyptians and now knows that the LORD is greater than all gods, because the other gods had dealt arrogantly with the people of Egypt concerning the affair with Pharaoh.

Moses sits to judge the people: it was the custom of Moses to teach the people the statutes and laws of God and when they had a dispute, they would come to inquire of Moses and he would decide between one person and another. Moses would sit alone and all the people would stand around him from morning until evening. The next day when Jethro observes Moses sitting to judge the people, he takes him aside and tells Moses that what he is doing was not good, because he will wear himself and the people out, because it is too much for anyone to do alone.

Jethros' advice to Moses: Jethro tells Moses a better way to represent the people before God and warn them about the LORD'S statutes and laws so they know the way they must walk and what they must do and to bring their cases to God was to look for able, faithful men who fear God and are trustworthy and hate a bribe, then place the men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and to let the chief men judge the people at all times. The chief men could bring every great matter to Moses, but any small matter they were to decide themselves then it would be easier for Moses because the chief men would also bear the burden with him. Jethro tells Moses if he appoints men God will direct him, and he will be able to endure the burden and all the people would be able to go to their place in peace.

Moses chooses faithful men: Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people. He made chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens, the chief men judged the people at all times, but they would take any hard case to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. Then Moses let his father-in-law depart and he went back to his own country.

COMMENT: since Moses had such a unique relationship with God it is easy to understand how he felt he was the only man capable of serving the people before the LORD. This thinking is a trap for anyone who is in ministry and who is gifted, but for anyone to grow and succeed beyond their own ability they must find others they can trust and share the authority and responsibility with. No minister should wait until they find a man or woman who matches their ideals for a leader, if they do they may be waiting a long time. Providing a person proves to be humble, faithful, honest, loyal and has the ability and zeal to do the work grace should cover any lack.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.