

## FINAL STUDY NOTES - *EXODUS CHAPTERS 16-18*

11/4-5/2024

### CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID# - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).**

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live-map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* ([mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com)),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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### OPENING PRAYER

***EXODUS – Chapter 16 – Bread From Heaven – (vs. 1-36); Chapter 17 Water From the Rock – (vs. 1-7); Victory Over the Amalekites – (vs. 8-16); Chapter 18 – Jethro’s Advice – (vs. 1-27).***

### REVIEW:

- (*Exo 15:19*) *For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.*

## *Bread from Heaven*

*Exo 16:1 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.*

*Exo 16:2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.*

- **They have been one month now out of Egypt.** They left there on the fifteenth, actually, they have watched the Pharaoh destroyed, and now a month into the wilderness experience.

*Exo 16:3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."*

- **They begin to complain to Moses and to Aaron,** saying, "It would have been better off had we died when God killed the first born in Egypt. At least theirs was a sudden death, the stroke of God; in one night, they were gone. We will see them murmuring and complaining over and over!

*Exo 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread (they referred to it as manna, He always refers to it as *bread*) from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.*

- **God does not indicate any anger or even being upset with the people murmuring.** The Bible tells us that God knew their frame, that they were but dust, and so God tolerated a lot, knowing that they were just weak. He promises to provide them bread from heaven. However, in so doing, He was going to test them to see if they would walk in His law or not.
- **With this bread from heaven, the manna that was to come,** there were two laws involved. The first is that they were not to store any overnight; only take what you can eat, but do not try to store it overnight. The second was not to expect to find any on the seventh day. On the sixth day, you will gather twice the amount, for the sixth and the seventh day. There will not be any of this manna on the ground on the seventh day, so do not go out and try to find it. So, two laws; God is going to test them. Will they keep my law or not? Notice how, that the LORD is building a daily dependence upon Him!
- **How deeply is my life committed to the truth of my daily need for complete dependence on Him! Is that reflected in the start of every day? Do I always begin by praying for the filling of His Spirit, to empower me to do what He has for me each day?**

*Exo 16:5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."*

*Exo 16:6 Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt.*

*Exo 16:7 And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD (first use of the glory of the LORD); for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?"*

- **Moses and Aaron let the people know that your murmuring** really isn't against us as your leaders, your murmuring is against God, whose direction we are following. Now, in time, their murmuring got them into trouble. In the beginning, God tolerated the murmuring, but later it really became an issue for which God punished them.
- **Notice that the murmuring was recognized to be against God,** and any time we murmur concerning our lot in life, we are murmuring against God, because we have committed our lives to Him, and He is in control of those circumstances of our lives. For to murmur against my circumstances is to murmur against God, who is in control!
- **One day the LORD said to Jeremiah, "I want you to go down to the potter's house and watch him as he works a work on his wheel."** Jeremiah went and watched him working, taking a bit of clay, beginning to shape it. Not satisfied with the way it was coming out, he took it back into a lump of clay and starting over, he formed a second vessel. God allows trials, testings, painful experiences, that through these, He might develop character and trust.
- **Isaiah the prophet also saw the figure of God as the potter and man as the clay;** and who are you, oh man, to respond to God, asking Him, "Why, God, did you allow this to happen? Why, God, did you make me thus?" Recognizing **that the Potter has absolute power over the clay to do with it whatever He wishes.**

- **There are three aspects to it.** There is the clay, the wheel upon which the potter works, and then there is the potter himself. Man is the clay, God is the potter, the wheel is the circumstances of our lives that God uses to shape us and to mold us. Our characters are being shaped and molded by God through the circumstances of our lives.
- **The wheel starts turning, the circumstances start coming, and God begins now to mold and shape again.** The wheel is under the continual control of the potter. He is able to speed it up, to slow it down. He is able to stop it. God is in control of the circumstances of my life. God is the One who has allowed these things to happen to me, for my good! He is only interested in my best welfare. Thus, for me to complain of the circumstances of my life, or to murmur about the things that are happening to me is in reality, to murmur against God.

*Exo 16:8 Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD."*

- **That is sort of heavy, that God actually hears every time you murmur against Him.** *What are we?* 'Why are you murmuring to us? We are only the instruments of God. His appointed leaders. You are really murmuring against Him, not against us.'

