

## Yitro 2024

Yitro/"Jethro", Exodus 18:1-20:23, covers some of the most significant sections of the Torah as it is here that we find Israel's encounter with Yahweh at Mt. Sinai where they hear His Voice declare the terms of the covenant! Often the mindset is that this moment is the giving of the Torah, and that this is the purpose of this encounter. Yet Yitro causes us to have a paradigm shift! Directly before Israel's encounter, we see a whole chapter (Exodus 18) dealing with the fact and revealing that Israel obviously already knew the Torah and the laws! **Exodus 18:16** – "When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of Elohim, and his laws/Torah." In fact the first reference of Torah/laws is in **Gen. 26:5** – "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments/mitzvot, my statutes/chuqqot, and my laws/Torah."

\*The Scriptures make it quite clear that the Torah was not unknown to Israel – Abraham is recorded keeping not just the "Torah", but even the different categories found within (the mitzvot, the chuqqot).

The text makes it apparent that not only is Israel familiar with the laws, but Yitro (and therefore Midian) is as well – no accident seeing as Midian is also a son of Abraham with Keturah! Further confounding is that not only is Israel obviously familiar with the Torah, but the Scriptures as well indicate prior to Sinai there is a priestly system in operation!!! (Remember Yitro himself is identified as the High Priest of Midian and through the interaction it is made quite clear he is not a pagan priest but one after the Melchizedek order.)

In **Exodus 19:22 & 24** before the Levites are instituted, Yahweh references instructions regarding the priests not ascending Mt. Sinai until it is time – who are these priests?? Could it be Israel already had a functioning priesthood of the Melchizedek order (like Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob)? Mosheh would have taken on that mantle as well as others within the camp hinted at within these instructions!

### **Why then are they brought here?**

Jethro: Strong's #3503 Yitro יִתְרוֹ his abundance; from the root yeter יָתַר remainder, excellence, or remnant – first used to refer to the role of the first born (**Gen. 49:3**)! Remember it is the firstborn who after the Melchizedek priesthood order was to be the priest, this was part of the birthright! Continuing to look at this root stem, it comes from #3498 yatar יָתַר to be left over, remain; once again though it is connected with the role of the firstborn – specifically with the loss of this role/birthright! **Gen. 49:4** – "Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel/yatar..."

Midian: Strong's #4080 midyan מִדְיָן strife; from the root #1777 diyh דִּיחַ to judge, contend, to plead, to rule, subdue, regulate (deals with one in a position of authority); let's look at all the puzzle pieces:

- 1) Midian is a son of Abraham, though not the heir, still expected to walk in Torah, understand the Covenant, and obviously understood the priestly order and system.
- 2) Abraham is told by Yahweh that his seed (via Isaac's line) will go into bondage for 400 years.
- 3) Mt. Sinai is clearly in the vicinity of Midian - before we ever see the events of the covenant terms declared to Israel, this mountain is already referred to as "the mountain of Elohim" (**Exodus 3:1** - "...and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.") and at the beginning of this parshah, once again before the covenant ceremony, it is once again reiterated as being "the mount of Elohim" (**Ex. 18:5**), pointing towards it being a well-known fact what this location was by both Mosheh, Israel, and Yitro (Midianites).
- 4) Moses when fleeing from Pharaoh just so happens to go to Midian??? Or perhaps strategically heads towards trusted family and those who understood the imminent prophecy of Israel's return!

Now, back to Yitro's name - notice that the roots of his name deal strategically with the birthright and role of the firstborn (the promised inheritance & the role of the priesthood) both with the wearing of this mantle as well as the loss of it! It's also important to remember that Joseph was recognized as the heir of Jacob, he functioned as the priest and was the key to the inheritance. When the brothers reject Joseph, they reject the birthright, the inheritance, and the priesthood...no wonder they follow him into Egypt and this begins the exile!

But do you remember who is witness to this event?! **Gen. 37:28** - "Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit..." & **Gen. 37:36** - "And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard."

\*Midian was witness to Israel's rejection of the priesthood, the covenant, and the inheritance! Midian is also entrusted with guarding Sinai (the Mount of Elohim) waiting for Israel to return, and once again stands as witness to see how they will handle this covenant now, while simultaneously serving as a reminder of what sent them into bondage in the first place!

Now let's look closer at exactly where they are - Sinai!

Sinai: Strong's #5514 Sinay סִינַי thorny; connected to an unused Hebrew root meaning muddy, clayey; an interesting connection when looked alongside the other name of Horeb חֶרֶב dry, desert; close cognate of chereb חֶרֶב sword; first seen in **Gen. 3:24** regarding the flaming sword that guards the way to the Tree of Life and the entrance to the Garden of Eden - where man was formed from the mud/clay! Both from the names of this mountain and it's prominence and identification as the mountain of Elohim, it seems to reveal that Sinai is literally the gateway to Eden!

Gematria of Sinai = 130, the same as sullam סֹלָמַם (#5551) ladder, referring to the ladder Jacob dreams of seeing the angels of Elohim ascending and descending in Gen. 28! Yahshua later identifies Himself as this ladder, the manifestation of the winding ladder/DNA intended to repair and renew the DNA of Jacob's house! The same letters rearranged form semel (#5566) סֵמֶל image, figure, likeness; to be like or resemble –revealing the purpose of the revealing of the sullam – to cause the one who encounters it to be like or resemble that figure and likeness!

