

# Exodus 18:1-20:26 Yitro Expanded Chiasm



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**1A) 18:1-27 YHVH IS GREATER** than all the gods; {p}

**1a) 18:1-6 Jethro arrived to Moses;**

**1a) 18:1-3a** Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel His people; how YHVH had brought Israel out of Egypt. **2** And **Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife**, after he had sent her away, **3 and her two sons;**

**1b) 18:3b** Of whom **the name of the one was Gershom**; for he said: 'I have been a stranger in a strange land;'

**2b) 18:4** And **the name of the other was Eliezer**: 'For the God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh;'

**2a) 18:5-6 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' wife and her two sons;**

**1A) 18:5A** And **JETHRO, MOSES' FATHER-IN-LAW**, came with **HIS SONS AND HIS WIFE** to Moses;

**CENTRAL AXIS) 18:5B** INTO THE WILDERNESS WHERE HE WAS ENCAMPED, AT THE MOUNT OF GOD;

**2A) 18:6** And he said to Moses: '**I YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW JETHRO AM COMING TO YOU, AND YOUR WIFE, AND HER TWO SONS** with her;'

**1b.1) 18:7** And **Moses went out to meet his father-in-law**, and bowed down and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent;

**1b.2) 18:8** And **Moses told his father-in-law all that YHVH had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians** for Israel's sake, all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how YHVH delivered them; [*i.e., All that YHVH had done to judge Pharaoh and the Egyptians*];

**1c) 18:9-10** And **Jethro rejoiced** for all the goodness which YHVH had done to Israel, in that He had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians. **10** And **Jethro said: 'Blessed be YHVH**, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh; who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians;

**central axis) 18:11** Now I know that YHVH is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them;'

**2c) 18:12a** And **Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God;**

**2b.1) 18:12b** And **Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law** before God;

**2b.2) 18:13-26** Jethro told Moses how to judge the people;

**1a) 18:13-14** **Jethro observed Moses judging alone;**

**1A) 18:13** And it came to pass on the morrow, that **MOSES SAT** to judge the people; and **THE PEOPLE STOOD ABOUT MOSES FROM THE MORNING TO THE EVENING;**

**CENTRAL AXIS) 18:14A** AND WHEN **MOSES' FATHER-IN-LAW** SAW ALL THAT HE DID FOR THE PEOPLE, HE SAID: 'WHAT IS THIS THING THAT YOU DO FOR THE PEOPLE?'

**2A) 18:14B** Why do **YOU SIT** alone, and all **THE PEOPLE STAND ABOUT YOU FROM MORNING UNTIL EVENING?'**

**1b) 18:15-16** And Moses said to his father-in-law: 'Because *the people come to me to inquire of God*; **16** *when they have a matter*, it comes to me; and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and *I make them know the statutes of God, and His laws*;

**1c) 18:17a** And *Moses' father-in-law said* to him;

**1d) 18:17b** ' *The thing that you are doing is not good*;

**central axis) 18:18a** *You will surely wear away, both you, and this people that is with you*;

**2d) 18:18b** For *the thing is too heavy for you*; you are not able to perform it yourself alone;

**2c) 18:19a** *Pay heed now to my voice*, I will give you counsel, and God be with you;

**2b) 18:19b-20** Stand before God for the people, and *bring their cases to God*. **20** And *you shall teach them the statutes and the laws*, and shall show them the way in which they must walk, and the work that they must do;

**2a) 18:21-26** *Jethro counseled Moses to choose able men to help bear the burden of judging*;

**1A.1) 18:21** Moreover **YOU SHALL SELECT OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE ABLE MEN**, such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain; and place such over them, to be **RULERS OF THOUSANDS, RULERS OF HUNDREDS, RULERS OF FIFTIES**, and **RULERS OF TENS**;

**1A.2) 18:22A** And let them **JUDGE THE PEOPLE AT ALL SEASONS**;

**1A.3) 18:22B** And it shall be, that **EVERY GREAT MATTER THEY SHALL BRING TO YOU**, but **EVERY SMALL MATTER THEY SHALL JUDGE THEMSELVES**;

**1B) 18:22C** So **THEY SHALL MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU** and bear the burden with you;

**CENTRAL AXIS) 18:23A** **IF YOU SHALL DO THIS THING, AND GOD COMMAND YOU SO**;

**2B) 18:23B** Then **YOU SHALL BE ABLE TO ENDURE**, and all this people also shall go to their place in peace;'

**2A.1) 18:24-25** So Moses paid heed to the voice of his father-in-law, and did all that he had said. **25** And **MOSES CHOSE ABLE MEN OUT OF ALL ISRAEL**, and made them heads over the people, **RULERS OF THOUSANDS, RULERS OF HUNDREDS, RULERS OF FIFTIES**, and **RULERS OF TENS**;

