

Exodus 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

Analysis

If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure—Jethro's conditional 'if...God command thee so' (וְיִצְיֹבֵד אֱלֹהִים, v'tzivv'kha Elohim) shows wisdom: he offers counsel but defers to divine confirmation. This humility models that human advice, however sound, requires divine validation. The promise 'thou shalt be able to endure' (וְיָכֹלְתָּ עָמֹד, v'yakholta amod, literally 'you will be able to stand') addresses sustainability—proper structure enables longevity. The additional promise 'and all this people shall also go to their place in peace' (וְגַם כָּל-הָעָם הַזֶּה יָבֹאוּ אֶל-מְקוֹמָם יָבֵא בְּשָׁלוֹם, v'gam khol-ha'am hazeh al-m'qomo yavo v'shalom) means people will receive justice promptly and return home satisfied. Good structure serves both leader and people.

Historical Context

Moses would later recount this counsel as coming from God's approval (Deuteronomy 1:9-18), confirming that Jethro's advice aligned with divine will. Wise counsel and divine command converged.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jethro's deference to God's command model the proper humility of counselors?
2. What does 'able to endure' teach about structure's role in sustainable ministry?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֹהִים	וְצִוָּה	תַּעֲשֶׂה	הַזֶּה	הַדָּבָר	אֵת	אֵלֹהִים
H430	H6680	H6213	H2088	H1697	H853	H518
and God	command	If thou shalt do		this thing		
הַזֶּה	וְכָל	וְגַם	עִמָּךְ	וְיָכֹלְתָּ		
H2088	H3605	H1571	H5975	H3201		
	and all this people	to endure	thee so then thou shalt be able			
בְּשָׁלוֹם:	יָבֹא	מְקוֹמָם	עַל			
H7965	H935	H4725	H5921			
in peace	shall also go	to their place				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 18:18 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.