*Exo 16:9 Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.' "*

*Exo 16:10 Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.*

- **Behold the glory of the LORD appeared!** God Himself manifested His glory to quiet the murmurings of the people and to put a reputation upon Moses and Aaron. We note that what God's ministers say to us is then likely to do us good when the glory of God shines in with it upon our souls!
- **Do I understand that God hears every complain and murmur from me about my circumstances? But because of His grace and lovingkindness, He continues to bless me, overflowing me with His goodness, not based on what I do or have done, but simply based on His unfailing love for me?**

*Exo 16:11 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

*Exo 16:12 "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'*

*Exo 16:13 So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp.*

*Exo 16:14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground.*

- (Num 11:9) *And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.* It fell upon dew (suggests Holy Spirit), not dust (natural man)!

*Exo 16:15 So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it? (manna, some scholars say it means "it is a gift")" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.*

- They complained, saying, "Oh if we were only back by the flesh pots in Egypt. There we had all the bread we could eat. You brought us out here to starve us to death." The LORD said, "I'll show you that I can feed you in the wilderness." In the evening, He brought quail into the camp.
- **The next day, when the dew lifted, there was this little sort of like coriander seed on the ground, which they gathered.** Each one of them was to gather an omer (about six pints.)

*Exo 16:16 This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'*

- **One omer (6 pints) for each person.** Multiplying by two million people is roughly nine million pound or **4,500 tons per day**, about **one million tons per year** (for forty years), which is impossible to explain via natural phenomena!

*Exo 16:17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less.*

***Exo 16:18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.***

- It seems that there was a miracle involved even in the amount gathered, that it was something that God was creating for them.

***Exo 16:19 And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning."***

- This this was one of the commands, to see whether they will walk in My law or not. Do not leave any of it over till morning. Do not try and save it until tomorrow.

***Exo 16:20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.***

- They tried to keep some, thinking, I will not have to go out in the morning, I will just keep it tonight." And the manna got wormy and smelled. The interesting thing is that on the sixth day, they could keep it overnight, and it kept; God's provision, not only a miracle daily, but weekly, too!
- Why would God make it so, that they would have to gather every day? Because God wanted to teach them to live by faith in Him day by day! Faith is a daily lesson, even as Jesus in the prayer said, "Give us this day our daily bread." So, they gathered for each day; and tomorrow, we are going to have to trust God to put it on the ground for God takes care of us day by day. This is the way God wants us really to live; day by day, trusting in Him to take care of us. Note the spiritual application to us. Neither can we live off of yesterday's fellowship with Jesus!
- It is so much better when I finally understand, when I finally see what God was doing. Then I say, "Oh, isn't that wonderful? I see now what God is doing. All right! That is great!" But when I cannot see what God is doing, when I do not understand what is going on, I do not like that! I do not like to be in that position where you just have to wait on God day by day; but that is exactly what God wants!
- The people were not to let it stay overnight. But they failed. God says, "I'm going to test you, see if you're going to keep my law or not." Some of them failed.

***Exo 16:21 So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.***

***Exo 16:22 And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.***

***Exo 16:23 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath (first use) rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'"***

- They would bake it, they would beat it into sort of a flour, and bake little cakes, or they would probably boil it into a cereal form. This started one month after they left the land of Egypt.
- God provided this for over forty years until the day that they came into the Promised Land, then this supply ceased. But for their whole forty-years of wandering in the wilderness, every day, six days a week, they could go out and gather, and on the sixth day, gather twice the amount!

***Exo 16:24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.***

***Exo 16:25 Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.***

***Exo 16:26 Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."***

***Exo 16:27 Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.***

- The LORD is reminding them on a weekly basis of something miraculous every day, six days a week. They gathered enough for the day. If they tried to gather enough for the next day, it stunk and had worms in it, except on Saturday. In addition, the miracle of the sixth day bread for two days!

***Exo 16:28 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?***

***Exo 16:29 See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."***

***Exo 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day.***

**Exo 16:31** *And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.*

- It had to be very, very nutritious because it kept them alive for 40 years in the wilderness.

