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Shmot 18:1-27

Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, sheik of Midian, heard about all that G-d had done for Moses and His people Israel when he brought Israel out of Egypt...Jethro came together with Moses' wife and sons to the desert, where Moses was staying, near G-d's mountain. He sent word to Moses: "I, your father-in-law, Jethro, am on my way to you, along with your wife. Her two sons are with her." Moses went out to greet his father-in-law, bowing down low and kissing him. They asked about each other's welfare and went into the tent. Moses told his father-in-law about all that G-d had done to Pharaoh and Egypt for the sake of Israel, as well as all the frustrations they had encountered on the way, and how G-d had rescued them. Jethro expressed joy because of all the good that G-d had done for Israel, rescuing them from Egypt's power. He said, "Praised be G-d, who rescued you from the power of Egypt and Pharaoh – who liberated the people from Egypt's power. Now I know that G-d is the greatest of all deities. Through their very plots, He rose above them." Jethro brought burnt offering and other sacrifices to G-d. Aaron and all the elders of Israel came to share the meal with Moses' father-in-law before G-d. The next day Moses sat to judge the people. They stood around Moses from morning to evening. When Moses' father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What are you doing to the people? Why are you sitting by yourself and letting all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" "The people come to me to seek G-d," replied Moses to his father-in-law. "Whenever they have a problem, they come to me. I judge between man and his neighbor, and I teach G-d's decrees and laws." Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. You are going to wear yourself out, along with this nation that is with you. Your responsibility is too great. You cannot

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ כֹּהֵן מִדְיָן חַתֵּן מֹשֶׁה אֵת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים לְמֹשֶׁה וְלְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ כִּי הוֹצִיא ה' אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם... וַיָּבֹא יִתְרוֹ חַתֵּן מֹשֶׁה וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אֶל מֹשֶׁה אֶל הַמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר הוּא חֹנֶה שָׁם הַר הָאֵל קַיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל מֹשֶׁה אֲנִי חַתְנֶךָ יִתְרוֹ בֶּן אֵלֶיךָ וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וּשְׁנֵי בָנָיָהּ עִמָּה: וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה לְקִרְאת חַתְנֵוֹ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ וַיִּשְׂקוּ לוֹ וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ לְשָׁלוֹם וַיָּבֹאוּ הָאֱלֹהִים: וַיֹּסֶפֶר מֹשֶׁה לְחַתְנֵוֹ אֵת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה ה' לְפָרְעֹה וְלַמִּצְרַיִם עַל אֹדֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵת כָּל הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר מִצְּאֲתָם בְּדַרְךָ וַיֵּצֵאֵם ה': וַיַּחֲדֹ יִתְרוֹ עַל כָּל הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה ה' לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הִצִּילוֹ מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר יִתְרוֹ בְּרוּךְ ה' אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וּמִיַּד פְּרַעֲהָ אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶת הָעָם מִתַּחַת יַד מִצְרַיִם: עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי גָדוֹל ה' מְכֹל הָאֵלִים הַיּוֹם כִּי בִדְבַר אֲשֶׁר זָדוּ עֲלֵיהֶם: וַיִּקַּח יִתְרוֹ חַתֵּן מֹשֶׁה עִלָּה וּזְבָחִים לְאֵלֵי קַיִם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֹהֶרֶן וְכָל זַקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאַכֹּל לֶחֶם עִם חַתֵּן מֹשֶׁה לַפְּנֵי הָאֵלִים הַיּוֹם: וַיְהִי מִמָּחֳרָת וַיֹּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה לְשֹׁפֵט אֶת הָעָם וַיַּעֲמֵד הָעָם עַל מֹשֶׁה מִן הַבֹּקֶר עַד הָעֶרֶב: וַיֵּרָא חַתֵּן מֹשֶׁה אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר הוּא עֹשֶׂה לָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר מָה הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה לָעָם מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה יוֹשֵׁב לְבַדְּךָ וְכָל הָעָם נֹצֵב עֲלֶיךָ מִן הַבֹּקֶר עַד הָעֶרֶב: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה לְחַתְנֵוֹ כִּי יָבֹא אֵלַי הָעָם לְדַרְשׁ אֵלַי הַיּוֹם: כִּי יִהְיֶה לָהֶם דְּבָר בָּא אֵלַי וְשִׁפְטֵתִי בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין רֵעֵהוּ וְהוֹדַעְתִּי אֶת חֲקֵי הָאֵלִים קַיִם וְאֶת תּוֹרַתִּי:



