

Exodus 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her.

Analysis

And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her—Jethro's announcement emphasizes relational structure: he identifies himself as father-in-law, then lists family members coming. This formal announcement shows respect for Moses' leadership position—Jethro doesn't presume on relationship but identifies himself properly. The phrase 'am come unto thee' (בָּא אֵלַיְכָה, ba eleikha) indicates intentional seeking, not casual visit. Bringing 'thy wife and her two sons' reunites Moses' fractured household, showing Jethro's wisdom in timing—he waits until after exodus victories before restoring family. This models wisdom in discerning when to introduce personal matters versus letting leaders focus on mission.

Historical Context

This formal announcement likely came through a messenger before Jethro's actual arrival, giving Moses time to prepare proper reception for his father-in-law and family.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does Jethro's formal announcement teach about respecting leadership even in family relationships?
2. How does timing of family reunion (after victories) show wisdom in supporting leaders?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	אֲנִי	חִתְּנֶךָ	יֵתֵר	אֲנִי
And he said	H413	unto Moses	H589	I thy father in law	Jethro	am come
H559		H4872		H2859	H3503	H935
אֶל יְיָ	וְאֶת שְׁתֵּי	בָנָיו	וְשְׁנֵי	בָנָיו	עֲמָה:	
H413	unto thee and thy wife	and her two	sons	H5973		
	H802	H8147	H1121			

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