**Exo 16:32** *Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' "*

**Exo 16:33** *And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations."*

**Exo 16:34** *As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.*

- **The command here is to take an omer of it and put it in a jar.** Later on, when God gave to Moses the command to build the tabernacle, there was to be the Ark of the Covenant, to be placed in the Holy of Holies. They took the two tables of stone, upon which God inscribed the law, they took this jar of Manna that Aaron was told to preserve, and they took the rod of Aaron that budded to prove that the priesthood was to be with Aaron, putting these three artifacts in the Ark of the Covenant.
- **One of the most exciting archeological discoveries would be for someone** to find the Ark of the Covenant. To see are those two tables of stone that God, with His finger, wrote the Law on. That would be dynamite; powerful!
- **We see the manna referred to as bread:** (Psa 78:23-24) *Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven, [24] Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven. .*
- (Psa 105:40) *The people asked, and He brought quail, And satisfied them with the bread of heaven.*
- (Job 23:12) *I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.*
- (Joh 6:31-35,37,41) *Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO EAT. [32] Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. [33] For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. [34] Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." [35] And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. [37] Everyone the Father gives me will come to me. I will never send away anyone who comes to me. [41] The Jews then complained (murmured) about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."*

**Exo 16:35** *And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.*

- **The LORD speaks to Israel in some strange ways to edify us!** He probably could have fed them in many ways, but He chose to feed them with manna! We can learn much by seeing how manna is like His word, in the sense of scripture. How in the highest sense it is like the Word of God, which is the title of Jesus Christ.
- **Comparing manna and God's Word, it was:**

A Supernatural gift--million tons/year  
Accessible to the people  
Small in size (coat pocket Bible)  
White – pure, righteousness, white linen  
To be eaten, partaken of, or was no good!  
Gathered daily, not weekly, for yourself  
Available in the morning, precious time!

Gathered diligently by labor  
By stooping, on knees  
For some more, for some less  
Must be used, not stored  
Incomprehensible to natural man  
Despised by the mixed multitude  
Preserved in Golden Pot, in a high plain

**Exo 16:36** *Now an omer (6 pints) is one-tenth of an ephah.*

**Water from the Rock**

*Exo 17:1 Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink.*

*Exo 17:2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?"*

*Exo 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"*

- First you are going to starve us to death, now you are going to kill us with thirst.'

*Exo 17:4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"*

*Exo 17:5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.*

- Moses, get out of there. Go ahead of them. Take with you some of the elders of Israel. It could be that they were really ready to stone Moses.

*Exo 17:6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

- No sooner does God provide them bread daily, now they are thinking that God is going to let them die of thirst! How quickly we forget what God has done! How quickly we can despair and imagine the worst? As Moses cries to the LORD, He instructs him to go before the people so they can witness the miracle of God. Take the rod, strike the rock, water would come out.
- In the New Testament, (1Co 10:1-4) Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, [2] all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, [3] all ate the same spiritual food, [4] and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and **that Rock was Christ**. The Rock smitten brought forth water of life to the people. Jesus smitten on the cross brings forth life to us.
- One of the last invitations of the Bible in (Rev 22:17) And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, **let him take the water of life freely.**
- (Mat 21:42-44) Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: '**THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE. THIS WAS THE LORD'S DOING, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES**' ? [43] "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. [44] And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." (Joh 7:37-39) On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. [38] He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." [39] But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

*Exo 17:7 So he called the name of the place Massah (tempted) and Meribah (contention or strife), because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted (it is our nature to distrust God) the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"*

- Now, this is down near Egypt in Rephidim. Forty years later, when they are near Kadesh, they are going to come to Moses again, saying, why did you ever lead us out of Egypt? That we might die of thirst in this wilderness. You have not brought us into the land. Now we are going to die."
- Moses was angry! He went in before God, saying, "God, I cannot take it anymore, I have had it up to here with these people. I am through. I cannot stand it. For forty years this constant complaining and murmuring. God said, "Moses, go out and speak to the rock, that it might bring forth water for the people; they are indeed thirsty."
- This time it was before all of the congregation of Israel, Moses went out angry, (Num 20:10-11) And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" [11] Then Moses lifted his

hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

- **God said, “Moses, come here, son. Did I tell you to strike the rock?** Didn’t I tell you just speak to the rock? Do you realize, Moses, what you’ve done? You have failed to represent Me before the people. You were a poor representative. In fact, you did not represent Me. You represented Me wrongly, as angry and upset with all of those people! Moses. I cannot let you lead them into the Promised Land.
- **What an important thing here!** That God holds us responsible to properly represent Him! People are getting their entire concept of God and of Christianity from what they see in your lives. There are many people who never pick up a Bible to read it, but they will read you like a book. They are watching your reaction. They are watching you especially; not when things are going well, they are watching you when things are tough, when the chips are down. They want to see how you respond and how you react then, as God’s representative. How often do we fail to properly represent God.
- **There was a double evil here in striking the rock.** Because of the typology, and that Rock is Jesus; once the rock was struck, once Jesus was crucified, He never needs to be struck again in order to bring life, salvation. He died once and for all, and all that is necessary now is to speak to the Rock, and the water of life will flow freely to you. You do not have to strike the Rock, He has been struck once. That is all that is necessary. Now by faith, just ask, the water of life will flow freely to you. Moses destroyed this whole beautiful symbolism that God was creating with the rock, water flowing forth.