do it all alone. Now listen to me. I will give you advice, and G-d will be with you. You must be G-d's representative for the people, and bring their concerns to G-d. Clarify the decrees and laws for the people. Show them the path they must take, and the things they must do. But you must also seek out from among all the people capable, G-d-fearing men – men of truth, who hate injustice. You must then appoint them over the people as leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, and leaders of tens. Let them administer justice for the people on a regular basis. Of course, they will have to bring every major case to you, but they can judge the minor cases by themselves. They will then share the burden, making things easier for you. If you agree to this, and G-d concurs, you will be able to survive. This entire nation will then also be able to attain its goal of peace." Moses took his father-in-law's advice, and did all that he said, He chose capable men from all Israel, and he appointed them as administrators over the people, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, and leaders of tens. They administered justice on a regular basis, bringing the difficult cases to Moses, and judging the simple cases by themselves. Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his homeland.

וַיֹּאמֶר חִתָּן מֹשֶׁה אֵלָיו לֹא טוֹב
הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה עֹשֶׂה: נִבְלָל
תְּבַלְלֵנִי גַם אַתָּה גַם הָעָם הַזֶּה
אֲשֶׁר עִמָּךְ כִּי כָבֵד מִמֶּךָ הַדְּבָר
לֹא אֶתְּוֹכַל עֲשׂוֹהוּ לְבַדְּךָ: עֲתָה
שְׁמַע בְּקוֹלִי אִיעָצְךָ וַיְהִי אֵל קִים
עִמָּךְ הִיָּה אַתָּה לְעַם מוֹלֵךְ
הָאֵל קִים וְהִבֵּאתָ אֶתָּה אֶת
הַדְּבָרִים אֵל הָאֵל קִים: וְהַזְהַרְתָּה
אֶתָּה אֶת הַחֲקִים וְאֶת הַתּוֹרֹת
וְהוֹדַעְתָּ לָהֶם אֶת הַדֶּרֶךְ יִלְכוּ בָּהּ
וְאֶת הַמַּעֲשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשׂוּ: וְאֶתָּה
תִּתְּנָה מִכָּל הָעָם אֲנָשִׁי חֵיל יִרְאִי
אֵל הַיָּמִים אֲנָשִׁי אֲמֵת שְׂנֵי בְּצַעַע
וְשִׁמְתָּ עֲלֵהֶם שְׂרֵי אֱלֹפִים שְׂרֵי
מֵאוֹת שְׂרֵי חֲמִשִּׁים וְשְׂרֵי עֶשְׂרֵי ת:
וְשִׁפְטוּ אֶת הָעָם בְּכֹל עֵת וְהָיָה כָּל
הַדְּבָר הַגָּדוֹל יָבִיאוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְכֹל
הַדְּבָר הַקָּטָן יִשְׁפְּטוּ הֵם וְהִקְלֵךְ
מֵעַלְיָךְ וְנִשְׂאוּ אֶתָּךְ: אִם אֶת
הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה תַּעֲשֶׂה וְצִוְּךָ אֵל קִים
וְיִכְלַת עִמָּךְ וְגַם כָּל הָעָם הַזֶּה עַל
מִקְמוֹ יִבְאֵהוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם: וַיִּשְׁמַע
מֹשֶׁה לְקוֹל חִתָּנוּ וַיַּעַשׂ כֹּל אֲשֶׁר
אָמַר: וַיִּבְחַר מֹשֶׁה אֲנָשִׁי חֵיל
מִכָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָם רֵאשִׁים
עַל הָעָם שְׂרֵי אֱלֹפִים שְׂרֵי מֵאוֹת
שְׂרֵי חֲמִשִּׁים וְשְׂרֵי עֶשְׂרֵי ת: וְשִׁפְטוּ
אֶת הָעָם בְּכֹל עֵת אֶת הַדְּבָר
הַקָּטָן יִבְיִאוּ אֵל מֹשֶׁה וְכֹל
הַדְּבָר הַקָּטָן יִשְׁפְּטוּ הֵם: וַיִּשְׁלַח
מֹשֶׁה אֶת חִתָּנוּ וַיֵּלֶךְ לוֹ אֶל
אֶרְצוֹ:



