

## Yitro, Torah, February 7, 2026

### Exodus 18:1-27

(1) Jethro priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard all that God had done for Moses and for Israel—God's people: how the ETERNAL had brought Israel out from Egypt. (2) So Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after she had been sent home, (3) and her two sons—of whom one was named Gershom, that is to say, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land"; (4) and the other was named Eliezer, meaning, "The God of my father was my help, delivering me from the sword of Pharaoh." (5) Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' sons and wife to him in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God. (6) He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, with your wife and her two sons." (7) Moses went out to meet his father-in-law; he bowed low and kissed him; each asked after the other's welfare, and they went into the tent. (8) Moses then recounted to his father-in-law everything that GOD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for

### שמות י"ח:א-כ"ז

(א) וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ כֹהֵן מִדְיָן חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה אֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים לְמֹשֶׁה וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ כִּי-הוֹצִיא יְהוָה אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם: (ב) וַיָּקֹחַ יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה אֶת-צִפּוֹרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ מֹשֶׁה אַחֵר שְׁלוּחָיָה: (ג) וְאֵת שְׁנֵי בָנֶיהָ אֲשֶׁר שָׁם הָאֶחָד גֶּרְשֹׁם כִּי אָמַר גֵּר הָיִיתִי בְּאֶרֶץ נְכַרְיָה: (ד) וְשֵׁם הָאֶחָד אֱלִיעֶזֶר כִּי-אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי בְּעֶזְרִי וַיִּצְלַנִּי מִחֶרֶב פְּרָעָה: (ה) וַיָּבֹא יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אֶל-הַמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר-הוּא חֹנֶה שָׁם הַר הָאֱלֹהִים: (ו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אָנֹכִי חֹתֶנְךָ יִתְרוֹ בָּא אֵלַיךָ וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וּשְׁנֵי בָנֶיהָ עִמָּה: (ז) וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה לְקִרְיַת חֹתְנוֹ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ וַיִּשְׁקֻלוּ וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ אִישׁ-לְרֵעֵהוּ לְשָׁלוֹם וַיָּבֹאוּ הָאֱהָלָה: (ח) וַיְסַפֵּר מֹשֶׁה לְחֹתְנוֹ אֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְפָרְעֹה וּלְמִצְרָיִם עַל אוֹדֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵת כָּל-הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר מְצַאֲתֶם בְּדַרְךְ וַיִּצְלַם יְהוָה: (ט)

Israel's sake, all the hardships that had befallen them on the way, and how GOD had delivered them. (9) And Jethro rejoiced over all the kindness that GOD had shown Israel in delivering them from the Egyptians. (10) "Blessed be GOD," Jethro said, "who delivered you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. (11) Now I know that GOD is greater than all gods, yes, by the result of their very schemes against [the people]." (12) And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices for God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to partake of the meal before God with Moses' father-in-law. (13) Next day, Moses sat as magistrate among the people, while the people stood about Moses from morning until evening. (14) But when Moses' father-in-law saw how much he had to do for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing to the people? Why do you act alone, while all the people stand about you from morning until evening?" (15) Moses replied to his father-in-law, "It is because the people come to me to inquire of God. (16) When they have a dispute, it comes before me, and I decide between one party and another, and I make known the laws

וַיִּחַד יִתְרוֹ עַל כָּל־הַטּוֹבָה  
 אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר  
 הֶצִּילוּ מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר  
 יִתְרוֹ בְרוּךְ יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הֶצִּיל  
 אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וּמִיַּד פַּרְעֹה  
 אֲשֶׁר הֶצִּיל אֶת־הָעַם מִתַּחַת  
 יַד־מִצְרַיִם: (יא) עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי  
 כִּי־גָדוֹל יְהוָה מִכָּל־הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי  
 בִּדְבַר אֲשֶׁר זָדוּ עֲלֵיהֶם: (יב)  
 וַיִּקַּח יִתְרוֹ חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה עִלָּה  
 וּזְבָחִים לָאֱלֹהִים וַיָּבֵא אֶהָרֹן  
 וְכָל־זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֶאֱכֹל־לֶחֶם  
 עִם־חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה לְפָנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים:  
 (יג) וַיְהִי מִמַּחֲרָת וַיָּשָׁב מֹשֶׁה  
 לְשַׁפֵּט אֶת־הָעָם וַיַּעֲמֵד הָעָם  
 עַל־מֹשֶׁה מִן־הַבֹּקֶר עַד־הָעֶרֶב:  
 (יד) וַיִּרְא חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה אֵת  
 כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה לָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר  
 מָה־הַדְּבַר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה  
 לָעָם מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה יוֹשֵׁב לְבִדְדָךְ  
 וְכָל־הָעָם נֹצֵב עֲלֶיךָ מִן־בֹּקֶר  
 עַד־עֶרֶב: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה  
 לְחֲתָנֹו כִּי־יָבֵא אֵלַי הָעָם לְדֹרֵשׁ  
 אֲלֵהֶם: (טז) כִּי־יְהִיָּה לָהֶם דְּבַר  
 בָּא אֵלַי וְשַׁפֵּטֹתַי בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין  
 רֵעֵהוּ וְהוֹדַעְתִּי אֶת־חֻקֵי הָאֱלֹהִים  
 וְאֶת־תּוֹרֹתַיו: (יז) וַיֹּאמֶר חֲתָן  
 מֹשֶׁה אֵלָיו לֹא־טוֹב הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר  
 אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה: (יח) נָבֵל תִּבְל