### ***Israel Defeats Amalek***

***Exo 17:8 Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.***

- **Amalek was one of the descendants of Esau, they were part of the Edomites.** Amalek will become a type of your flesh. Notice that God says you are going to have problems with this from generation to generation. It is a battle that is never over, the battle with flesh.
- **In the time of Saul, God ordered the complete, absolute destruction of the Amalekites.** 'Utterly destroy them, don't let anyone remain.' But Saul was disobedient. He kept King Agag alive, some of the finer animals and all. Later in history, one of the descendants of Agag, Heman, an Amalekite, talked King Ahasuerus into signing the decree for the extermination of all of the Jews within Persia.
- **God has only one sentence for your flesh, and that's, "crucify it."** Mortify the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit. Give no place to the flesh to live after it. Reckon the old man to be dead, crucified with Christ! That is God's order for the flesh.
- **Now, the Amalekites began by attacking in the rear of the camp; the older people** who were having a hard time keeping up. They began to attack the camp of Israel from the rear.

***Exo 17:9 And Moses said to Joshua (first use), "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."***

***Exo 17:10 So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.***

- **Joshua, who was later to take over, first comes into the scene.**

***Exo 17:11 And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.***

- **Moses was probably holding up his hands and praying.** As long as his hand were held up, and he was praying, Israel would prevail. When his hands would droop, then the Amalekites would prevail.
- **How committed am I to truly “holding up my hands, practicing prevailing prayer?**

***Exo 17:12 But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.***

***Exo 17:13 So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.***

***Exo 17:14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."***

- **The flesh is ultimately to be blotted out from remembrance.**

***Exo 17:15 And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner;***

**Exo 17:16** for he said, "Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

- **God will never make peace with your flesh.** No peace treaties with the flesh. God wants our flesh to be reckoned dead! He doesn't want us living after the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh!

#### **Jethro's Advice**

**Exo 18:1** 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.

**Exo 18:2** Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, **Exo 18:3** with her two sons, of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land")

**Exo 18:4** and the name of the other was Eliezer (my help) (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh ");

- **When Moses was heading back to Egypt at the command of God** to go to the Pharaoh to demand the release of the people, and the LORD smote Moses and he was dying, and his wife then circumcised the one child, and said, "You're a bloody man to me," and was upset; evidently at that point, Moses said, "Go home, woman. Go back to your father."
- **Now Jethro, hearing of the Exodus, comes to see Moses, bringing with him Moses' wife**, whom he has not seen, since he went down to Egypt to make his demands upon the Pharaoh.

**Exo 18:5** 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.

**Exo 18:6** 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."

**Exo 18:7** 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.

**Exo 18:8** 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.

- **Moses was just sharing all** of the wonderful things that the LORD had done for them.

**Exo 18:9** 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.

**Exo 18:10** 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."

**Exo 18:11** 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."

- **The Egyptians, proud of their crops, and these are the things that God destroyed.** God showed Himself more powerful than the gods of the Egyptians. Now I know that *the LORD* is above all of the gods.
- **Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king came to the same realization.** When Daniel was able to interpret the dream, which all of the wise men were unable to do so, he made a proclamation saying, "There is no god like the God of Daniel!" Later he said, "There's no god like the God of the three Hebrew children, who is able to deliver them out of fiery furnaces."
- **Darius the king, when Daniel was delivered from the mouths of the lions**, again, declared, "No God like the God of Daniel." Even pagans realized that there is only one really true God, living God!.
- **You remember when Elijah had the contest with the priests of Baal** on Mount Carmel. Let the god who answers by fire, let him be God. How that fire came from heaven and destroyed the altar and the sacrifice, licked up the water in the trenches. The people acknowledged, "*the LORD* is God!"
- **Here Jethro, when he hears of all that God has done, made the acknowledgment, *the LORD* is greater than all the gods.** I know that *the LORD* is greater.