\*It's interesting to note that when looking closer at Jacob's encounter (perhaps in this same vicinity?) Yahweh reiterates His covenant promise to give the land to his seed, and to return Jacob from his exile back to that land – it's about the birthright inheritance!

Could this lend insight into the purpose of Israel's coming encounter at Sinai? Are they being brought here for the same purpose – to encounter the sullam/ladder that has the ability to restore their DNA, as He reiterates the covenant promise regarding the Promised Land and their return from their own exile in Egypt?

Sinai/sullam also has the same numerical value as nasak (#5258) נָסַךְ to pour out, offer, cast, as well as to install or anoint (as a king), connected to the idea of a drink offering poured out intricately connected to the cutting of a covenant. No accident that this is first seen in **Gen. 35:14** with Jacob, once again in this same vicinity (Bethel/Luz connected to Sinai location) on his return journey from his exile in Laban's house! And once again Yahweh reiterates the promise of the land being given to Jacob and his seed! Jacob's response to this encounter is to offer a drink offering.

\*He anoints/installs or recognizes the one who has just appeared to Him as the King! Yet simultaneously to acknowledging the authority and role of Yahweh, in turn Jacob too must understand and allow his own DNA to be changed so that he will be in the same likeness/image and it is only from this position does he have access to the inheritance and blessings – the promise to be given the land and the ability to function in the role of priest on the earth!

It seems Israel is brought here, following the pattern of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they are here to be anointed, set or installed to function as kings and priests (**Ex. 19:6** – “And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.”) so long as they are in the image/likeness/figure of the sullam (Yahshua)! Furthermore, it seems walking in this capacity is the key that unlocks the covenant promise of the land of their inheritance!

\*Could this be why the generation that stands at Sinai and rejects this role never enters the land?!

Why reject it? What is shown to them that would make Israel reject the Covenant blessings and their inheritance, the mantle of kings and priests?

**Exodus 20:18** – “And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.”

Saw: Strong's #7200 ra'ah רָאָה to see, look at, perceive, consider, or inspect – they're shown something, and it is not a casual glance, it is an in-depth look that they are meant to consider and perceive regarding whatever decision they make!

Thunderings: Strong's #6963 Qol קוֹל Voice (the same title used to describe the VOICE walking in Eden); here it is conjugated as haqolot הַקּוֹלוֹת which has a numerical value of 541, the same as Yisra'el יִשְׂרָאֵל – it's no accident that the root Yashar (of Israel) is formed from the same letters that form the word yarash יָרַשׁ meaning to be an heir, to possess, or to inherit! The people are being shown what it means to be Israel!! What it means to step into the role of one who is considered an heir and is capable of possessing the inheritance – the land! They are being shown the Heir – the Messiah whose image/likeness they are to in turn be transformed into!

\***Romans 8:16-17** – “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of Elohim: And if children, then heirs; heirs of Elohim, and joint-heirs with Messiah; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

Haqol הַקּוֹל (the Voice) = 135, the same value as hasullam הַסּלַם – they are being shown the exact same thing Jacob was shown regarding the price for his restoration from exile!

Lightnings: Strong's #3940 lappiyd לָפִיד a lamp, torch; the very manifestation Abraham saw in **Gen. 15:17** (burning lamp that passed between the pieces when he too was present and witnessed the covenant cut regarding the promised inheritance). Has the 3-letter root פִּיד meaning to pierce, and the Peh-Dalet root stem meaning to ransom or redeem! The lamp/torch who would be pierced on our behalf in order to redeem His people!

Israel is having the same encounter/covenant cutting ceremony that both Abraham and Jacob were a part of, seeing the manifestation of the HEIR of the inheritance, the Messiah in the form of both the ladder as well as the burning torch that passes between the pieces to cut a covenant regarding the inheritance of His land! Yet while Abraham and Jacob both respond in the affirmative, Israel chooses to remove themselves!

Removed: Strong's #5128 nua' נוּעַ to quiver, shake, totter, reel, stagger, to wander, wave, or tremble, to be a vagrant or a wanderer; to move to and fro or to vacillate; first seen regarding Cain described as a “fugitive”

These same letters form the term 'anav (#6035) אָנָו translated as meek, poor or humble; first seen describing Moses in **Numbers 12:3** – “(Now the man Moses was very meek/'anav, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)”; interesting to note that **Psalms 37:11** uses this same word – “But the meek/'anav shall inherit (yarash) the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” And in **Matthew 5:5** – “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

\*Connected to the root 'anah (#6030) אָנָה to answer, respond, testify, speak, or shout, as well as to dwell with! Is it that Mosheh was the meekest, most humble? Or was it that Mosheh was able to testify, speak, and shout regarding what he himself

had seen and been shown – the price paid enabling Israel to have access to an inheritance and be considered a joint-heir!