**2A.2) 18:26A** And they **JUDGED THE PEOPLE AT ALL SEASONS**;

**2A.3) 18:26B** **THE HARD CASES THEY BROUGHT TO MOSES**, but **EVERY SMALL MATTER THEY JUDGED THEMSELVES**;

**2a) 18:27** And **Moses let his father-in-law depart**; and he went his way into his own land; {p}

**1B) 19:1-25 MOSES, THE MEDIATOR** of the marriage covenant between God and Israel;

**1a) 19:1-7a Covenant proposed**;

*1a) 19:1-3a Moses went up to God*;

**1A) 19:1** In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, **THEY CAME TO THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI**;

**CENTRAL AXIS) 19:2A** **AND WHEN THEY HAD DEPARTED FROM REPHIDIM**;

**2A) 19:2B-3A** And **HAD COME TO THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI**, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mount. **3** And Moses went up to God;

*1b) 19:3b* And YHVH called to him out of the mountain, saying: ‘*Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob*, and tell the children of Israel;

*1c) 19:4* “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how *I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself*;

*central axis) 19:5a* *Now therefore, if you will indeed pay heed to My voice and keep My covenant*;

*2c) 19:5b-6a* Then *you shall be My own special treasure from among all peoples*; for all the earth is Mine. **6** And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation;

*2b) 19:6b* These are the words which *you shall speak to the children of Israel*;

*2a) 19:7a* So *Moses came [i.e., down]* and called for *the elders of the people*;

**1b) 19:7b** And set before them **all these words which YHVH commanded** him;

**1c) 19:8a** And all **the people answered** together, and said;

**central axis) 19:8b** ‘**All that YHVH has spoken, we will do**;

 [i.e., *The covenant was accepted*];

**2c) 19:8c-9a** And Moses reported **the words of the people** to YHVH. **9** And YHVH said to Moses: ‘Lo, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever;’

**2b) 19:9b** And **Moses told the words of the people** to YHVH;

**2a) 19:10-25 Covenant consecrated;**

**1a) 19:10-15** Consecration commanded and **boundaries set**, to meet with God on the third day;

**1A) 19:10-11A** And YHVH said to Moses: '**GO TO THE PEOPLE**, and **SANCTIFY THEM** today and tomorrow, and let them **WASH THEIR GARMENTS**, **11** and **BE READY AGAINST THE THIRD DAY**;

**1B) 19:11B** For on the third day **YHVH WILL COME DOWN** in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai;

**CENTRAL AXIS) 19:12-13A** **AND YOU SHALL SET BOUNDS FOR THE PEOPLE ROUND ABOUT, SAYING: "TAKE HEED TO YOURSELVES, THAT YOU DO NOT GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN, OR TOUCH THE BORDER OF IT; WHOEVER TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN SHALL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH; 13 NO HAND SHALL TOUCH HIM, BUT HE SHALL SURELY BE STONED, OR SHOT THROUGH; WHETHER IT BE BEAST OR MAN, HE SHALL NOT LIVE;"**

**2B) 19:13B** When the ram's horn sounds long, **THEY SHALL COME UP** to the mountain;'

**2A) 19:14-15** And **MOSES WENT** down from the mountain **TO THE PEOPLE**, and **SANCTIFIED THE PEOPLE**; and they **WASHED THEIR GARMENTS**. **15** And he said to the people: '**BE READY AGAINST THE THIRD DAY**; do not come near a woman;'

**1b) 19:16a** And it came to pass on the third day, when it was morning, that there were **thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain**;

**1c) 19:16b** And **the voice of a trumpet horn exceedingly loud**;

**1d) 19:16c-17** And **all the people** that were in the camp **trembled**. **17** And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet God; and they stood at the foot of the mountain;

**1e) 19:18a** Now Mount Sinai was altogether **in smoke**;

**central axis) 19:18b** **Because YHVH descended upon it in fire**;

**2e) 19:18c** And **its smoke ascended** as the smoke of a furnace;

**2d) 19:18d** And **the whole mountain quaked** greatly;

**2c) 19:19a** And when **the voice of the trumpet horn waxed louder and louder**;

**2b) 19:19b-20a** Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. **20** And **YHVH came down upon Mount Sinai**, to the top of the mountain;

**2a) 19:20b-25** Warning to maintain the **boundaries set** around the holy mountain;

1A) 19:20B And YHVH called Moses to the top of the mountain; and **MOSES WENT UP**;

1B) 19:21-22 And **YHVH SAID TO MOSES**: ‘**GO DOWN**, charge **THE PEOPLE**, lest they **BREAK THROUGH TO** gaze upon **YHVH**, and many of them perish. 22 And **LET THE PRIESTS** also, that come near to YHVH, sanctify themselves, **LEST YHVH BREAK FORTH UPON THEM**;”

CENTRAL AXIS) 19:23 AND **MOSES SAID TO YHVH**: “**THE PEOPLE CANNOT COME UP TO MOUNT SINAI**; FOR YOU CHARGED US, SAYING: “**SET BOUNDS ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN, AND SANCTIFY IT**;”

