

# Exodus 18:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

## Analysis

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**Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them**—Jethro's confession 'Now I know' (וְיָדָה, attah yada'ti) indicates experiential knowledge gained through witnessing God's works. The declaration that 'the LORD is greater than all gods' (יְהָה מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים) is comparative monotheism moving toward absolute monotheism—YHWH surpasses all false gods. The phrase 'for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly' (כִּי בָּזְבָּר אֲשֶׁר זָדו עַלְיָהֶם) means Egypt's proud oppression became the very means of their judgment—drowned in waters meant to drown Hebrew babies. This lex talionis (law of retaliation) shows God's justice. Jethro's confession prefigures Gentile acknowledgment of YHWH's supremacy.

## Historical Context

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As a Midianite priest, Jethro's confession represents a religiously educated person's deliberate choice to acknowledge YHWH above all deities worshipped in ancient Near East.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jethro's 'now I know' teach that intellectual belief becomes genuine faith through witnessing God's works?
2. What does Egypt's proud oppression becoming their judgment teach about God's poetic justice?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי בְּאָלֹהִים מֶכֶל יְהֹוָה הַיְד וְלִפְנֵי עַמּוֹת הָעָם  
H6258 Now I know H3588 is greater H3605 that the LORD H3588 than all gods H430

אֲשֶׁר בְּדַבֵּר יְהֹוָה  
H1697 for in the thing H834 wherein they dealt proudly H2102 H5921

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 95:3** (References God): For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**Exodus 15:11** (References God): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

**2 Chronicles 2:5** (References God): And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.

**Psalms 135:5** (References God): For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

**Luke 1:51** (Parallel theme): He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**Psalms 97:9** (References God): For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

**1 Chronicles 16:25** (References God): For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.

**Daniel 4:37** (Parallel theme): Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

**Psalms 119:21** (Parallel theme): Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

**Nehemiah 9:10** (Parallel theme): And shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day.

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