Breishit 14:8-17

The king of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Tzevoyim, and Bela Tzoar marched forth. They set up battle lines in Siddim Valley, against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Todal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar. They were four kings against five. Siddim Valley was full of tar pits, and when the king of Sodom and Gomorrah tried to flee, they fell into them. The others fled to the mountains. The victors seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all the food, and they departed. When they left, they also took Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he had been living in Sodom. Those who escaped came and brought the news to Abram the Hebrew, who was living undisturbed in the plains of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshkol and Aner. They were Abraham's allies. When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he called out all his 318 fighting men who had been born in his house. He hurried after the invaders catching up with them in Dan. He divided his forces against them and attacked that night – he and his servants. He attacked, and pursued the invaders as far as Chovah, which is to the left of Damascus. Abram brought back all the property. He also brought back his kinsman Lot and all his goods, along with the women and the other people. After he returned from his victory over Chedorlaomer and his allied kings, the king of Sodom came out to greet him in Level Valley (now King's Valley).

וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ סֹדֵם וּמֶלֶךְ עִמֹרָה
וּמֶלֶךְ אֲדָמָה וּמֶלֶךְ צִבְיִים צְבֹיִם
וּמֶלֶךְ בְּלַע הוּא צֶ'עַר וַיַּעֲרְכוּ
אֹתָם מִלְחָמָה בְּעֵמֶק הַשְּׂדִימִים:
אֶת כְּדָרְלֵעַמֶר מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם
וְתִדְעֵל מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם וְאַמְרָפֶל מֶלֶךְ
שִׁנְעָר וְאַרְיוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֵלְסָר
אַרְבַּעַה מְלָכִים אֶת הַחֲמִשָּׁה:
וַעֲמַק הַשְּׂדִימִים בְּאֶרֶת בְּאֶרֶת
חֲמָר וַיִּנְסוּ מֶלֶךְ סֹדֵם וְעִמֹרָה
וַיִּפְּלוּ שָׁמָּה וְהַנְּשָׂאִים הָרָה
וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת כָּל רֶכֶשׁ סֹדֵם נָסוּ:
וְעִמֹרָה וְאֶת כָּל אֲכָלָם וַיִּלְכוּ:
וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת לוֹט וְאֶת רֶכְשׁוֹ בֶן אָחִי
אַבְרָם וַיִּלְכוּ וְהוּא יָשַׁב בְּסֹדֵם:
וַיְבֹא הַפְּלִיט וַיִּגְדֵּל לְאַבְרָם
הָעֵבֶרִי וְהוּא שְׁכֵן בְּאֵלֹנֵי
מְמָרָה הָאֲמֹרִי אָחִי אֲשֶׁר לִי
וְאָחִי עֵנֶר וְהֵם בְּעֵלֵי בְרִית
וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם כִּי נִשְׁבָּה אַבְרָם:
אָחִיו וַיִּרַק אֶת חֲנִיכָיו יְלִידֵי בֵיתוֹ
שְׁמֹנֶה עָשָׂר וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת
וַיִּרְדֹּף עַד דָּן: וַיַּחְלֶק עֲלֵיהֶם
לַיְלָה הוּא וְעַבְדָּיו וַיִּנְצֵם וַיִּרְדְּפֵם
עַד חֻבָּה אֲשֶׁר מִשְׁמַל אֵל
וַיִּשָׁב אֶת כָּל הָרֶכֶשׁ לְדַמְשֶׁק:
וְגַם אֶת לוֹט אָחִיו וְרֶכְשׁוֹ הֵשִׁיב
וְגַם אֶת הַנְּשִׂים וְאֶת הָעָם: וַיֵּצֵא
מֶלֶךְ סֹדֵם לִקְרָאתוֹ אַחֲרֵי שׁוּבוֹ
מִהַפּוֹת אֶת כְּדָרְלֵעַמֶר וְאֶת
הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ אֶל עֲמַק
שׁוּיָה הוּא עֲמַק הַמֶּלֶךְ:



Bamidbar 32:1-22

The descendants of Reuben and Gad had an extremely large number of animals, and they saw that the Ya'azer and Gilead areas were good for livestock. They therefore presented the following petition to Moses, Elazar the priest, and the community princes: "Ataroth, Divon, Ya'azer, Nimrah, Cheshbon, El'aleh, Sevam, Nebo and Be'on of the land that G-d has struck down before the Israelite community is livestock land - and we have livestock." They said: "If you would grant us a favor, let this land be given to us as our permanent property, and do not bring us across the Jordan". Moses said to the descendants of Reuben and Gad: "Why should your brothers go out and fight while you stay here? Why are you trying to discourage the Israelites from crossing over to the land that God has given them? This is the same thing your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to see the land. They went as far as Cluster Valley to see the land, but then they discouraged the Israelites from coming to the land that God gave them. God displayed His anger that day and swore, none of the men over 20 years old who left Egypt will see the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, since they did not follow Me wholeheartedly. The only exceptions shall be Caleb son of Yefuneh the Kenizite and Joshua son of Nun, because they followed God wholeheartedly. God displayed anger against Israel, and He made them wander forty years in the desert, until the generation that had done evil in God's eyes had died out. Now you are trying to take your fathers' place as a band of sinners, and bring yet more of God's wrath against Israel. You will dissuade them from following Him, and He will once again leave us in the desert. Then you will have destroyed this nation completely!" The Reubenites and Gaddites approached Moses and said: "We will build enclosures for our sheep here and cities for our children. But

וּמִקְנֵה רֶבֶב, הַ לְבָנֵי רְאוּבֵן וְלְבָנֵי-גַד--עֲצוּם מְאֹד; וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת-אֶרֶץ יַעֲזֵר, וְאֶת-אֶרֶץ גִּלְעָד, וְהִנֵּה הַמְּקוֹם, מְקוֹם מִקְנֵה וַיְבִאוּ בְנֵי-גַד, וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן; וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן, וְאֶל-נְשִׂיאֵי הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר עֲטֹרוֹת וְדִבְרֵי יַעֲזֵר וְנִמְרָה, וְחֶשְׁבוֹן וְאֶלְעֵלָה, וְשֵׁבַם וְנָבו, וְהָאֶרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר הִכָּה ה' וּבְעֵין לִפְנֵי עַדְתְּ יִשְׂרָאֵל--אֶרֶץ מִקְנֵה, וַיֹּאמְרוּ, הוּא; וְלַעֲבָדֶיךָ, מִקְנֵה. אִם-מִצְאֵנוּ חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ--יִתֵּן אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת לַעֲבָדֶיךָ, לְאֶחְזָה: אֶל-תַּעֲבִרְנוּ, אֶת-יְיָ אֱמֹר מֹשֶׁה, לְבָנֵי-גַד רָדוּן וְלְבָנֵי רְאוּבֵן: הֲאֵחִיכֶם, יְבִאוּ לְמַלְחָמָה, וְאַתֶּם, תִּשְׁבּוּ וְלִמָּה תִּנְאוּן, אֶת-לֵב בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--מֵעַבָר, אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ, כִּי עָשׂוּ, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן לָהֶם, ה' אֲבֹתֵיכֶם, בְּשַׁלְחֵי אֶתֶם מִקְדָּשׁ וַיַּעֲלוּ. בִּרְנֹעַ, לְרֹאוֹת אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ עַד-נַחַל אֲשְׁכּוֹל, וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ, וַיִּנְיִאוּ, אֶת-לֵב בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--לְבַלְתִּי-בֹא, אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ, וַיַּחַר-אֵף ה'. אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן לָהֶם, ה' ה', בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא; וַיִּשְׁבַּע, אִם-וַיִּרְאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים, לֵאמֹר הֵעָלִים מִמִּצְרַיִם, מִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְיָמַעְלָה, אֶת הָאֲדָמָה, אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לֵיחֹק וְלֵיעֶקֶב: כִּי לֹא-מְלֹאוּ, בְּלִתי כָּלֵב בֶּן-יִפְנֹה, אֲחֵרֵי הַקְּדוֹזִי, וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-נּוּן: כִּי מְלֹאוּ, וַיַּחַר-אֵף ה', אֲחֵרֵי ה' בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיִּנְעַם בַּמִּדְבָּר, אַרְבַּעִים שָׁנָה--עַד-תִּמְּ, כָּל-הַדּוֹר, וְהִנֵּה הַעֲשָׂה הָרַע, בְּעֵינֵי ה' קָמְתָם, תַּחַת אֲבֹתֵיכֶם--תַּרְבוֹת, אֲנָשִׁים חֲטָאִים: לְסִפּוֹת עוֹד, עַל כִּי חָרוֹן-אָף-ה'--אֶל-יִשְׂרָאֵל



