

# Exodus 18:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,

## Analysis

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**Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back**—The phrase 'after he had sent her back' (אַחֲר שָׁלֹךְ, achar shilucheha) indicates Moses had sent Zipporah and sons to Midian, probably after the dangerous circumcision incident (Ex 4:24-26). This separation shows the cost of Moses' calling—family sacrificed for leadership. Jethro's timing in bringing them now, after Israel's victory over Amalek and before Sinai, suggests divine providence in family reunification. Zipporah's return before the law-giving shows grace—Moses receives family back before receiving increased leadership burden. This prefigures Christ who creates family (church) even while bearing leadership's lonely weight.

## Historical Context

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Moses likely sent Zipporah back to Midian after the circumcision crisis at the inn (Exodus 4:24-26). Jethro brings her after hearing of exodus victories, reuniting the family.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does Moses' family separation teach about the cost of leadership and calling?
2. How does Jethro's timing in bringing family back show God's grace in restoring what calling costs?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָקַרְתָּ	יְתָרוֹ	חֶתֶת	מֵשֶׁה	אֶת	אֶפְרַיִם	אֶת	מֵשֶׁה
<b>took</b>	<b>Then Jethro</b>	<b>father in law</b>	<b>Moses</b>	H853	<b>Zipporah</b>	<b>wife</b>	<b>Moses</b>
H3947	H3503	H2859	H4872		H6855	H802	H4872
אַם	רְשִׁלְוֹחָה						
<b>after</b>	<b>he had sent her back</b>						
H310	H7964						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 2:21** (References Moses): And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.

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