

Moses – part 16

Moses appoints leaders to judge the people

by Victor Torres

Entering into the Lord's rest starts with having the faith of Jesus Christ. Part of having that faith is doing the Lord's works. This "rest" is stopping from our own works, just as Israel was instructed not to gather manna during the Sabbath.

Exo 16:23 (CEV) he (Moses) told them that the LORD had said, "Tomorrow is the Sabbath, **a sacred day of rest in honor of me**. So gather all you want to bake or boil, and make sure you save enough for tomorrow."

Exo 16:24 The people obeyed, and the next morning the food smelled fine and had no worms.

Exo 16:25 "You may eat the food," Moses said. "Today is the Sabbath in honor of the LORD, and there won't be any of this food on the ground today.

Exo 16:26 You will find it there for the first six days of the week, but not on the Sabbath."

We also learned that Israel did not enter into the Lord's true rest because of their unbelief.

Heb 3:16 (CEV) Who were those people that heard God's voice and rebelled? Weren't they the same ones that came out of Egypt with Moses?

Heb 3:17 Who were the people that made God angry for forty years? Weren't they the ones that sinned and died in the desert?

Heb 3:18 And who did God say would never enter his place of rest? Weren't they the ones that disobeyed him?

Heb 3:19 **We see that those people did not enter the place of rest because they did not have faith.**

How can we apply what happened to Israel to ourselves?

1Co 10:11 (Darby) Now all these things happened to them **as types**, and have been written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.

We are told that these people are types of us, meaning we do what they did today, not in a physical way, but in a spiritual way.

We don't literally have to travel for forty years through the desert. However, we do spend a big part of our life in Babylon (symbolized by the desert) disobeying the Lord's commands just as Israel did.

But for God's elect, the Lord comes and frees them from their slavery to their flesh and from their "hard bondage" in Babylon.

Isa 14:3 (KJV) And it shall come to pass in the day that **the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,**

Isa 14:4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

As long as we live we will be fighting a spiritual war against evil spirits and against the pulls of our flesh. We can only win this fight if we are "sitting on a rock", which means our faith is based on Jesus Christ's teachings. We also need help from others, just as Moses had the help from Aaron and Hur.

Exo 17:12 (CEV) Finally, Moses was so tired that Aaron and Hur got **a rock for him to sit on. Then they stood beside him and supported his arms in the same position until sunset.**

Exo 17:13 That's how Joshua defeated the Amalekites.

Exo 17:14 Afterwards, the LORD said to Moses, "Write an account of this victory and read it to Joshua. I want the Amalekites to be forgotten forever."

Exo 17:15 Moses built an altar and named it "**The LORD Gives Me Victory.**"

Exo 17:16 Then Moses explained, "**This is because I depended on the LORD.** But in future generations, the LORD will have to fight the Amalekites again."

We should never forget that it is the Lord who gives us victory. The moment we think we overcome evil on our own, then we are being proud before the Lord.

Exo 18:1 (CEV) Jethro was the priest of Midian and the father-in-law of Moses. And he heard what the LORD God had done for Moses and his people, after rescuing them from Egypt.

Exo 18:2 – 4 In the meantime, Moses had sent his wife Zipporah and her two sons to stay with Jethro, and he had welcomed them. Moses was still a foreigner in Midian when his first son was born, and so Moses said, "I'll name him Gershom." When his second son was born, Moses said, "I'll name him Eliezer, because the God my father worshiped has saved me from the king of Egypt."

Exo 18:5 – 6 While Israel was camped in the desert near Mount Sinai, Jethro sent Moses this message: "I am coming to visit you, and I am bringing your wife and two sons."

Exo 18:7 When they arrived, Moses went out and bowed down in front of Jethro, then kissed him. After they had greeted each other, they went into the tent,

Bowing down to Jethro shows us how much Moses respected his father-in-law. The Lord will use this respect that Moses' have for Jethro to make him listen to a very important advice that Jethro will give Moses.

Exo 18:8 (CEV) where Moses told him everything the LORD had done to protect Israel against the Egyptians and their king. He also told him how the LORD had helped them in all of their troubles.