we will then arm ourselves and go as an advance guard before the other Israelites, until we have brought them to their homeland. Because of the area's inhabitants, our children will remain in fortified cities, but we ourselves will not return home until every Israelite had taken possession of his hereditary property. We, however, will not take possession with them on the far side of the Jordan, since our inheritance shall come to us on the Jordan's eastern bank". Moses said to them: "If you do that and go forth as a special force ahead of your brothers, your petition will be granted. Your entire special force must cross the Jordan before God, and fight until He has driven His enemies before Him. When the land is then conquered before God, you may return home, and you will be free of any obligation before God and Israel. This land will then be yours as your permanent property before God."

תְּשׁוּבוּ, מֵאַחֲרָיו, וַיִּסַּף עוֹד,
לְהַנִּיחַו בְּמִדְבָּר; וְשַׁחַתְתֶּם, לְכָל-
וַיִּגְשׁוּ אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ, הָעַם הַזֶּה.
גְּדֵרֹת צֹאן נִבְנְוּ לְמִקְנֵנוּ פֹה,
וְאֲנַחְנוּ נִחְלָץ. וְעָרִים, לְטַפְנוּ
חֲשִׁים, לְפָנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, עַד אֲשֶׁר
אִם-הִבִּיא נָם, אֶל-מְקוֹמָם; וַיֵּשֶׁב
טַפְנוּ בְּעָרֵי הַמְּבֻצָּר, מִפְּנֵי יִשְׁבֵי
לֹא נָשׁוּב, אֶל-בְּתִינוּ-- הָאָרֶץ.
עַד, הַתְּנַחַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אִישׁ,
כִּי לֹא נִנְחַל אִתָּם, נִחְלָתוּ
מֵעֵבֶר לַיַּרְדֵּן וְהִלָּאָה: כִּי בָּאָה
נִחְלָתְנוּ אֵלֵינוּ, מֵעֵבֶר רִדְן
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם מֹשֶׁה, מִזְרָחָה.
אִם-תַּעֲשׂוּן אֶת-הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה: אִם-
תִּחְלְצוּ לְפָנֵי ה',
וְעֵבֶר לָכֶם כָּל-חִלּוּץ. לְמַלְחָמָה
אֶת-רִדְן, לְפָנֵי ה', עַד הוֹרִישׁוּ
וְנִכְבְּשָׁה. אֶת-אֲיָבִיו, מִפְּנֵיו
הָאָרֶץ לְפָנֵי ה', וְאַחַר תֵּשְׁבוּ--
וַיְתֵם נְקִיִּים מֵה', וּמִיִּשְׂרָאֵל; וְתָה
הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לָכֶם, לְאַחֲזָה--
לְפָנֵי ה'.