

The Marriage of Moses with Zipporah

Let us read how Moses got married to Zipporah.

“15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. 16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? 19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. 20 And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. 21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. 22 And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.” (Exodus 2:15-22 KJV)

Moses left Egypt escaping from the hand of Pharaoh who wanted to kill him because Moses slew an Egyptian man. Moses was not happy to be called the son of Pharaoh, because he was the son of Abraham, the friend of God. Therefore Moses left all the treasures of Egypt and was willing to go, even to the desert side but not to be part of Pharaoh's palace, ***“24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. 28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.” (Hebrews 11:24-28 KJV)*** Therefore and in the same way, come out from the world and the seasonal pleasure of the life of sin, and be willing to live for God and to serve Him, and to be called the child of God. Moses was willing to leave all the material things and the luxurious facilities, and replace them with suffering in accepting the reproach of Christ that of greater riches than the treasures in Egypt. Moses was willing to forsake Egypt. Indeed by faith in Christ, seeing Him who is invisible, he left Egypt and started to follow the way that God wanted him to go and move. He went and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. If he would continue to stay in Egypt, he would probably get a bright future, luxurious life and would marry a woman from a royal family. But since he decided to follow God, he left Egypt and went to Midian; a country so-called from Midian, one of Abraham's sons by Keturah, ***“1 Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2 And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. 3 And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. 4 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Ephraim, and Hanoch, and Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.” (Genesis 25:1-4 KJV)*** Midian was on the other side of Arabia, to the south, to the east of the Red sea, from whence the country was called Midian; and this country was sometimes called Cush or Ethiopia; hence Moses's wife was called an Ethiopian woman, ***“1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.” (Numbers 12:1 KJV)*** Moses when he decided to follow God, the Lord provided for him the suitable and meet helper to have a family and to raise Godly

children. Notice here, that at certain times God will give the suitable Godly wife or Godly husband when he or she humble down before God and accept to go in the direction that God wants them to move on. That is why when there is no humility then there will be no provision.

“16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.” (Exodus 2:16 KJV) God sent him to the priest of Midian who was a worshipper of God, a descendant of Abraham, from his son Midian from Keturah. Moses abode by the well of water where shepherds come to water their flocks. There he met the seven daughters of the priest of Midian. ***“17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.” (Exodus 2:17 KJV)*** Moses here moved by his zeal to bring the justice of God, therefore, he helped the daughters of the priest of Midian. The girls were industrious and hard working for they cared for the sheep of their father. That is why God chose one of them to be wife of Moses. **You need an industrious wife to help you in your life.** As well as they knew their limit, for as we noticed they did not entertain Moses as a man or invited him to their house. ***“18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? 19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. 20 And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread.” (Exodus 2:18-20 KJV)*** But when their father heard their testimony about the man, and what he did to them, he requested them to call him and be their guest to be rewarded for the good that he did. Moses helped them and watered their flock. Therefore, their father invited him for bread to reward him for his help. As Moses brought the justice of God He rewarded him with a helper meet to him. God shall reward you with a good partner as you obey God.

“21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.” (Exodus 2:21 KJV) That event was the way of God to declare to Moses His will about marriage and the wife that He wanted him to take.

*** Many people put many conditions and criteria of material things to whom they will marry and will make things more difficult for them. * Let us not look for worldly things when it comes to marriage, but let us humble down in the hand of God and accept the Godly partner that God would bring to us to marry. Let us also not be frustrated when God would not bring us to marry what we had configured out in our minds. “2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2 KJV)** If Moses would not humble himself then he will continue his life suffering and without a family. **Let us follow the good example and the humility of Moses who was satisfied and accepted to stay with the man, to work a shepherd for him, and to marry his daughter Zipporah, “21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.” (Exodus 2:21 KJV)**

From Zipporah Moses got two sons who served God; Gershom and Eliezer and we can read the following about them: ***“15 The sons of Moses were, Gershom, and Eliezer. 16 Of the sons of Gershom, Shebuel was the chief. 17 And the sons of Eliezer were, Rehabiah the chief. And Eliezer had none other sons; but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.” (1 Chronicles 23:15-17 KJV)*** They were listed among the Levites. Notice here the humility of Moses that he being the leader, he did not give the leadership for his children after him, and his children were just ordinary workers among the Levites, and they were to offer service to the priests. We can read that the descendants of Gershom and Eliezer were responsible at the

time of King David on the treasuries in the house of God, *“24 And Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, was ruler of the treasures. 25 And his brethren by Eliezer; Rehabiah his son, and Jeshaiiah his son, and Joram his son, and Zichri his son, and Shelomith his son. 26 Which Shelomith and his brethren were over all the treasures of the dedicated things, which David the king, and the chief fathers, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the host, had dedicated. 27 Out of the spoils won in battles did they dedicate to maintain the house of the LORD. 28 And all that Samuel the seer, and Saul the son of Kish, and Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah, had dedicated; and whosoever had dedicated anything, it was under the hand of Shelomith, and of his brethren.”* (1 Chronicles 26:24-28 KJV)

The father-in-law of Moses was the priest of Midian. Yes, he was a descendant of Abraham from his wife Keturah, and he was a worshipper of God, but we are not having any more details about how he lived his life and what the practice that he believes in, but later on we can read that when he met Moses after the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, he worshipped God and offered to Him sacrifices, *“5 And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: 6 And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her. 7 And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent. 8 And Moses told his father in law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the LORD delivered them. 9 And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. 10 And Jethro said, Blessed be the LORD, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. 11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them. 12 And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God.”* (Exodus 18:5-12 KJV) It was not determined whether Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses and his followers were considered as true worshippers and the same with the people of God at the time that Moses married his daughter Zipporah. Because as we noticed from the Scripture that Aaron and Miriam criticized Moses for marrying her and called her the Ethiopian woman, and they used her as a point to quarrel with Moses because he allowed seventy other elders to lead the congregation along with them, *“1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.”* (Numbers 12:1 KJV) They criticized Zipporah but she was God's choice for Moses who from her got two Godly sons. Also the Scriptures state to us that the father in law of Moses was the one who instructed Moses how to govern the people of God more effectively, and Moses followed and implemented these instructions; that confirm that they were from the people of God, *“13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. 14 And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? 15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: 16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. 17 And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. 18 Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou,*

and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. 19 Harken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: 20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. 21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: 22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. 23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. 24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. 25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves. 27 And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.” (Exodus 18:13-27 KJV)

