

# Exodus 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God:

## Analysis

**And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God—** Jethro's pilgrimage to 'the mount of God' (הַר הָאֱלֹהִים, har ha'elohim, Sinai/Horeb) demonstrates that he seeks not merely family reunion but divine encounter. The 'mount of God' designation before the law-giving shows this mountain's sacred character predates Sinai covenant—it's where God appeared to Moses in burning bush (Ex 3:1). Jethro's coming 'into the wilderness' requires faith—he leaves settled Midian for desert pilgrimage. This prefigures Gentiles who will come from nations to worship at Zion (Isa 2:2-3). The family reunion at Sinai, where law will be given, shows grace (family) before law (Sinai).

## Historical Context

Sinai/Horeb was already known as 'the mount of God' from Moses' burning bush encounter (Exodus 3:1). Jethro's arrival there positions him to witness the law-giving and glory manifestation.

## Related Passages

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jethro leaving settled life for wilderness pilgrimage teach about seeking God?
2. How does family reunion at Sinai before law-giving show grace preceding commandment?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל־יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל  
| חִתָּה | יְתָר וְיְהוָה  
came And Jethro father in law Moses with his sons and his wife H413  
H935 H3503 H2859 H4872 H1121 H802

שָׁם־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵשֶׁה  
מֹשֶׁה H413 into the wilderness H4057 H834 H1931 where he encamped H2583 H8033  
H4872 H2022 H430

בְּרֵאָלָהִים  
at the mount of God

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 3:1** (Word): Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

**Exodus 3:12** (References God): And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.