

Exodus 18:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

Analysis

So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said—Moses' immediate obedience demonstrates humility—he accepts correction from father-in-law without defensiveness. The phrase 'hearkened to the voice' (וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה לְקוֹל, vayishma Moshe l'qol) indicates attentive listening and obedient response. 'Did all that he had said' shows complete implementation, not selective adoption. Moses' teachability models that great leaders receive counsel graciously. His willingness to change methods while maintaining calling demonstrates flexibility within faithfulness. This episode shows that accepting wise counsel doesn't diminish authority—Moses remains leader while improving leadership structure. God's later confirmation (Deut 1:9-18) validates Moses' decision.

Historical Context

This delegation system established the governmental structure that would serve Israel throughout wilderness wandering and into Canaan settlement. The principle of distributed justice became foundational to Israel's society.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Moses' unhesitating obedience to counsel teach about humility in leadership?
2. How does accepting structural advice while maintaining calling demonstrate wise flexibility?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁמָע	מֹשֶׁה	לִקְוֹל	קִתְּנֹו	וַיַּעַשׂ	כֹּל	אֲשֶׁר
hearkened	So Moses	to the voice	of his father in law	and did	H3605	H834
H8085	H4872	H6963	H2859	H6213		

אָמַר:
all that he had said
H559