

Timeline of Truth – Jethro Advises Moses (Exodus 18:1-27)

<p>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.</p>	<p>Moses Has a <u>Visit</u> from His Father-in-Law</p>
<p>² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, (Ex 4:24-26)</p>	<p>Moses' <u>Heaviness</u> in Egypt</p>
<p>³ with her two sons, of whom the name of one <i>was</i> Gershom (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land ") ⁴ and the name of the other <i>was</i> Eliezer (for <i>he said</i>, "The God of my father <i>was</i> my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh ");</p>	<p>Moses' <u>Heart</u> in the Wilderness</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Jethro's <u>Trip</u></p>
<p>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."</p>	<p>Jethro's <u>Thoughtfulness</u></p>
<p>⁷ So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and kissed him. And they asked each other about <i>their</i> well-being, and they went into the tent.</p>	<p>Moses <u>Receives</u> Jethro</p>
<p>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 <i>how</i> the LORD had delivered them.</p>	<p>Moses <u>Shares</u> God's Greatness to Jethro</p>
<p>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. ¹⁰ And Jethro said, "Blessed <i>be</i> the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, <i>and</i> who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹ "Now I know that the LORD <i>is</i> greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, <i>He</i> was above them."</p>	<p>Jethro's <u>Response</u></p>
<p>¹² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and <i>other</i> sacrifices <i>to offer</i> to God.</p>	<p>Jethro <u>Worships</u> God</p>
<p>And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.</p>	<p>Leaders <u>Fellowship</u> with Jethro</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Moses Gets Back to His <u>Long</u> Work Schedule</p>
<p>¹⁴ So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What <i>is</i> 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?" ¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 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."</p>	<p>Jethro <u>Asks</u> Moses About His Work</p>

<p>¹⁷ So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do <i>is</i> not good.</p> <p>¹⁸ "Both you and these people who <i>are</i> with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing <i>is</i> too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.</p>	Jethro <u>Shares His Concerns</u>
<p>¹⁹ "Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you:</p>	Jethro <u>Counsels Moses to Do Four Things</u>
<p>Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God.</p>	1. <u>Preside Over Them</u>
<p>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.</p>	2. <u>Proactively Teach Them</u>
<p>²¹ "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness;</p>	3. <u>Pick Faithful Helpers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Fear God</u> • <u>Men of Truth</u> • <u>Hating Covetousness</u>
<p>and place <i>such</i> over them <i>to be</i> rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. ²² "And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be <i>that</i> every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge.</p>	4. <u>Place Them Over People</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Purpose</u> – to rule • <u>Proportion</u> – as numbers require • <u>Progressive</u> – levels of ability & responsibility • <u>Process</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Judge in <u>small</u> matters ○ Bring <u>great</u> matters to Moses
<p>So it will be easier for you, for they will bear <i>the burden</i> with you. 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."</p>	Jethro <u>Explains His Counsel (& Two Results)</u>
<p>²⁴ So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.</p>	Moses <u>Heeds Jethro's Counsel</u>
<p>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.</p> <p>²⁶ So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.</p>	Moses <u>Implements the Counsel</u>
<p>²⁷ Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land.</p>	Jethro <u>Departs</u>