
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Ex. 18:1-12	Yitro's advice to Mosheh
Tuesday:	Ex. 18:13-27	Yitro's advice to Mosheh
Wednesday:	Ex. 19:1-15	Yahweh's instructions to Yisra'el to prepare for receiving the Commandments
Thursday:	Ex. 19:16-25	Yahweh appears on Mt. Sinai
Friday:	Ex. 20	The giving and receiving of the 10 Commandments

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will take a look at some stories where Mosheh was in need of assistance and the advice that his father-in-law Yitro gave him so that he wouldn't bear all the burden of leadership himself. We have included verses from parsha Beshalach to tie together Mosheh's need for help. Now, let's read Ex. 17:8-16 & Ch. 18.

PARSHA POINTS

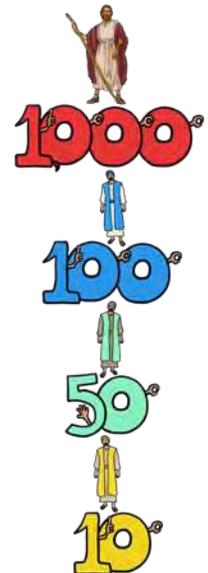
Help against the Amaleqites

- Amaleq fought with Yisra'el in Rephidim - 17:8
- Mosheh instructed Yehoshua to go out and fight with Amaleq while he himself was going to position himself on top of the hill (**givah**) with his rod in his hand - 17:9
- Mosheh, Aharon and Hur went up to the top of the hill - 17:10
- Whenever Mosheh kept his arms up, Yisra'el would win but whenever his arms failed, Amaleq would prevail - 17:11
- Mosheh's hands became heavy so that they put a stone under him and Aharon and Hur stood on either side and supported (**tamak**) his arms - 17:12
- His hands (**yadayim**) stood steady (**emunah**) until the sun went down - 17:12
- Yehoshua and the army of Yisra'el defeated Amaleq with the edge of the sword - 17:13
- Yahweh told Mosheh to write down as a remembrance and to read to Yehoshua that Amaleq's remembrance was to be blotted out from under the heavens by Yahweh - 17:14; Deut. 25:17-19
- Mosheh then built an altar to Yahweh and called it Nissi (meaning, 'Yahweh is my banner/refuge') - 17:15-16



Help in Ruling

- After hearing about the Exodus, Yitro, Mosheh's father-in-law, the priest of Midian brought his wife Tsipporah and his sons Gereshom (meaning, 'stranger') and Eli'ezer (meaning, 'Yahweh is my help') to him in the wilderness - 18:1-5
- Mosheh embraced his father-in-law and took time to share with him the experiences they had encountered with Pharaoh and the Mitsrites - 18:7-8
- Yitro rejoiced at the blessings Yahweh had bestowed on them and then blessed Yahweh - 18:9-10
- Yitro acknowledged that Yahweh is greater than all the mighty ones - 18:10-11
- He then brought a burnt offering and other offerings to Elohim - 18:12
- Aharon and all the elders of Yisra'el came together to eat bread (share a meal) with Yitro before Elohim - 18:12
- The next day the people came before Mosheh to rightly rule them from morning until night - 18:13
- Yitro asked Mosheh why he was doing so much all himself - 18:14
- Mosheh explained that he was rightly ruling between people and making known the laws of Elohim and his Torot (teachings and instructions) - 18:15-16
- Yitro gave his son-in-law advice that he was going to wear himself out and those with him from the tremendous burden - 18:17-18
- Yitro told Mosheh to seek out able men who fear Elohim, men of truth, those who hate unfair gain and place them to be rulers of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens - 18:19-23
- Mosheh did as his father-in-law advised him and chose able men out of all Yisra'el and made them heads over the people; rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens - 18:24-25
- These men rightly ruled the people at all times in every small matter - 18:26-27
- The hard matters they brought to Mosheh - 18:26
- After this Mosheh's father-in-law went back to his homeland - 18:27



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- In this parsha Yisra'el fights their very first battle. Research the history of the battles between the Amaleqites and Yisra'el found in Scripture and history. Who is the forefather of the Amaleqites? Why did Yahweh have such a disdain for them? Look at Deuteronomy 25:17-19. Read the account of King Sha'ul and also the story of Ester to gain more insight.
- Hur is mentioned as one of the men who held up Mosheh's arms. Where else is he mentioned in Scripture?
- In this parsha we are introduced to a system of order and structure being established in the community. But Mosheh is the final authority on all matters. Discuss how this works in a congregational setting and in the home. Who has the final say?

