

That the World May Know ... God is God

Israel, the Exodus and Us

HOW TO HAVE INFLUENCE ... GOD'S WAY

Exodus 18, Numbers 12

- Exodus 18:7- *So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent.*
- 8- *Moses told his father-in-law about everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the LORD had saved them.*
- 9- *Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians.*
- 10- *He said, "Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians.*
- 11- *Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly."*
- 12- *Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law in the presence of God.*
- 13- *The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening.*
- 14- *When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"*
- 15- *Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will.*
- 16- *Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws."*
- 17- *Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good.*
- 18- *You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.*
- 19- *Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him.*
- 20- *Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.*
- 21- *But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.*
- 22- *Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.*
- 23- *If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."*
- 24- *Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.*
- 25- *He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.*
- 26- *They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.*
- 27 *Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.*

- Numbers 12:1- *Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.*
- 2- *"Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this.*
- 3- *(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)*
- 4- *At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you." So the three of them came out.*
- 5- *Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward,*
- 6- *he said, "Listen to my words: When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.*
- 7- *But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.*
- 8- *With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"*
- 9- *The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.*
- 10- *When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam- leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy;*
- 11- *and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed.*
- 12- *Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."*
- 13- *So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her!"*
- 14- *The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back."*
- 15- *So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.*
- 16- *After that, the people left Hazeroth and encamped in the Desert of Paran.*