

# PARASHAT YITRO

## *Exodus 18:1–20:23*

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*Parashat Yitro* continues the journey of the Israelites across the Sinai desert. Before returning to Egypt, Moses had left his wife, Zipporah, and his two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, with his father-in-law, Jethro. Hearing that Moses has freed the Israelites from Egypt, Jethro brings Zipporah and her children to the Israelite camp. Moses tells his father-in-law about the Israelite liberation, and they offer sacrifices of thanksgiving to God. The next day Jethro observes that the people are bringing all their problems to Moses. He suggests that the burden is too great for one person to bear and advises Moses to choose trustworthy people to share leadership with him. Moses takes his advice. Three months after entering the Sinai desert, Moses and the Israelites camp at Mount Sinai. Moses goes up to the top of the mountain, and God speaks to him, giving him the Ten Commandments. Below, the people hear thunder and see lightning. They remain at a distance while Moses communes with God.

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