Exo 18:9 Jethro was so pleased to hear this good news about what the LORD had done,

Exo 18:10 that he shouted, "Praise the LORD! He rescued you and the Israelites from the Egyptians and their king.

Exo 18:11 Now I know that the LORD is the greatest God, because he has rescued Israel from their arrogant enemies."

Exo 18:12 Jethro offered sacrifices to God. Then Aaron and Israel's leaders came to eat with Jethro there at the place of worship.

Exo 18:13 The next morning Moses sat down at the place where he decided legal cases for the people, and everyone crowded around him until evening.

Exo 18:14 Jethro saw how much Moses had to do for the people, and he asked, "Why are you the only judge? Why do you let these people crowd around you from morning till evening?"

Exo 18:15 Moses answered, "Because they come here to find out what God wants them to do.

Exo 18:16 They bring their complaints to me, and I make decisions on the basis of God's laws."

Exo 18:17 Jethro replied: That isn't the best way to do it.

Exo 18:18 You and the people who come to you will soon be worn out. The job is too much for one person; you can't do it alone.

Exo 18:19 God will help you if you follow my advice. You should be the one to speak to God for the people,

Exo 18:20 and you should teach them God's laws and show them what they must do to live right.

Exo 18:21 You will need to appoint some competent leaders who respect God and are trustworthy and honest. Then put them over groups of ten, fifty, a hundred, and a thousand.

Exo 18:22 These judges can handle the ordinary cases and bring the more difficult ones to you. Having them to share the load will make your work easier.

Exo 18:23 This is the way God wants it done. You won't be under nearly as much stress, and everyone else will return home feeling satisfied.

Exo 18:24 Moses followed Jethro's advice.

So God used Jethro to give Moses an excellent advice, and the Lord caused Moses to follow this advice.

Exo 18:25 (CEV) He chose some competent leaders from every tribe in Israel and put them over groups of ten, fifty, a hundred, and a thousand.

Exo 18:26 They served as judges, deciding the easy cases themselves, but bringing the more difficult ones to Moses.

Exo 18:27 After Moses and his father-in-law Jethro had said good-bye to each other, Jethro returned home.

As kids, you must trust your parent's decisions, even if you disagree with them. The Lord will be pleased with you if you give your parents your utmost respect and if you obey them.

The Lord has also placed leaders in the body of Christ today. When we mature enough to be a part of the body, we need to trust these leaders to guide us and to advise us of the right way, just as Israel trusted the leaders that Moses appointed for them.

Next time, Lord willing, we will take a closer look at these next verses, and see what God is telling us through them.

Exo 19:1 – 2 (CEV) The Israelites left Rephidim. Then two months after leaving Egypt, they arrived at the desert near Mount Sinai, where they set up camp at the foot of the mountain.

Exo 19:3 Moses went up the mountain to meet with the LORD God, who told him to say to the people:

Exo 19:4 You saw what I did in Egypt, and you know how I brought you here to me, just as a mighty eagle carries its young.

Exo 19:5 Now if you will faithfully obey me, you will be my very own people. The whole world is mine,

Exo 19:6 but you will be my holy nation and serve me as priests. Moses, that is what you must tell the Israelites.

Exo 19:7 After Moses went back, he reported to the leaders what the LORD had said,

Exo 19:8 and they promised, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded." So Moses told the LORD about this.

Exo 19:9 The LORD said to Moses, "I will come to you in a thick cloud and let the people hear me speak to you. Then they will always trust you." Again Moses reported to the people what the LORD had told him.

Exo 19:10 Once more the LORD spoke to Moses: Go back and tell the people that today and tomorrow they must get themselves ready to meet me. They must wash their clothes

Exo 19:11 and be ready by the day after tomorrow, when I will come down to Mount Sinai, where all of them can see me.

Exo 19:12 Warn the people that they are forbidden to touch any part of the mountain. Anyone who does will be put to death,

Exo 19:13 either with stones or arrows, and no one must touch the body of a person killed in this way. Even an animal that touches this mountain must be put to death. You may go up the mountain only after a signal is given on the trumpet.

Exo 19:14 After Moses went down the mountain, he gave orders for the people to wash their clothes and make themselves acceptable to worship God.