But whatever their status was, what I want to say here about the marriage of Moses to Zipporah, was a good example to marry the choice that God had ordained for the follower of God to have. The meaning of Zipporah is bird and sure she was a comfort for Moses at that time of his life when he left his people in Egypt.

The purpose of marriage is to bestow God's blessing on His people by forming for them new Godly families to multiply, and for these Godly marriages to add blessings to His church. Therefore we need to be sure to follow God's choices for us in marriage so that His blessings will fall on us and on time. Zipporah was a good help for Moses to accomplish God's will when she circumcised her son when God was about to kill Moses, *“24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.”* (Exodus 4:24-26 KJV)

Moses was content. Are you content with what God had given you and with His plan in your life? Are you willing to pursue the plan of God and life style that he has for you and with all the details of it? Contentment can be the key to reach and to find the Godly partner that God had ordained for you to marry and to know the plan of God in your life. The following are helpful Scriptures that speak about contentment.

“14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.” (Luke 3:14 KJV) John the Baptist instructed the soldiers to be content with their wages and that what God gave to them, and they will be blessed with and no need for them to be greedy and try to get more with violence, false accusation, and extortion, otherwise such will be a curse to them. When you are not content you will be tempted to do wrong things that will bring troubles in your life. Therefore repent and be content of what you have.

“11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” (Philippians 4:11 KJV) Paul here declared that he had learned in

whatever situation that he will be content, and will accept where God had placed him in and what had given to him. **In the same way be content and accept God's lot for you in this life and wait for Christ's coming to be with Christ when He will come to take us.**

"8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." (1 Timothy 6:8 KJV) Paul here instructed Timothy that if there will be food to eat and cloth to wear then they needed to be content and thankful to God for such blessings. **Be content as long as you have what you need in your life. "6 But godliness with contentment is great gain." (1 Timothy 6:6 KJV)**

"5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5 KJV) Here the Apostle instructed not to covet the things that belong to others, but rather to be content with what you have because God had already promised that He will neither leave you, nor forsake you.

* Therefore, and in the same way let us be content with what God had given to us. Let us be content with our wages and not to be greedy for more and be driven to do wrong things to gain more. * Let us train ourselves to be content in whatever situation whether in need or in want trusting God that He is there beside us to help us. * Let us be content if we have what we eat, drink, and what we dress with. * Let us stop coveting other people's things trusting God that He will neither leave us nor forsake us. Moses was content to dwell with the priest of Midian and there he met God's will when he found his wife: ***"21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter."* (Exodus 2:21 KJV)** In the same way when we are content then we will be able to discern God's blessing and His will for us and we will enjoy our life in His presence.

Speaking about preparation for Godly marriage, Moses left Egypt, and materially had nothing in his hand. He left Egypt empty because he was fleeing from Pharaoh. He left all the riches of Egypt and that in particular made him fit to marry at that time so his children will be raised up in the fear of the Lord and to serve God and not Pharaoh. As long as Moses was in the Palace of Pharaoh's daughter then neither progress was there for his spiritual life nor a progress in his marriage status. Because any marriage plan if it happened while he was still in Egypt will not be in God's will because God had called him and prepared him to do the good plan that He had prepared for him to lead His people out of Egypt. Therefore when he left Egypt, he started to do God's plan for him. He was humbled in the wilderness, worked as shepherd who prepared him to lead the Israelites and cared patiently for them and was given a wife who might seem not at the expectation, but Zipporah was God's choice for him, in spite of the differences between her and Moses and in spite it might be seen as a strange matching. Indeed Moses humbled himself and accepted the new life, the job, the new place for living, and the wife and the family that God gave to him. There in the wilderness where he lived with his father in law for forty years everything was prepared for him from accommodation, job, provision and a meet helper for him who gave to him two sons who later on served God.

My Dear and Beloved: In the same way humble down before God, and He will lift you up in due time. All your problems give to Him because He loves you and cares for you, ***"6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* (1 Peter 5:6-7 KJV)** Put your full trust on God, for He has a good plan for you. Trust His will and His choice for you in your life. Trust Him that He cares for you, ***"5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not***

***unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)**

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that showed me a clear example that I can apply in my life to live in accordance to your will and plan. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message. Lord thank you for all your good promises to me as I put my full trust on you.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your covetousness, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce your pride, disobedience, non teachable spirit, and stubbornness. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God, especially in pertain to marriage. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, many friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to serve you and to live my life according to your plan and will for me, according to the teaching that I received in this message in pertain to the place, the job, the style of life, and the person whom I need to marry. Lord I humble myself before you and accept your will and your plan for me and to set good example to others to follow. Lord uphold me with your grace and provide for me so I will continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and humbled themselves willing to follow your will and plan for them, to be content and accept you to lead them into your whole will. Lord bless them and continue to provide for them and use them to serve you. Lord I pray for others who still not repented and is doing their own will. Lord humble them, teach them your ways and grant them repentance so they will follow your will.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to continue to teach and implement the preparation for Godly marriage and to prepare your people to do your will and your plan in their lives, so when you come we are ready to take us. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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