

Yitro

Exodus 18:1 – 20:23

Isaiah 6:1 – 7, 9:5 - 6

Matthew 5:21 – 30, 15:1 – 11, Luke 18:18 – 30, Acts 6:1 – 7, Romans 2:17 - 29

Complete Jewish Bible

Exodus 18

1 Now Yitro the priest of Midyan, Moshe's father-in-law, heard about all that God had done for Moshe and for Isra'el his people, how ADONAI had brought Isra'el out of Egypt. **2** After Moshe had sent away his wife Tziporah and her two sons, Yitro Moshe's father-in-law had taken them back. **3** The name of the one son was Gershom [a foreigner there], for Moshe had said, "I have been a foreigner in a foreign land." **4** The name of the other was Eli'ezer [my God helps], "because the God of my father helped me by rescuing me from Pharaoh's sword." **5** Yitro Moshe's father-in-law brought Moshe's sons and wife to him in the desert where he was encamped, at the mountain of God. **6** He sent word to Moshe, "I, your father-in-law Yitro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons."

7 Moshe went out to meet his father-in-law, prostrated himself and kissed him. Then, after inquiring of each other's welfare, they entered the tent. **8** Moshe told his father-in-law all that ADONAI had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Isra'el's sake, all the hardships they had suffered while traveling and how ADONAI had rescued them. **9** Yitro rejoiced over all the good that ADONAI had done for Isra'el by rescuing them from the Egyptians. **10** Yitro said, "Blessed be ADONAI, who has rescued you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh, who has rescued the people from the harsh hand of the Egyptians. **11** Now I know that ADONAI is greater than all other gods, because he rescued those who were treated so arrogantly." **12** Yitro Moshe's father-in-law brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aharon came with all the leaders of Isra'el to share the meal before God with Moshe's father-in-law.

13 The following day Moshe sat to settle disputes for the people, while the people stood around Moshe from morning till evening. **14** When Moshe's father-in-law saw all that he was doing to the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing to the people? Why do you sit there alone, with all the people standing around you from morning till evening?" **15** Moshe answered his father-in-law, "It's because the people come to me seeking God's guidance. **16** Whenever they have a dispute, it comes to me; I judge between one person and another, and I explain to them God's laws and teachings." **17** Moshe's father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing isn't good. **18** You will certainly wear yourself out - and not only yourself, but these people here with you as well. It's too much for you - you can't do it alone, by yourself. **19** So listen now to what I have to say. I will give you some advice, and God will be with you. You should represent the people before God, and you should bring their cases to God. **20** You should also teach them the laws and the teachings, and show them how to live their lives and what work they should do. **21** But you should choose from among all the people competent men who are God-fearing, honest and incorruptible to be their leaders, in charge of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. **22** Normally, they will settle the people's disputes. They should bring you the difficult cases; but ordinary matters they should decide themselves. In this way, they will make it easier for you and share the load with you. **23** If you do this - and God is directing you to do it - you will be able to endure; and all these people too will arrive at their destination peacefully." **24** Moshe paid attention to his father-in-law's counsel and did everything he said. **25** Moshe chose competent men from all Isra'el and made them heads over the people, in charge of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. **26** As a general rule, they settled the people's disputes - the difficult cases they brought to Moshe, but every simple matter they decided themselves. **27** Then Moshe let his father-in-law leave, and he went off to his own country.

Exodus 19

1 In the third month after the people of Isra'el had left the land of Egypt, the same day they came to the Sinai Desert. **2** After setting out from Refidim and arriving at the Sinai Desert, they set up camp in the desert; there in front of the mountain, Isra'el set up camp. **3** Moshe went up to God, and ADONAI called to him from the mountain: "Here is what you are to say to the household of Ya'akov, to tell the people of Isra'el: **4** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant, then you will be my own treasure from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine; **6** and you will be a kingdom of cohanim for me, a nation set apart. These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el." **7** Moshe came, summoned the leaders of the people and presented them with all these words which ADONAI had ordered him to say. **8** All the people answered as one, "Everything ADONAI has said, we will do." Moshe reported the words of the people to ADONAI.

9 ADONAI said to Moshe, "See, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, so that the people will be able to hear when I speak with you and also to trust in you forever." Moshe had told ADONAI what the people had said; **10** so ADONAI said to Moshe, "Go to the people; today and tomorrow separate them for me by having them wash their clothing; **11** and prepare for the third day. For on the third day, ADONAI will come down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people. **12** You are to set limits for the people all around; and say, 'Be careful not to go up on the mountain or even touch its base; whoever touches the mountain will surely be put to death. **13** No hand is to touch him; for he must be stoned or shot by arrows; neither animal nor human will be allowed to live.' When the shofar sounds, they may go up on the mountain." **14** Moshe went down from the mountain to the people and separated the people for God, and they washed their clothing. **15** He said to the people, "Prepare for the third day; don't approach a woman."

