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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Yitro – Our Marriage Vows to God

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Yitro (Yeh-trow), which is Hebrew for “Jethro,” and it goes from Exodus 18:1 to Exodus 20:23.

In this Torah Portion, Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, gives Moses some organizational advice on how to judge cases among the people of Israel.

Then we read about the Israelites reaching Mount Sinai.

The parashah concludes with Israel receiving the Ten Commandments.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present just a thought on our marriage vows to God.

Exodus 19:7-8

[So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord \(YHWH\) had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord \(YHWH\) has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord \(YHWH\).](#)

This was the day when you could say the people of Israel accepted God’s marriage proposal. God had just delivered them from slavery in Egypt. He split the Red Sea, defeated their enemies, fed them manna from heaven, and now He brings them to Mount Sinai.

In the following chapter, God speaks to the entire nation the terms of the Covenant between Himself and the people—the marriage vows, if you will. The rest of Chapter 19 is all about what needed to be done to prepare for that important day when God would meet with the people.

When God spoke the commandments—that is, the ways for the people to love and honor their

bridegroom, YHWH—among them was something called the Sabbath. It's the commandment to rest on the seventh day, and we're told to "remember" it.

The Sabbath is a memorial of Creation according to Exodus 20. And when the commandment is reiterated in Deuteronomy 5, it's said to also be a memorial of our deliverance from Egypt. So, this is a very special and meaningful thing that we're to observe every week as we remember God's amazing love for us as our Creator and Deliverer, and one should not forget the prophetic value of the Sabbath.

Also, in Exodus 31:13, the Sabbath is called a unique "sign" between God and His people. Why? So that we may know that we are sanctified unto Him:

Exodus 31:13

You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, "About all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you."

You could say that the Sabbath is our wedding ring—a symbol of our Covenant commitment to God alone.

At most Jewish and Messianic weddings, there's also something called a *ketubah* (*kah-too-bah*), which is like a marriage contract. It's a document containing the bride and groom's vows to each other. During the ceremony, they'll each sign the document. The couples will usually get their *ketubah* framed and hang it on their wall as a reminder of their love and their vows to each other.

When God married His people at Mount Sinai, the marriage vows—the *ketubah*, if you will—was written down in the form of the Torah.

We have the gift and the honor of being God's bride. When we came to know the Messiah and we received Him by faith, we said, "I do" to God. All God is looking for, is His bride to honor her marriage vows. When we study the Torah to learn how God desires to be loved—when we walk out His commandments—we are simply keeping our marriage vows. We are expressing our love for our bridegroom.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We hope you have been blessed by this teaching.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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