

April 18–24
Exodus 18–20

“All that the Lord Hath Spoken We Will Do”



Jethro

Exd 18:1,8-9

JST Exd 18:1 When Jethro, the high priest of Midian...

Why is it significant that Jethro is a “high priest”?

D&C 84:6

And the sons of Moses, according to the Holy Priesthood which he received under the hand of his father-in-law, Jethro;

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The Midianites were descendants of Abraham, through the children of Keturah, wife of Abraham, therefore the Midianites, who were neighbors to the Israelites in Palestine, were related to the Israelites, and were Hebrews. As descendants of Abraham they were entitled through their faithfulness to his blessings, and in the days of Moses and preceding them, in Midian the Priesthood was found. (Church History and Modern Revelation, 2:103)

Jethro

Exd 18:13-18

What is Jethro's concern if Moses continues to judge every issues that the people bring before him?

Richard L. Evans

"There is a profound wisdom in this early utterance concerning the delegation of authority and of responsibility and of work. Surely it must be evident to every thinking person that there comes a time when, no matter how able or willing a man may be, he cannot further extend himself so far as person-to-person communication and effort are concerned....

"In person-to-person appointments in this Church and out of it, there is a limit to which a man can extend himself—a truth which the father-in-law of Moses discovered and expressed many centuries ago, and which is a still more pressing truth in our day as the Church and its responsibilities grow." (CR, Oct. 1949)

Jethro

Exd 18:19-20

What does Jethro suggest Moses do?

Neal A. Maxwell

"We generally see the need for Moses to apply the delegation dimension, and we note how both we and those we serve—including family—can 'wear away.' Moses was hearing every case! Worse still, however, this pattern kept him from his real duties, which were to 'teach them ordinances and laws, and... shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.'

"The original Twelve were counseled that they were not to 'serve tables' (see Acts 6:1–4). Actually, serving tables is easy. It is visible, measurable, and do-able—compared to opening up the nations of the world to missionary work or to keeping wolves out of the flock. But if the Twelve were drawn away from their scriptural and constitutional duties, the whole Church would suffer. Being drawn away can happen to all of us, almost without our knowing it."

("Wisdom and Order," Ensign, June 1994)

Dallin H. Oaks

"An early scriptural account of this need is in Father Jethro's counsel that Moses should not try to do so much. The people were waiting upon their priesthood leader from morning till night.... [Jethro] gave Moses counsel that illustrates the importance of the personal line: 'Thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.'

"In other words, Israelites who followed Moses should be taught not to bring every question to that priesthood leader. They should understand the commandments and seek inspiration to work out most problems for themselves." (CR, Oct. 2010)

Jethro

Exd 18:22-24

What does the fact that Moses is will to listen to Jethro teach us about him?

Neal A. Maxwell

"Moses was a righteous and remarkable man. Nevertheless, he needed to change his leadership style for his welfare as well as the people's. Moses succeeded because he was the most meek man upon the face of the earth. (See Num. 12:3) Blessed are the meek, for they are neither easily offended by counsel nor aggravated by admonition." (CR, Oct. 1991)

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

Brigham Young

"[Moses] received the law of carnal commandments for Israel from the mouth of God. I believe with all my heart that if the children had been ready to receive the Gospel in all its fulness, the yoke of carnal commandments would never have been placed upon their necks. Moses was a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek." (JD, 9:308)

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

"The Lord tried to make a nation of priests out of Israel but Israel would not, and so the Lord had to organize as he did, giving the Priesthood to one tribe, withdrawing the Melchizedek Priesthood from their midst, and setting up the Priesthood of Aaron." (CR, April 1953)

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

Exd 19:3-6

What does the Lord mean when He says that He wants Israel to be a “peculiar treasure” and a “kingdom of priests”?

Lorenzo Snow

"This is what the Lord designed to effect through Israel in bringing them out from Egyptian bondage; He wished to make of them a united people, a peculiar nation, a nation of people whom God could honor and respect in order that the world might believe, and that they might receive the blessings which He wished to bestow upon them. If Israel had carried out His requirements, the world, no doubt would have been greatly benefited thereby, and the purposes of God more fully effected. The Lord... wished to extend his love and blessings through Israel to the whole human family." (JD, 23:338)

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

Exd 19:7-11,16-17

What does their reaction to the marvelous things they witnessed on mount Sinai tell us about the faith of the people?

Faith Tested at Mount Sinai

Exd 20:18-21

Why did the Israelites want Moses to be their intermediary with God?

Joseph Smith

"When God offers a blessing or knowledge to a man, and he refuses to receive it, he will be damned. The Israelites prayed that God would speak to Moses and not to them; in consequence of which he cursed them with a carnal law." (TPJS, pg. 322)

John Taylor

"The Israelites had the Gospel preached to them in the wilderness; but... when they heard the thunders and saw the lightning and heard the voice of God, they said unto Moses, 'Speak thou unto us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die;' we are not prepared for this glory, for this kind of manifestation which has been given unto us.

"Well, they were foolish; they departed from correct principles, they violated the laws of God and therefore incurred his displeasure, and his Spirit was withdrawn from them, and the Gospel was taken from them and they were left under a law of carnal commandments, and the law was given them as a schoolmaster, we are told, until Christ came." (JD, 20:219)

The Ten Commandments

Exd 20:1-17

Mark E. Petersen

“By his own finger the Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone. They represent the basic law of the Almighty and have formed the underlying elements of civil and religious law ever since.

“They are fundamental to our relationships with God. They are an integral part of the restored gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and are essential to our becoming perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.” (Moses, pg. 110)

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

D&C 76:1-4

1 Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth, and rejoice ye inhabitants thereof, for the Lord is God, and beside him there is no Savior.

2 Great is his wisdom, marvelous are his ways, and the extent of his doings none can find out.

3 His purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand.

4 From eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail.

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy
God in vain

D&C 1:15-16

15 For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

16 They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy
God in vain

Brigham Young

“I would as soon see a man worshipping a little god made of brass or of wood as to see him worshipping his property.” (JD, 6:196)

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

D&C 63:60-62

60 Behold, I am aAlpha and Omega, even Jesus Christ.

61 Wherefore, let all men beware how they take my name in their lips—

62 For behold, verily I say, that many there be who are under this condemnation, who use the name of the Lord, and use it in vain, having not authority.

The Ten Commandments

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

D&C 59:9-12

9 And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day;

10 For verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High;

11 Nevertheless thy avows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days and at all times;

12 But remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.

The Ten Commandments

Honour thy father and thy mother.

D&C 27:9

And also Elijah, unto whom I have committed the keys of the power of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, that the whole earth may not be smitten with a curse;

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not kill.

Matthew 5:21-22

21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Matthew 5:27-28

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not bear false witness.

Matthew 5:33-37

33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

34 But I say unto you, aSwear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

The Ten Commandments

Thou shalt not covet

D&C 19:25-26

25 And again, I command thee that thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife; nor seek thy neighbor's life.

26 And again, I command thee that thou shalt not covet thine own property, but impart it freely to the printing of the Book of Mormon, which contains the truth and the word of God

Next Week:

April 25–May 1

Exodus 24; 31–34

“My Presence Shall Go With Thee”