2B) 19:24 And **YHVH SAID TO HIM**: ‘**GO, GET DOWN**, and you shall come up, you, and Aaron with you; but **LET NOT THE PRIESTS** and **THE PEOPLE BREAK THROUGH TO** come up to **YHVH**, **LEST HE BREAK FORTH UPON THEM**;’

2A) 19:25 So **MOSES WENT DOWN** to the people, and told them; {s}

CENTRAL AXIS) 20:1-17 **GOD SPOKE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**;  
{s+s+p +sx7+p}

1a) 20:1-6 Keep the sanctity of YHVH’s worship; [*i.e.*, 1st and 2nd commandments preserve the **attachment of our hearts** to YHVH];

1a.1) 20:1-2 And God spoke all these words, saying: {s} 2 ‘**I am YHVH your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage;

1a.2) 20:3 **You shall have no other gods before Me**;

1b) 20:4a **You shall not make a graven image for yourselves**, nor any manner of likeness;

central axis) 20:4b **Of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth**;

2b) 20:5a **You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them**;

2a.1) 20:5b For **I YHVH your God am**;

2a.2) 20:5c-6 **A jealous God El**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; 6 and showing mercy to the thousandth generation of them that love Me and keep My commandments; {s}

1b) 20:7 You shall not take the name of YHVH your God in vain; for YHVH will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain; {p} [*i.e.*, 3rd commandment preserves the sanctity of YHVH’s name, thus preserving the **reliability of oaths made in YHVH’s name**];

1c) 20:8-11 Keep the sanctity of YHVH’s Sabbath; {s} [*i.e.*, 4th commandment safeguards our health, and preserves **YHVH’s right to His appointments with His creation**];

1a) 20:8 **Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy**;

*1b) 20:9-10a Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 But **the seventh day is a Sabbath** to YHVH your God;*

*central axis) 20:10b In it you shall not do any manner of work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates;*

*2b) 20:11a For **in six days YHVH made heaven and earth**, the sea, and all that is in them, and **rested on the seventh day**;*

*2a) 20:11b Therefore **YHVH blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it**; {s}*

**1d) 20:12** Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long on the land which YHVH your God gives you; {s} [*i.e.*, 5th commandment preserves the sanctity of parental respect and authority, thus **preserving family integrity**];

**central axis) 20:13** You shall not murder; {s} [*i.e.*, 6th commandment preserves the sanctity of life];

**2d) 20:14** You shall not commit adultery; {s} [*i.e.*, 7th commandment preserves the sanctity of marital intimacy, thus **preserving family integrity**];

**2c) 20:15** You shall not steal; {s} [*i.e.*, 8th commandment preserves the **sanctity of ownership**];

**2b) 20:16** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor; {s} [*i.e.*, 9th commandment preserves the **sanctity of truth**];

**2a) 20:17** Keep the **sanctity of the heart's affections**; {s+p}

*1a) 20:17a* You shall not covet your neighbor's **house**; {s}

*central axis) 20:17b* **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife**;

*2a) 20:17c* Nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's; {p} [*i.e.*, **His household**];

**2B) 20:18-21** '**MOSES, MEDIATE** between us and God lest we die;'

**1a) 20:18a** And all the people perceived **the thunderings**, and **the lightnings**, and **the voice of the trumpet horn**, and **the mountain smoking**;

**1b) 20:18b** And when **the people** saw it, they trembled, and **stood afar off**;

**1c) 20:19-20a** And they said to Moses: 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.' **20** And Moses said to the people: '**Fear not**;

**central axis) 20:20b** For **God is come to prove you**;

**2c) 20:20c** And that **His fear may be before you**, that you sin not;'

**2b) 20:21a** And **the people stood afar off**;

**2a) 20:21b** But Moses drew near to **the thick darkness** where God was; {s}

**2A) 20:22-26** Preserve **THE SANCTITY OF YHVH'S WORSHIP** and altar;

**1a) 20:22** And YHVH said to Moses: ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: “You yourselves have seen that **I have talked with you from heaven**; [*i.e., I have come down to you*];

**1b) 20:23** **You shall not make** anything with Me—gods of silver, or gods of gold, **you shall not make** for yourselves;

**1c) 20:24a** **An altar of earth you shall make** for Me, and shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings, and your peace offerings, your sheep, and your oxen;

**central axis) 20:24b** In every place where I cause My name to be mentioned, **I will come to you and bless you**;

**2c) 20:25a** And if you **make** Me **an altar of stone**, you shall not build it of hewn stones;

**2b) 20:25b** For if you **lift up your tool** on it, you have **profaned** it;

**2a) 20:26** Neither shall you **go up by steps to My altar**, that your nakedness may not be uncovered on it;” [*i.e., You shall not go up to Me*]. {p}