16 On the morning of the third day, there was thunder, lightning and a thick cloud on the mountain. Then a shofar blast sounded so loudly that all the people in the camp trembled. **17** Moshe brought the people out of the camp to meet God; they stood near the base of the mountain. **18** Mount Sinai was enveloped in smoke, because ADONAI descended onto it in fire -its smoke went up like the smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. **19** As the sound of the shofar grew louder and louder, Moshe spoke; and God answered him with a voice. **20** ADONAI came down onto Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; then ADONAI called Moshe to the top of the mountain; and Moshe went up. **21** ADONAI said to Moshe, "Go down and warn the people not to force their way through to ADONAI to see him; if they do, many of them will perish. **22** Even the cohanim, who are allowed to approach ADONAI, must keep themselves holy; otherwise, ADONAI may break out against them." **23** Moshe said to ADONAI, "The people can't come up to Mount Sinai, because you ordered us to set limits around the mountain and separate it." **24** But ADONAI answered him, "Go, get down! Then come back up, you and Aharon with you. But don't let the cohanim and the people force their way through to come up to ADONAI, or he will break out against them." **25** So Moshe went down to the people and told them.

Exodus 20

1 Then God said all these words: **2** "I am ADONAI your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery. **3** "You are to have no other gods before me. **4** You are not to make for yourselves a carved image or any kind of representation of anything in heaven above, on the earth beneath or in the water below the shoreline. **5** You are not to bow down to them or serve them; for I, ADONAI your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, **6** but displaying grace to the thousandth generation of those who love me and obey my mitzvot. **7** "You are not to use lightly the name of ADONAI your God, because ADONAI will not leave unpunished someone who uses his name lightly. **8** "Remember the day, Shabbat, to set it apart for God. **9** You have six days to labor and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Shabbat for ADONAI your God. On it, you are not to do any kind of work -not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside

the gates to your property. **11** For in six days, ADONAI made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. This is why ADONAI blessed the day, Shabbat, and separated it for himself. v

12 "Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land which ADONAI your God is giving you. u **13** "Do not murder. **14** "Do not commit adultery. **15** "Do not steal. **16** "Do not give false evidence against your neighbor. **17** "Do not covet your neighbor's house; do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox, his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

18 All the people experienced the thunder, the lightning, the sound of the shofar, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled. Standing at a distance, **19** they said to Moshe, "You, speak with us; and we will listen. But don't let God speak with us, or we will die." **20** Moshe answered the people, "Don't be afraid, because God has come only to test you and make you fear him, so that you won't commit sins." **21** So the people stood at a distance, but Moshe approached the thick darkness where God was. (A: Maftir)

22 ADONAI said to Moshe, "Here is what you are to say to the people of Isra'el: 'You yourselves have seen that I spoke with you from heaven. **23** You are not to make with me gods of silver, nor are you to make gods of gold for yourselves. **24** For me you need make only an altar of earth; on it you will sacrifice your burnt offerings, peace offerings, sheep, goats and cattle. In every place where I cause my name to be mentioned, I will come to you and bless you. **25** If you do make me an altar of stone, you are not to build it of cut stones; for if you use a tool on it, you profane it. **26** Likewise, you are not to use steps to go up to my altar; so that you won't be indecently uncovered.'"

Isaiah 6:1 – 7

1 In the year of King 'Uziah's death I saw Adonai sitting on a high, lofty throne! The hem of his robe filled the temple. **2** S'rafim stood over him, each with six wings - two for covering his face, two for covering his feet and two for flying. **3** They were crying out to each other, "More holy than the holiest holiness is ADONAI-Tzva'ot! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" **4** The doorposts shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 Then I said, "Woe to me! I [too] am doomed! because I, a man with unclean lips, living among a people with unclean lips, have seen with my own eyes the King, ADONAI-Tzva'ot!" **6** One of the s'rafim flew to me with a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** He touched my mouth with it and said, "Here! This has touched your lips. Your iniquity is gone, your sin is atoned for."

