

Exodus 30 – Who is Your Friend?

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 18

Geopolitical Review

- This map depicts the farthest boundaries of these ancient kingdoms
- Notice Midian in SW modern "Saudi Arabia"
- Jethro was from a subtribe of the Midianite tribe



Jethro Was From the Kenite Tribe

- Need to read *all* Bible says about Jethro (Kenites)
- Not all info in one place
 - Ancient Canaanite tribe (Nu 15:10-21)
 - Part of Midianite tribe
 - Jethro's title is Reuel "friend of God" (Nu 10:29)
 - Jethro was a tribal priest



Example – Sioux Tribe

- The Sioux people are a tribe with sub-tribes
- Outsiders can, and do, use tribal labels carelessly
- Red Cloud was both a Sioux and a Lakota Sioux



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Cloud

File:User:Nikater - Own work by Nikater, submitted to the public domain.
Background map: courtesy of Denny, www.denny.nl, Public Domain
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php/Sioux>

Additional Kenite/Amalekite History

- The Kenites were closely associated with Amalekites
 - They bordered each other in south Canaan
 - After nation of Israel formed they remained close
 - A Kenite, Jael, killed Sisera in Barak/Deborah's period (Jud 4:11, 17-23)
 - Saul gave the Kenites the choice of: (1Sa 15:47)
 - Staying aligned with the Amalekites, and dying, or
 - Abandoning the Amalekites and living, they left and lived

Clearness Ends Confusion

- There is much confusion about Jethro
 - His ethnicity
 - His name
 - His actual role
- Much confusion arises due to using modern worldview rather than ancient worldview when reading the Bible

Same Man – Several References

- Jethro
 - This was *probably* his given name
 - Reuel was either a title or a second name, not uncommon in ancient times (Saul {He}/Paul {Gk})
 - Was of larger nomadic Midianite tribe
 - Kenite, subdivision of Midianite tribe
 - Use of either tribe or name/title *would* be correct

Hebrew Sources

- Jewish Talmudic-based texts not helpful in this study
- These texts often reflect Jewish myths and prejudices and must be studied cautiously for historical indicators
- Churches did, do, the same, to support their traditions (Logic fallacies: Appeals to authority/history/tradition)
- Bible/archeology/language best sources of knowledge

<http://www.biblearchaeology.com/>

Jethro Comes to Moses at Horeb

- God told Moses He would lead the Hebrews to Horeb when they left Egypt - He has led them to Mt Horeb
- Jethro hears that Moses, and the Hebrews, are at the mountain of God and brings Zipporah and sons who disappear after the circumcision incident (Ex 3:1, 4:24-26)
- Moses true prophet - disliked by nation and family

Why is this account here?

- Jethro, pagan priest, testifies hearing about God's defeat of the Egyptians, comes for confirmation
 - Unlike the Amalekites, he worships God above the gods
 - The Ascending Sacrifice is homage to Christ since Noah
 - Sacrificial meal with the elders is a treaty of friendship between the Hebrews, the Kenites and God
 - Jethro's acceptance contrasts with the Amalekites rejection of God, explains God's judgment against them

Why is this account important?

- Jethro advises Moses and changes the structure of government for the Hebrews, and us, that is approved by God
 - Up to this time the leader {Pharaoh} was both:
 - King (Government)
 - Priest (Intercessor (god) between the people and the gods)
 - Jethro's advice separated these two branches

Does Not Mean No Tribal Leaders

- This does not mean that there was no tribal government before Jethro but it was informal (slavery)
- Jethro advised a formal governmental arrangement down to minor patriarchal levels to delegate authority
- Only the most serious issues would require Moses' intervention and direction from God

Each Tribe is Autonomous

- This codifies the autonomy of each tribe and family
 - Each tribal division can function independently within a certain sphere of issues with appeal processes in place
 - This delegation continues to the smallest tribal unit - patriarch family unit
 - This reinforces the authority of the fathers while insuring the continuity of the mothers and children in a stable system of "laws" based on God, not self-interest

Moses Criteria for Picking Judges

- Men were to be morally capable to render justice
 - Able men - Qualified to give judgment on the issue
 - Fear God - God's statutes were the basis for judgments
 - Trustworthy - Well reasoned judgments, not arbitrary
 - No bribes - Corruption breeds rebellion fast as fire
- Moses taught the judges God's commands, they taught the people and based judgments on God's Word

Chain of Command - Two-Way Road

- Moses responsible to teach the judges God's laws
 - The judges responsible to teach the people below them
 - This insures the people receive reliable statutes
 - Matters outside one's jurisdiction appealed up the chain
 - Provides faster hearing and appeals process (speedy trial)
 - Moses responsible to God (buck did not stop with him)
- God responsible as THE source of law and justice

All Law is Moral Law

- The basis of all law is moral in that it *defines* right and wrong (morality)
- All law based on God since moral law is basically the same, testifies to truth of God (Ex 20:1-17; Ro 1:18-20)
- This is the beginning of the Jewish theocracy which will be reinforced by God at Mt. Sinai

Two Branches – Same Foundation

- The division into two separate branches is a radical change from ancient model to prevent godless tyranny
 - Moses practiced what he learned at Egyptian court with Pharaoh as both king and priest (Leader, not manager)
 - Moses will be the last man to function as both leader and priest; Future – priest and judge or king (Deu 26:16-20)
 - Both priest and government are based on God's Word

Mosaic Law Codifies Differences

- The coming Mosaic Law deals primarily with religious aspects defining the priesthood and its practices
- There is guidance for civil matters as Israel's possession of the Land tied to obedience to Mosaic Law (Deu 28:15-20)
- However, the Ten Statements codify morality and is the basis for all both (relationships between God-to-man and man-to-man)

Modern Government Born

- This blend of faithful Gentile and Jew is a glimpse of the New Covenant where all are one in Christ (Mt 23:13-16)
- Subsequent Kingdoms will copy this two branch model: King (no longer a god) and Priest (Judicial)
- Modern governments added in a third branch, the people, due to failure of government to elucidate and execute the law and lack of *untainted* moral judgments

Epilogue

- These people fade from the biblical narrative
 - Jethro
 - Zipporah
 - Moses' two sons
- Jewish mythology claims that Moses divorced Zipporah but the Bible does not back this claim so we are silent also since we are provided no pertinent information

Future in Microcosm

- One Gentile nation rejects God's testimony and preys on the people for their own advantage (Amalekite)
- One Gentile nation believes God's works and worship Him as God supporting His people (Kenite/Midianite)
- This mirrors events that will occur in the Great Tribulation - Separation of sheep and goats (Mt 25:31-46)