

# Exodus 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave  
Moses Zipporah his daughter.

## Analysis

**And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter** (וַיֵּאָלֶּל מֹשֶׁה לְשֵׁבֶת אֶת־הָאִישׁ וַיֵּתֶן אֶת־צִפּוֹרָה בִּתּוֹ לְמֹשֶׁה, vayo'el Mosheh lashevet et-ha'ish vayiten et-Tsiporah vito leMosheh)—**Was content** (וַיֵּאָלֶּל, vayo'el, "agreed/was willing") suggests Moses found peace in Midian after Egypt's turmoil. **Gave Moses Zipporah his daughter** (צִפּוֹרָה, Tsiporah, "bird") establishes marriage covenant. Zipporah will play crucial roles: saving Moses' life (4:24-26), being sent away and reunited (18:2-6), and bearing Moses' sons. Marriage into Jethro's priestly family connected Moses to Midianite traditions and wilderness wisdom. These 40 years transform Moses from impulsive prince to humble shepherd ready for God's call.

## Historical Context

Marriage sealed social bonds and alliances in patriarchal culture. Moses' marriage to Jethro's daughter made him family, giving him status, protection, and occupation (shepherd). Zipporah's Midianite heritage later creates tension (Numbers 12:1) but also brings Jethro's wisdom into Israel's formation (Exodus 18). The 40-year period mirrors Moses' first 40 years in Egypt, preparing for the final 40 years leading Israel.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do you see God using seasons of 'dwelling contentedly' in unexpected places to prepare you for future callings?
2. What does Moses' marriage to Zipporah teach about God's providence working through cross-cultural relationships?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי וְאֵל	לְמֹשֶׁה:	לֵשׁ בֵּת	אֶת	הָאִישׁ	וַיֵּת	אֶת
was content	And Moses	to dwell	H854	with the man	and he gave	H853
H2974	H4872	H3427		H376	H5414	
צִפּוֹרָה	בֵּתוֹ	לְמֹשֶׁה:				
Zipporah	his daughter	And Moses				
H6855	H1323	H4872				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:5** (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

**Hebrews 11:25** (Parallel theme): Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

**Exodus 2:10** (References Moses): And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

**1 Timothy 6:6** (Parallel theme): But godliness with contentment is great gain.

**James 1:10** (Parallel theme): But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

