

— Exodus 18.1-12 —  
Exodus Series 25  
**Jethro Comes to Meet Moses**

Ex 18 <sup>1</sup> And Jethro, the priest of Midian, 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. <sup>2</sup> Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, <sup>3</sup> with her two sons, of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land") <sup>4</sup> 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"); <sup>5</sup> and Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God. <sup>6</sup> 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." <sup>7</sup> So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and kissed him. And they asked each other about their well-being, and they went into the tent. <sup>8</sup> 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 delivered them. <sup>9</sup> Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the LORD had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. <sup>10</sup> And Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. <sup>11</sup> Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them." <sup>12</sup> Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

► **WE LAST** saw Jethro, a/k/a Reuel, in ch 2, when Moses fled Pharaoh who wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ him, and he went to the land of Midian, where he delivered seven shepherdesses from the bullying of the local shepherds, and was then brought into the house of their father, who was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Midian. There, Moses was received and essentially became the \_\_\_\_\_ Jethro never had.

► **ONE OF** the questions that arises from our text is whether Jethro is a \_\_\_\_\_, and if so, when did he become one?

► **PARALLELS** with Jethro:

• **The centurion**

Mt 8 <sup>5</sup> Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup> saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." <sup>7</sup> And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." <sup>8</sup> The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed ... <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! <sup>11</sup> And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be cast

out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

• **Melchizedek**

Gn 14 <sup>17</sup> [A]fter [Abram's] return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him[] <sup>18</sup> ... Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he [Abram] gave him [Melchizedek] a tithe of all.

Hb 7 <sup>1</sup> Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all ... <sup>7</sup> Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

▪ Both are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

▪ Both meet the leader of God's people after a miraculous \_\_\_\_\_.

▪ Both are treated as a \_\_\_\_\_ by the leader of God's people.

▪ Both \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD, then lead God's people in \_\_\_\_\_.

▪ Neither acts like an \_\_\_\_\_, nor are they treated as one.

▪ Both are pictures of the priesthood and kingship of Christ in a way that the priests of \_\_\_\_\_ were not.

Hb 6 <sup>20</sup> Jesus ... bec[a]me High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek

► **WHAT ABOUT** Jethro's statement in vs 11: "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods"?

Compare 1Kgs 17.24 "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth"

► **ONE MORE** parallel with Jethro: Obed-Edom and the tabernacle of \_\_\_\_\_

2Sam 6<sup>6</sup> Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. <sup>7</sup> Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah ... and he died there by the ark of God ... <sup>9</sup> David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" <sup>10</sup> So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. <sup>11</sup> The ark of the LORD remained ... [there] three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. <sup>12</sup> Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.

1Chron 16<sup>1</sup> So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it ... <sup>4</sup> And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel: <sup>5</sup> Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom

Amos 9<sup>1</sup> I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said: "Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake, and break them on the heads of them all. I will slay the last of them with the sword ... <sup>11</sup> On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; <sup>12</sup> That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name."

Acts 15<sup>14</sup> "Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. <sup>15</sup> And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, <sup>16</sup> 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup> that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things.'"

► **BIG PICTURE**, what is God teaching us in Ex 18?

God's salvation is for all \_\_\_\_\_.

Ex 15<sup>27</sup> Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees

Jn 7<sup>37</sup> "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Rev 21<sup>9</sup> Then one of the seven angels ... talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit ... and showed me ... the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God ... <sup>12</sup> [S]he had a great ... wall with twelve gates ... [with] the names of the twelve tribes ... of Israel ... <sup>14</sup> Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb ... <sup>22</sup> <sup>1</sup> And he showed me a pure river of water of life ... proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup> In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

► **AT CHRIST'S** second advent, when he puts down death and presents a perfected kingdom to the Father, God's people will also be perfected and will consist of \_\_\_\_\_ those and \_\_\_\_\_ those who have the faith of Abraham in the promised seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ.

See 1Cor 15.20-28.

Rm 4<sup>9</sup> [F]aith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness ... <sup>11</sup> And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised ... , <sup>12</sup> and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had

● **Why have** circumcised and uncircumcised believers in the OT?

● **If God's** people, OT and NT, are defined by faith, why have a covenant people at all? Because the covenant is intended to create a household of God in which \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ for God, and \_\_\_\_\_ for one another are taught, modeled, and cultivated. That's the household in which God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ his people and the children he gives them.

● **Why did** God provide so many reminders that his salvation was for all the world? Because there is a temptation for covenant members to lose \_\_\_\_\_ of the meaning and purpose of the covenant – to begin to see it as a private \_\_\_\_\_ with guaranteed benefits simply for being in. When that happens, covenant members lose their sense of grace and \_\_\_\_\_.

● **Catechism:**

Q: What is the purpose of the covenant?

A: To create a household of God in which faith in Christ, love for God, and love for one another are taught, modeled, and cultivated. This is the household God created to nurture his people and the children he gives them. If we always remember the purpose of the covenant and always give thanks to God for it, it will be a great blessing to us and our children, and all to the glory of God.