Perhaps Mosheh is identified in this manner juxtaposed against the rest of Israel who refused and nua' – removed themselves! Hence Mosheh is identified with the characteristic of one who will inherit/yarash the earth!

Digging further, Sinai and Horeb, forming the gateway to Eden, simultaneously form the legs and area of the loins of the figure of the Man laid out on the earth, with Israel proper forming the head! Could it be then that as the VOICE is seen on the mountain, what Israel is being shown that they reject is literally the circumcision of the Messiah (remember Horeb – the sword)?! It follows the pattern of Joseph revealing himself to his brothers in **Gen. 45**, the sages teach that he showed his circumcision and he spoke the Hebrew language. Here Messiah Ben Yoseph is doing the same – the Hebrew language is released and manifested before them and they are shown His circumcision – literally the sacrifice/cutting off of the Messiah in the flesh for their redemption!

Yet remember the previous connections – they can only access their inheritance by being in the form/likeness/figure of the ladder/voice/Messiah that's being shown to them! They too must be circumcised – the fleshly carnal man must die (**1 Corinthians 15:50** – “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; neither doth corruption God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”)

Exodus 12 makes it quite clear that all of Israel had to be physically circumcised in order to partake of the Passover meal and exit Egypt! Israel standing at the mountain has met the physical requirements, yet when the magnitude of the type of walk that will be required of them, the cutting away of the carnal fleshly man, a renewing of their mind, is seen as they look upon the Messiah they refuse!

Abraham as well followed this protocol, in **Gen. 17** he is given the covenant of circumcision, very next chapter **Gen. 18** Yahweh appears and partakes of the Passover meal and announces the birth of the promised son Isaac! Rabbinical tradition says that this is the 3 days after his circumcision....interesting connection is revealed here! **Exodus 3:18** – “...Yahweh Elohim of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to Yahweh our Elohim.”

\*This is the instructions Mosheh is given to speak to Pharaoh! Why just 3 days knowing that the intent was always for Israel to be set free and redeemed? Could this message have been just as much for Israel? Yahweh was going to meet with them just as He did with Abraham to inspect the state of their circumcision (of their mind and hearts)!

Other 3<sup>rd</sup> day significance – when Abraham is commanded to offer up Isaac, **Gen. 22:4** – “Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.” Yet in the midst of being obedient to circumcise/cut off his own flesh (in the form of his son), Yahweh reveals His circumcision – the ram in the thicket! And Yahweh reveals an aspect of His character – Yahweh Yireh (Yahweh Provides/Yahweh Sees)!

**Exodus 15:22** – “So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.”  
3 days into the wilderness puts them at Marah! The people complain for lack of water, and are shown a tree which when cast into the waters make the bitter waters sweet (Numbers 5 bitter waters of adultery)...they’re being shown then the cost of their redemption, the Messiah who would take on the bitter waters for them (His circumcision)! The once bitter cursed waters are now healing and life giving. It is here that Yahweh reveals Himself in the character of Yahweh Rapha/Ropheka – Yahweh our Healer!

\*Rapha’ (#7495) רָפָא to heal, or to sew together, to mend, to restore something to its intended state; could He have been revealing how He would mend - sew together and re-stitch their very DNA with His Name, bringing healing and restoring Israel to their intended state – as one who would be a joint-heir?

It’s the first inspection of their circumcision and revelation regarding what it means to be redeemed and come out of Egypt! This is also why Yahshua was resurrected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day!

The next time there is no water is in Exodus 17 at Rephidim (directly before reaching Sinai), and they chide with Yahweh at Massah & Meribah, where the answer to this Covenant dispute is Amalek (a descendant of Esau who as well despised his birthright)! Once again the pattern continues, Yahweh reveals an aspect of His character and Name – Yahweh Nissi (Yahweh My Banner), and the Rock was struck once again revealing the Messiah!

\*Yitro arrives directly after this strategically reminding Israel of their need to walk in the Torah before their encounter at Sinai – where once again there is a 3 day wait (**Exodus 19:11** – “And be ready against the third day: for the third day Yahweh will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.”)

At Sinai, Israel is not being shown anything that hasn’t already been revealed to them from the time they have left Egypt - the circumcision of the Messiah, yet now they realize with startlingly clarity this the image they are to put on! It is only in the midst of our own willingness to cut away the flesh that His Character/Name/Presence is revealed to us! Do you want to know Him as Yahweh Ropheka – your healer? Then that entails at one point I was in need of healing! Do you want to know Him as Yahweh Yireh – your provider? Then that means I was in need of provision! Do you want to know Him as Yahweh Nissi – your banner? Then that means I was vulnerable, uncovered, and needed a covering or a refuge!

If we want to walk as a nation of kings and priests, if we want to access the inheritance that He has promised us, then that means we will have to be made into the image, figure, and likeness of the one that’s being revealed to us! In fact מוּלַּל muwl (circumcision) has the same value as ‘abad עָבַד priestly service! This is how like Mosheh we are one that will inherit – we are a witness and a testimony (‘anah) to what we have seen and experienced regarding the work of Messiah!

There is yet another 3<sup>rd</sup> day coming...

**Hosea 6:1-2** – “Come, and let us return unto Yahweh: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.”