



SEDRA SUMMARY

At the beginning of this week's פֶּרֶשָׁה we see יִתְרוֹ, the father-in-law of מֹשֶׁה, come to join the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. He sent a message to מֹשֶׁה to let him know that he was on his way together with מֹשֶׁה's wife, צִפּוֹרָה, and their two sons, גֵּרְשֹׁם and אֶלְיָצָר.

מֹשֶׁה came out to greet יִתְרוֹ. They asked each other about their welfare and discussed the wonderful things that ה' had done for בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. יִתְרוֹ brought אֶהְרֹן - burnt offerings and other sacrifices to ה'. and all the elders of Israel came to share the meal with יִתְרוֹ, which he had prepared to celebrate his conversion to Judaism. ...but where was מֹשֶׁה? רֹשֵׁי cites a מִדְּרָשׁ which explains that מֹשֶׁה was serving the guests. The greatest people take more pleasure in the comfort of others than their own.

The next day יִתְרוֹ saw how מֹשֶׁה sat and judged the people who came to him from morning until evening. He told מֹשֶׁה that this job was too big for him to do by himself. He advised מֹשֶׁה to appoint capable leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens to judge more minor cases, while מֹשֶׁה would still be brought the more major cases. מֹשֶׁה took his father-in-law's advice, then יִתְרוֹ departed and returned to his land. רַמְבַּם explains that יִתְרוֹ left at this point in order to go and convert his family to Judaism and then returned later.

ספר שמות

שְׁמוֹת
וְאֶרָא
בֹּא
בְּשַׁלַּח
יִתְרוֹ
מִשְׁפָּטִים
תְּרוּמָה
תְּצִוָּה
כִּי תִשָּׂא
וַיִּקְהַל
פְּקוּדֵי

Next, we read of בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל's arrival in מִדְבַּר סִינַי, their encampment opposite הַר סִינַי and their three day preparations for receiving the תּוֹרָה. A boundary was set up around the mountain. Nobody was permitted to climb the mountain or even touch its edge. On the third day the mountain was all in smoke because ה's presence was on it. The whole mountain trembled and there was the sound of the שׁוֹפָר. . .

- עֲשֹׂת הַדְּבָרוֹת
- (א) אֲנֹכִי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים
 - (ב) לֹא יִהְיֶה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל-פָּנָי
 - (ג) לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת-שֵׁם-ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ לְשׁוּא
 - (ד) זָכוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ
 - (ה) כִּבֹּד אֶת-אֲבִיךָ וְאֶת-אִמְךָ
 - (ו) לֹא תִרְצַח (ז) לֹא תִנָּאֵף (ח) לֹא תִגְנוֹב (ט) לֹא-תַעֲנֶה (י) לֹא תִחַמֵּד

מֹשֶׁה listened to the advice of his father-in-law and did everything that he had said.

כַּד וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה לְקוֹל חֹתְנֹו וַיַּעַשׂ כֹּל
אֲשֶׁר אָמַר:

Despite being the leader of all of יִשְׂרָאֵל, chosen and appointed by ה', מֹשֶׁה nevertheless accepts the advice of his father-in-law and appoints judges to help him judge and lead the people.

It is important to note that יִתְרוֹ does say that his advice should be acceptable to ה' (Rashi on Shemos 18:19). Therefore, the advice was given humbly and accepted humbly.

This is a great lesson for us. We should never reject advice because of who it is that is offering it. Good advice is worth listening to. We should also not be afraid to give advice because we feel we are not the right people to give it. There is no reason why we should not offer advice, as long as we do so in a respectful and humble way.

questions

1. What are "עֲלֵה וְזָבְחִים"?
2. Who brought these to ה'?
3. Why did יִתְרוֹ have a special meal?
4. Why did יִתְרוֹ advise מֹשֶׁה to appoint new leaders?
5. According to רַמְבַּ"ן, why did יִתְרוֹ leave?
6. Try to say all of the עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרוֹת to yourself by heart.
7. How can you stop yourself from becoming jealous?

questions

Which parts of this sedra sheet
are you going to discuss with your family
at the Shabbos table?

שִׁבְתָּ שְׁלוֹם!

Parents please sign here
if you discussed this sedra sheet
with your child:

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