and teachings of God.” (17) But Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “The thing you are doing is not right; (18) you will surely wear yourself out, and these people as well. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. (19) Now listen to me. I will give you counsel, and God be with you! You represent the people before God: you bring the disputes before God, (20) and enjoin upon them the laws and the teachings, and make known to them the way they are to go and the practices they are to follow. (21) You shall also seek out, from among all the people, those who are capable and who fear God—trustworthy ones who spurn ill-gotten gain. Set these over them as chiefs of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, and (22) let them judge the people at all times. Have them bring every major dispute to you, but let them decide every minor dispute themselves. Make it easier for yourself by letting them share the burden with you. (23) If you do this—and God so commands you—you will be able to bear up; and all these people too will go home unwearied.” (24) Moses heeded his father-in-law and did just as he had said. (25) Moses chose those who were capable out of all Israel, and appointed them heads

גַּם־אַתָּה גַּם־הָעַם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר עִמָּךְ  
כִּי־כִבֵּד מִמֶּךָ הִדְבַר לֹא־תוּכַל  
עֲשֹׂהוּ לְבַדְּךָ: (יט) עֲתָה שָׁמַע  
בְּקִלִּי אִיעָצְךָ וַיְהִי אֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ  
הֲיִה אַתָּה לְעַם מוֹל הָאֱלֹהִים  
וְהִבֵּאתָ אֶתָּה אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים  
אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים: (כ) וְהִזְהַרְתָּה  
אֹתָהֶם אֶת־הַחֻקִּים וְאֶת־הַתּוֹרָה  
וְהוֹדַעְתָּ לָהֶם אֶת־הַדֶּרֶךְ יֵלְכוּ בָּהּ  
וְאֶת־הַמַּעֲשֵׂה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשׂוּן: (כא)  
וְאֹתָהּ תַחֲזֶה מִכָּל־הָעָם  
אֲנָשֵׁי־חֵיל יִרְאִי אֱלֹהִים אֲנָשֵׁי  
אִמָּת שְׂנָאִי בַצַּע וְשִׁמְתָה עֲלֵהֶם  
שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים שָׂרֵי מֵאוֹת שָׂרֵי  
חֲמֻשִּׁים וְשָׂרֵי עֶשְׂרֹת: (כב)  
וְשִׁפְטוּ אֶת־הָעָם בְּכָל־עֵת וְהָיָה  
כָּל־הַדְּבָר הַגָּדוֹל יָבִיאוּ אֵלֶיךָ  
וְכָל־הַדְּבָר הַקָּטָן יִשְׁפְּטוּ־הֶם  
וְהִקֵּל מֵעֲלֶיךָ וְנִשְׂאוּ אֹתְךָ: (כג)  
אִם אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה תַעֲשֶׂה וְצִוְּךָ  
אֱלֹהִים וַיְכַלֵּת עִמָּד וְגַם כָּל־הָעָם  
הַזֶּה עַל־מְקוֹמוֹ יָבֹא בְשָׁלוֹם:  
(כד) וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה לְקוֹל חֲתָנּוֹ  
וַיַּעַשׂ כֹּל אֲשֶׁר אָמַר: (כה)  
וַיִּבְחַר מֹשֶׁה אֲנָשֵׁי־חֵיל  
מִכָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָם רִאשִׁים  
עַל־הָעָם שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים שָׂרֵי מֵאוֹת  
שָׂרֵי חֲמֻשִּׁים וְשָׂרֵי עֶשְׂרֹת: (כו)  
וְשִׁפְטוּ אֶת־הָעָם בְּכָל־עֵת

over the people—chiefs of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens; (26) and they judged the people at all times: the difficult matters they would bring to Moses, and all the minor matters they would decide themselves. (27) Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way to his own land.

אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַקָּשֶׁה יְבִיאֵן  
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְכָל־הַדְּבָר הַקָּטָן  
יִשְׁפֹּטוּ הֵם: (כז) וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה  
אֶת־חֹתָנוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ לוֹ אֶל־אֶרְצוֹ: {פ}

*Source Sheet created on Sefaria by Janet Cohen*