Isaiah 9:5 – 6

5 For all the boots of soldiers marching and every cloak rolled in blood is destined for burning, fuel for the fire. **6** For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; dominion will rest on his shoulders, and he will be given the name Pele-Yo'etz El Gibbor Avi-'Ad Sar-Shalom [Wonder of a Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace],

Matthew 5:21 – 30

21 "You have heard that our fathers were told, 'Do not murder,' and that anyone who commits murder will be subject to judgment. **22** But I tell you that anyone who nurses anger against his brother will be subject to judgment; that whoever calls his brother, 'You good-for-nothing!' will be brought before the Sanhedrin; that whoever says, 'Fool!' incurs the penalty of burning in the fire of Gei-Hinnom! **23** So if you are offering your gift at the Temple altar and you remember there that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your gift where it is by the altar, and go, make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift. **25** If someone sues you, come to terms with him quickly, while you and he are on the way to court; or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer of the court, and you may be thrown in jail! **26** Yes indeed! I tell you, you will certainly not get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 "You have heard that our fathers were told, 'Do not commit adultery.'" **28** But I tell you that a man who even looks at a woman with the purpose of lusting after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye makes you sin, gouge it out and throw it away! Better that you should lose one part of you than have your whole body thrown into Gei-Hinnom. **30** And if your right hand makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away! Better that you should lose one part of you than have your whole body thrown into Gei-Hinnom.

Matthew 15:1 – 11

1 Then some P'rushim and Torah-teachers from Yerushalayim came to Yeshua and asked him, **2** "Why is it that your talmidim break the Tradition of the Elders? They don't do n'tilat-yadayim before they eat!" **3** He answered, "Indeed, why do you break the command of God by your tradition? **4** For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' **5** But you say, 'If anyone says to his father or mother, "I have promised to give to God what I might have used to help you," **6** then he is rid of his duty to honor his father or mother.' Thus by your tradition you make null and void the word of God! **7** You hypocrites! Yesha`yahu was right when he prophesied about you, **8** 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me. **9** Their worship of me is useless, because they teach man-made rules as if they were doctrines.'"

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand this! **11** What makes a person unclean is not what goes into his mouth; rather, what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean!"

Luke 18:18 – 30

18 One of the leaders asked him, "Good rabbi, what should I do to obtain eternal life?" **19** Yeshua said to him, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good but God! **20** You know the mitzvot -- 'Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't give false testimony, honor your father and mother, . . .'" **21** He replied, "I have kept all these since I was a boy." **22** On hearing this Yeshua said to him, "There is one thing you still lack. Sell whatever you have, distribute the proceeds to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me!" **23** But when the man heard this, he became very sad, because he was very rich. **24** Yeshua looked at him and said, "How hard it is for people with wealth to enter the Kingdom of God! **25** It's easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God!" **26** Those who heard this asked, "Then who can be saved?" **27** He said, "What is impossible humanly is possible with God." **28** Kefa said, "Look, we have left our homes and followed you." **29** Yeshua answered them, "Yes! I tell you that everyone who has left house, wife, brothers, parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, **30** will receive many times as much in the `olam hazeh, and in the `olam haba eternal life."

Acts 6:1 – 7

1 Around this time, when the number of talmidim was growing, the Greek-speaking Jews began complaining against those who spoke Hebrew that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. **2** So the Twelve called a general meeting of the talmidim and said, "It isn't appropriate that we should neglect the Word of God in order to serve tables. **3** Brothers, choose seven men from among yourselves who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will appoint them to be in charge of this important matter, **4** but we ourselves will give our full attention to praying and to serving the Word."

5 What they said was agreeable to the whole gathering. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Ruach HaKodesh, Philip, Prochoros, Nikanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas, who was a proselyte from Antioch. **6** They presented these men to the emissaries, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** So the word of God continued to spread. The number of talmidim in Yerushalayim increased rapidly, and a large crowd of cohanim were becoming obedient to the faith.

Romans 2:17 - 29

17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rest on Torah and boast about God **18** and know his will and give your approval to what is right, because you have been instructed from the Torah; **19** and if you have persuaded yourself that you are a guide to the blind, a light in the darkness, **20** an instructor for the spiritually unaware and a teacher of children, since in the Torah you have the embodiment of knowledge and truth; **21** then, you who teach others, don't you teach yourself? Preaching, "Thou shalt not steal," do you steal? **22** Saying, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? Detesting idols, do you commit idolatrous acts? **23** You who take such pride in Torah, do you, by disobeying the Torah, dishonor God? - **24** as it says in the Tanakh, "For it is because of you that God's name is blasphemed by the Goyim." **25** For circumcision is indeed of value if you do what Torah says. But if you are a transgressor of Torah, your circumcision has become uncircumcision! **26** Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the Torah, won't his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? **27** Indeed, the man who is physically uncircumcised but obeys the Torah will stand as a judgment on you who have had a b'rit-milah and have Torah written out but violate it! **28** For the real Jew is not merely Jewish outwardly: true circumcision is not only external and physical. **29** On the contrary, the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart, spiritual not literal; so that his praise comes not from other people but from God.