**Exo 18:12** 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.



- It was a time of worship, feasting together with God; the bread, the meal offering, and the peace offering, fellowship offering.

*Exo 18:13 And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening.*

*Exo 18:14 So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?"*

*Exo 18:15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God.*

- They want to find out what God's ruling, or God's law is.

*Exo 18:16 When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws.*

*Exo 18:17 So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good.*

*Exo 18:18 Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.*

- You have to delegate some responsibilities to others.

*Exo 18:19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God.*

*Exo 18:20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.*

*Exo 18:21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.*

- Great care should be taken in the choice of the persons who should be admitted into this trust.

*Exo 18:22 And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.*

- The pressing things in the ministry are usually not the important things and the important things are rarely pressing!
- How important it is for Moses to spend his time, really praying on the important things and not on all the time-consuming trivial problems of two million people!
- Notice the qualifications for the judges. First of all, they were to be men who feared God! Men of truth! Men who hate covetousness! These were the three qualifications.

*Exo 18:23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."*

- God so commands you. Jethro's counsel was given merely in the form of a suggestion; it was not to be adopted without the express sanction and approval of a better and higher Counsellor. It would seem that Moses, before appointing subordinate magistrates, would ask the mind of God, as it is the duty and privilege of every Christian in like manner to supplicate the divine direction in all his ways. (Deu 1:9,13-14) "And I spoke to you at that time, saying: 'I alone am not able to bear you. [13] Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you. [14] And you answered me and said, 'The thing which you have told us to do is good.
- D.L. Moody once said, I would rather put ten men to work, than to do the work of ten men!
- **In pursuing what God is directing in ministry, how is my discernment in knowing when to do it all by myself and when to delegate to better fulfill my calling?**

*Exo 18:24 So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.*

*Exo 18:25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.*

*Exo 18:26 So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.*

- Consider how much this would enhance Moses' overall ministry of teaching and guiding the developing nation of Israel!

*Exo 18:27 Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land.*

- Moses is reunited with his wife, his father-in-law goes home, and Moses has an easier, but more effective time because of the advice that his father-in-law gave him as he spreads out his responsibilities of judging in the issues of the people over these qualified men.

## SUMMARY

- **How deeply is my life committed to the truth of my daily need for complete dependence on Him! Is that reflected in the start of every day? Do I always begin by praying for the filling of His Spirit, to empower me to do what He has for me each day?** (Exo 16:4)..And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them..
- **Do I understand that God hears every complain and murmur from me about my circumstances? But because of His grace and lovingkindness, He continues to bless me, overflowing me with His goodness, not based on what I do or have done, but simply based on His unfailing love for me?** (Exo 16:7) *And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?"*
- **How committed am I to truly "holding up my hands, practicing prevailing prayer?** (Exo 17:11) *And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*
- **In pursuing what God is directing in ministry, how is my discernment in knowing when to do it all by myself and when to delegate to better fulfill my calling?** (Exo 18:23) *If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.*

## CLOSING SONG

**HOLY FOREVER** Song by Bethel Music, Jenn Johnson Chris Tomlin (5:04/5:07)

*A thousand generations falling down in worship To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us And all who will believe Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
'Cause Your Name is the highest And Your Name is the greatest Your Name, oh it stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions And all powers and positions Your Name stands above them all  
And the angels cry holy All creation cries holy You are lifted high, holy, Holy forever  
Oh and if you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
And if you walk in freedom and if you bear His Name Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
Oh we will sing the song forever and amen  
And the angels cry holy And all creation cries holy You are lifted high, and holy, Holy, forever  
And hear Your people sing holy Unto the King of Kings, holy And You will always be holy Holy forever  
Oh 'cause Jesus it's Your Name is the highest And Your Name is the greatest And Your Name,  
it stands above them all Above all thrones and dominions And all powers and positions Your Name,  
oh it stands above (Them all) Come on, sing it again Oh and Jesus it's Your Name is the highest  
Your Name is the greatest Your Name, oh it stands above them all Above all thrones and dominions  
And all powers and positions Your Name, it stands above them all And the angels cry holy  
All creation cries holy You are lifted high, holy Holy forever Hear Your people sing holy  
Unto our King of Kings, holy You will always be holy Holy for (Ever)  
You will always be holy Holy forever You will always be holy Holy forever*

## CLOSING PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: Read and study Exodus Chapters 19-20!**