

Exodus 18:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

Analysis

And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people— The transition from worship (v.12) to governance shows proper priority: worship before work. Moses' judging role fulfills God's commission to speak His words to people (Ex 4:15-16). The phrase 'the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening' indicates overwhelming demand—cases queued all day. This exhaustive schedule reveals the burden of leadership and unsustainability of solo ministry. The verb 'to judge' (לִשְׁפֹּת, lishpot) includes deciding disputes and declaring God's statutes. Moses' all-day judging shows dedication but also organizational naivety—he hasn't implemented delegation. Jethro's observation and advice (vv.14-23) will correct this deficiency.

Historical Context

This judging likely involved applying God's revealed will (received at burning bush and through ongoing revelation) to specific cases. The absence of written law yet didn't prevent judicial function.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does worship preceding governance teach about priorities in leadership?
2. How does Moses' exhaustive schedule reveal both commendable dedication and unwise lack of delegation?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי		מִמְּחֹרֶת	תְּ	וַיֹּשֶׁב	הָ	מִשְׁתַּחַטֵּת	לְשָׁפֵט	אֶת
H1961	And it came to pass on the morrow			sat		by Moses	to judge	H853
		H4283		H3427		H4872		H8199
בְּעַם	בְּעַם	עַל	מִן	מִשְׁתַּחַטֵּת	לְשָׁפֵט	אֶת	בְּ	קָרְבָּן
and the people	stood	and the people	from	by Moses	to judge	the people	from the morning	H1242
H5971	H5975	H5971		H4872				
עַד	הַעֲרָבָה							
H5704	unto the evening							
	H6153							

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