

WEDNESDAY**Jethro**

- It took around 2 months of travel = multitude of people w/all their plunder reach Mount Sinai
- Scripture records 4 stops – 4 encampments—along way
- 3 days into journey = reach **Marah (1)** = bitter waters
 - people complained / God graciously healed
- Continuing onward = camped at **Elim (2)**, before advancing on 30th day to desert named “**Wilderness of Sin**”(3) **Exodus 16:1**
 - Where grumbled again = God sent manna [honey-like wafer]
- **Exodus 16:4** God told Moses, “that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not”
- Speaking of 10 Commandments – Scripture will prove / in moment
- Specific to miracle of manna = they were to gather twice as much on Friday / so could rest on Sabbath
- Indicates God expected cont. Sabbath observance from Creation
- Moses led people onward to **Rephidim (4)**—location he later named “Massah” and “Meribath” – location unknown, except that campsite was on Mount Horeb = where Moses had seen burning bush
- **Exodus 17:1-4** Becoming hostile = ppl raise up against him
 - Said he brought them out to kill them by thirst
 - Here, on rock in Horeb = God brought water from rock
- **Exodus 17:8-13** While encamped at **Rephidim** = fought Amelkites – led by Joshua – prevailed as long as Moses had staff raised
 - Aaron/Hur eventually had to support his weary arms
- Midian was nearby = Moses had sent his wife Zipporah and two sons there to his father-in-law Jethro = priest of Midian
- Jethro probably heard stories of God’s astonishing deliverance
- **Exodus 18:1–5** Now Jethro came out to wilderness camp at Rephidim /to return family to Moses = Moses went out to greet him

Exodus 18:8 (NIV84) 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.

- Jethro praised God's kindness/ extraordinary interventions
 - on behalf of His people
 - **Exod. 18:10, 11, ESV** " 'Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people' "
 - Example of how God's work among His people = was to witness / to world = who the true God is = what He can do for His people
 - Next day Jethro watched his overwhelmed son-in-law listen
 - as Israelites brought him their various problems to solve, from morning to night = "what is this thing you are doing?"
 - **Exodus 18:16** Moses explained ppl came to him to inquire of God = He judged people's cases = making known "the statutes of God and His laws"
 - Remember = Hadn't reached Mount Sinai yet
 - What laws of God were in place at this time?
 - Same commandments / statutes / laws of Lord
 - followed by Abraham / patriarchs
 - God renewed covenant w/Isaac = because
- Genesis 26:5** because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."
- Since our Creator bestowed free will to human race / governs by love =His righteousness required He define His expectations of love
 - In fairness to humanity = holy God had to define boundaries of acceptable human conduct immediately
 - Study of Genesis proves Patriarchs walked in covenant relationship w/God = obeying His Ten Commandment Law of Love

- He installed His Ten Commandment moral code of love
 - from beginning to protect His entitled rights as Creator
 - and rights of humankind that love demands
- God did not find it necessary to explain His existence
 - at beginning of Genesis = His existence is assumed
- What / Lord inspired Moses to record in book of Genesis assumes God's commandments as = way of life during first 2,300 yrs /history
- Record of patriarchs' walk of obedient faith to God demonstrates His moral code of love was imprinted on their hearts/ minds
- If NO commandments in place = could there have been any sin?
- **1 John 3:4** Scripture defines sin as ignoring/ breaking God's law
- Jethro recommended = Moses choose men of good character who fear God = were trustworthy = hated dishonest gain
 - to administrate these cases = appointed over units of
 - thousands / hundreds / fifties / tens
 - Bringing difficult cases to Moses
- Moses' administrative load would be reduced
 - he could focus on significant problems

ABSG quote: Moses could have just brushed off the old man and told him to mind his own business. He didn't. What important lessons can we learn from his willingness to listen to this person who wasn't even a Hebrew? **UNQUOTE**

- **Exodus 18:17–27** Moses heeded Jethro's counsel = appointing able men / judged people at all times, bringing only difficult cases to him
- In third month, they departed Rephidim arrived to camp at Mt Sinai, where God would become their King
- **Exodus 19:1–2** ¹In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the **Wilderness of Sinai**. ²For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the **Wilderness of Sinai**, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.