

THE HINGE

EXODUS 18

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1. Postscript to the exodus: _____ v1-12

- Israel is _____ v8

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 befallen them on the journey, and how the Lord had delivered them.

Psalm 145:6-7,12 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, and I will tell of Your greatness. ⁷ They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness and will shout joyfully of Your righteousness..... ¹² To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

- Jethro is _____ v9-11

Jethro rejoiced over all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel, in delivering them from the hand of the Egyptians. ¹⁰ So Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord who delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods; indeed, it was proven when they dealt proudly against the people."

- Israel & Jethro _____ v12

Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law before God.

Isaiah 25:6,9 The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine....⁹ And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

2. Prelude to the covenant: _____ v13-27

• The problem: _____ v13-14

It came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. ¹⁴ Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?"

• The solution: _____ v15-16

Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. ¹⁶ "When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws."

• The critique: _____ v17-18

Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ "You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.

• The better solution: _____ v19-22

Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, ²⁰ then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. ²¹ "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. ²² "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.

• The result: _____ v23

If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace.



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