

# Exodus 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt;

## Analysis

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**When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses**—Jethro's arrival introduces wisdom from outside Israel's covenant community. His title 'priest of Midian' (כֹּהֵן מִדְיָן, kohen midyan) indicates he served God (likely as descendant of Abraham through Keturah, Gen 25:2) though not within Israel's priesthood. The phrase 'heard of all that God had done' shows that exodus news spread internationally, fulfilling God's purpose to make His name known (Ex 9:16). Jethro's response to hearing—coming to Moses—models faith: hearing about God's works leads to seeking God's people. His bringing Zipporah and sons reconnects Moses' family fractured by calling (Ex 4:25-26).

## Historical Context

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Jethro (also called Reuel, Ex 2:18) had given Moses refuge and his daughter Zipporah during Moses' 40 years in Midian. His arrival reunites Moses with family after approximately two years.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jethro's faith from outside Israel's covenant preview Gentile inclusion in God's redemption?
2. What does news of exodus spreading to surrounding nations teach about God's fame-spreading purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶת	לְמֹשֶׁה	חַיְתָּן	מִדְיָן	כֹּהֵן	יִתְרוֹ	וַיִּשְׁמָע
	<b>Moses</b>	<b>father in law</b>	<b>of Midian</b>	<b>the priest</b>	<b>When Jethro</b>	<b>heard</b>
H853	H4872	H2859	H4080	H3548	H3503	H8085
כִּי	עַמּוֹ	וְיִשְׂרָאֵל	לְמֹשֶׁה	אֱלֹהִים	עָשָׂה	אֲשֶׁר
	<b>his people</b>	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Moses</b>	<b>of all that God</b>	<b>had done</b>	
H3588	H5971	H3478	H4872	H430	H6213	H834
						כָּל
						H3605
מִמִּצְרַיִם:	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	יְהוָה	וְהוֹצִיא		
<b>out of Egypt</b>	<b>Israel</b>		<b>and that the LORD</b>	<b>had brought</b>		
H4714	H3478	H853	H3068	H3318		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 3:1** (Word): Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

**Exodus 2:16** (Parallel theme): Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

**Acts 14:27** (References God): And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

**Psalms 44:1** (References God): We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old.

**Psalms 34:2** (References Lord): My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

**Psalms 78:4** (References Lord): We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

**Psalms 106:2** (References Lord): Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise?

**Psalms 105:43** (Parallel theme): And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness:

**Zechariah 8:23** (References God): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

**Joshua 2:10** (References Lord): For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.