



Message 1-26-19
Yitro-Jethro (Abundance)
Exodus 18:1-20:23
Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6
Mark 6:1-6

Introduction

Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, hears of the miracle of Israel's liberation, and he brings Moses's wife and their two sons to the Israelite's encampment. Moses meets them and brings them to his tent where he shares the many wonders that God performed against Pharaoh for the sake of the Israelites. In joy, Jethro blesses God and offers a burnt offering, joined by Aaron and the elders.

Exodus 18:8-12

8 Moshe told his father-in-law all that *ADONAI* had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Isra'el's sake, all the hardships they had suffered while traveling and how *ADONAI* had rescued them. ⁹ Yitro rejoiced over all the good that *ADONAI* had done for Isra'el by rescuing them from the Egyptians. ¹⁰ Yitro said, "Blessed be *ADONAI*, who has rescued you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh, who has rescued the people from the harsh hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ **Now I know that *ADONAI* is greater than all other gods,** because he rescued those who were treated so arrogantly." ¹² Yitro Moshe's father-in-law brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aharon came with all the leaders of Isra'el to share the meal before God with Moshe's father-in-law. (CJB)

Notice that Yitro or Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, in his acknowledgment that the Almighty is the one true God, still mentions the other gods.

Exodus 18:1 Jethro, the **priest** of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel his people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. (ESV)

Jethro is a priest of Midian, so it may be a truth we do not wish to think about, but Jethro may have been a priest for the gods of Midian.

Genesis 25:1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. ² She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. (ESV)

Midian was one of the sons of Keturah, the wife of Abraham after Sarah had died. So, even though they had been exposed to the God of Abraham, did they hold true to that

path or by Jethro's own words they accepted other gods besides the one true God? Moses spent some time in his parent's home before being taken to Pharaoh's home to live with his adopted mother, the daughter of Pharaoh. So, for the first forty years of his life he was exposed for a short time to the God of his parents, and the rest of the time he was exposed to the gods of Egypt. For the next forty years of his life, he was exposed to the gods Jethro worshipped in his home and in Midian. Yet, Midian gave Moses a home when he fled from Pharaoh. After Jethro heard all that God had done for the Hebrews, he blessed the God of Moses and brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God. I am sure the nations living everywhere on the face of the earth in Moses' day were pagans worshipping who knows how many gods. The rabbis write in their commentaries that Jethro became a believer in the Almighty alone and turned away from the false gods. He shared about the one true God with the Midianites and probably others if we accept the story is true.

I am sure Jethro was not one we should doubt because Moses was his son-in-law and had lived with him for forty years. Jethro was a priest of Midian and may have returned home to share with his people that he was now a priest of the Holy One of Israel. The story about Jethro is meant to show us the power that was in Moses' retelling of what the Holy One had done for the Hebrews and what had been done to Egypt. In his acceptance of what Moses had shared with him, it is very possible Jethro went home and shared that what they had heard about happened to Egypt was true, the Holy One was with the Hebrews, and that Midian would be better off staying away from the Israelite camp. As others would later share about Yeshua, Jethro was a forerunner in being a messenger for the Almighty, setting an example for us that we need to stand up for our God and His Son Yeshua.

2 Chronicles 2:3 And Solomon sent word to Hiram the king of Tyre: "As you dealt with David my father and sent him cedar to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me. ⁴ Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God and dedicate it to him for the burning of incense of sweet spices before him, and for the regular arrangement of the showbread, and for burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths and the new moons and the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, as ordained forever for Israel. ⁵ **The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.** (ESV)

The words that had been spoken by Jethro are the same words spoken by Solomon when contacting Hiram, the king of Tyre, an ally of his father David, when he asked him for cedar wood to build a house for the Almighty. Solomon goes on to tell Hiram that the house he is building for his God is because his God is greater than all gods. Great words from this man who was blessed by the Almighty and words he should have remembered as he turned away from the Holy One to worship the gods of his foreign wives. Solomon laid the groundwork that would bring division to the United Kingdom of Israel and send both kingdoms into exile.

Isaiah 6:8-10

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." ⁹ And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "Keep on **hearing**, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive." ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." (ESV)

<08085> שָׁמָע *shama* (1033b)

Meaning: *to hear*

We see the prophet Isaiah telling us the Lord spoke to him and told him to go to the people to tell them to keep on hearing, but they do not understand and keep seeing, but they do not perceive. Their hearts are dull, the ears are heavy, their eyes are blind, but unless they turn to Messiah Yeshua, they will not be healed. Healing comes from Yeshua. We must be healed so we can hear and see the salvation of the Son of God – Yeshua HaMoshiach. In Judaism, one of the special prayers we recite is the Shema. It says, "*Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one!*" There is a second verse to this, but it is this first one that is Biblical to its core and quoted repeatedly and again in Scripture.

Jeremiah 5:21 "Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not. (ESV)

Jeremiah supports the Haftarah portion from Isaiah and tells us the people are foolish, do not see even though they have eyes, and do not hear even though they have ears. As true as this was in Biblical times, it is just as pertinent today, maybe even more so as we draw closer to the end times. So much is happening all around us throughout the world, and we are no closer to the utopia man has been promising since he first decided to challenge his Creator. We fight over so many different things that the result is ridiculous. We have the truth right there in front of us, and we don't see it. Instead of grabbing on to the redemption offered by the Father through His Son, we would rather nitpick at the little things and set up barriers that make it extremely difficult for man to see His redeemer, let alone hear the message of salvation.

Mark 6:1-6

1 Then Yeshua left and went to his home town, and his *talmidim* followed him. ² On *Shabbat* he started to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They asked, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom he has been given? What are these miracles worked through him?" ³ Isn't he just the carpenter? the son of Miryam? the brother of Ya'akov and Yosi and Y'hudah and Shim'on? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ But Yeshua said to them. "The only place people don't respect a prophet is in his home town, among his own relatives, and in his own house." ⁵ So he could do no miracles there, other than lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their lack of trust. Then he went through the surrounding towns and villages, teaching. (CJB)

Yeshua went to His home town to teach, and the people were astounded at what they heard. They could not believe what they were hearing and said isn't this the son of Miriam whose brothers are Jacob, Yosi, Judah and Simon? His sisters were also there, and the people were offended. They could not see the forest through the trees. They were blinded to the truth just as so many Jewish people are today. The Jewishness of Yeshua is there for them to see through His teachings, but just as the church is blinded to the truth of the Torah and may be following a different gospel and a different Messiah, they cannot see it. They hear the words but do not understand. Mankind is blinded to the truth of Yeshua and most likely are shutting out the Ruach HaKodesh who can help them to understand. They would rather allow a different spirit to enter into them. A spirit that leads them down the primrose path and takes them to a place that no one can ever return from. Our prayer should be they see and hear the truth before it is too late. It does not matter whether they are Jew or Gentile.

Galatians 3:26 For in union with the Messiah, you are all children of God through this trusting faithfulness; ²⁷ because as many of you as were immersed into the Messiah have clothed yourselves with the Messiah, in whom ²⁸ **there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor freeman, neither male nor female; for in union with the Messiah Yeshua, you are all one.** ²⁹ Also, if you belong to the Messiah, you are seed of Avraham and heirs according to the promise. (CJB)

We are all one, united under Messiah Yeshua, all part of the same nation – Israel.

Torah Man says: "A quiet time with God is worth a life-time with them."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119



