

A Celebration of God's Sovereignty

Exodus 18:1-12

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Bill Rowe

Jethro's visit to Moses reveals six ways they *celebrated* God's sovereignty through their fellowship.

Introduction (Ex. 18:1-7)

1. Jethro and Moses testified of the Lord's deliverance (Ex. 18:8).

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

² "The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.

The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵ The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

⁶ Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in power.
Your right hand, LORD, shattered the enemy.

⁷ "In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.

You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

⁸ By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.

The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy boasted,
'I will pursue, I will overtake them.

I will divide the spoils;

I will gorge myself on them.

I will draw my sword

and my hand will destroy them.'

¹⁰ But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.

They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ Who among the gods is like you, LORD?

Who is like you—majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory, working wonders?

¹² "You stretch out your right hand,
and the earth swallows your enemies.

¹³ In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.

In your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.

¹⁴ The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the people of Philistia.

¹⁵ The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
the people of Canaan will melt away;
¹⁶ terror and dread will fall on them.

By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone—
until your people pass by, LORD,
until the people you bought pass by.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

¹⁸ "The LORD reigns for ever and ever."

¹⁹ When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. ²¹ Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea." (Ex. 15:1-21)

In God we make our boast all day long,
and we will praise your name forever. (Ps. 44:8)

2. Jethro and Moses rejoiced over God's deliverance (Ex. 18:9).

You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

¹²that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.

LORD my God, I will praise you forever. (Ps. 30:11-12)

3. Jethro and Moses *praised* God for His deliverance (Ex. 18:10)

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Who has ever given to God,

that God should repay them?”

³⁶For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Rom. 11:33-36)

4. Jethro *proclaimed* God’s sovereignty (Ex. 18:11).

5. They *worshipped* God with a *sacrifice* for His gracious hand upon them (Ex. 18:12a).

Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?”

“To buy your threshing floor,” David answered, “so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped.”

²²Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood.

²³Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king.” Araunah also said to him, “May the LORD your God accept you.”

²⁴But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels^[e] of silver for them.

²⁵David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped. (2 Sam. 24:21-25)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom. 12:1-2)

6. The community *celebrated* God’s sovereignty with a meal (Ex. 18:12b)

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property

and possessions to give to anyone who had need.⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

(Acts 2:42-47)

Conclusion:

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:
“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

² for true and just are his judgments.

He has condemned the great prostitute

 who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.

He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

³ And again they shouted:

“Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

⁴ The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried:

“Amen, Hallelujah!”

⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

“Praise our God,

 all you his servants,

 you who fear him,

 both great and small!”

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

 For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad

 and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

 and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean,

 was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) (Rev. 19:1-8)