

# ZIPPORAH

Zipporah is mentioned [in Scripture](#) only three times, all in [the book of Exodus](#).

---Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), 12 tribus.

--- Moses – from the tribe of Levi.

**Zipporah was the wife of Moses with whom he had two sons, Gerson and Eliezer ([Exodus 2:15-22](#); [4:24-26](#); [18:2-6](#)). She was one of seven daughters of [Jethro](#), a priest of Midian. These people lived as nomads in the Arabian wilderness, and descended from [Abraham](#) through Keturah ([Genesis 25:1-16](#)).**

--- Moses was Abraham's descendant. People of Israel but did not abandon other nations.

--- Moses was born in Egypt, he was raised by a princess of Pharaoh the king, but when he was born he was with his mother for some time. Therefore, he knew that he was of the people of Israel.

--- **Exodus 2:15**, Moses killed an Egyptian who mistreated an Israelite slave and had to flee Egypt and went to the land of Midian.

--- **Ex. 2:16-22**, "16 And while sitting by the well, seven daughters of the priest of Midian came to draw water to fill the basins and give water to their father's sheep.

--- Zipporah was a working woman. We have seen in the other studies that women who would become wives of prominent men were shepherds.

<sup>17</sup>But the (men) shepherds came and drove them out of there; then Moses arose and defended them, and gave his sheep a drink.

--- This is designed to prepare you for the great services for which it was designed.

<sup>18</sup>And they returned to Reuel (Jethro) his father, he said to them, Why have you come so soon today?

<sup>19</sup>They answered, An Egyptian man defended us by the hand of the shepherds.

<sup>20</sup>And he said to his daughters, Where is he? Why have you left that man? Call him to eat.

<sup>21</sup> And Moses agreed to dwell with that man; and he gave his daughter Zipporah for a wife to Moses.

<sup>22</sup>And she bore him a son; and he named him Gershon, because he said, Stranger I am in a foreign land.

--- Very interesting to know how Moses found his wife Zipporah. Again, we observed that the woman who would be his wife was a worker. He found her busy caring for her father's sheep.

--- When some shepherds annoyed Jethro's daughters, Moses defended them and gave his sheep a drink. Then he was very rewarded because "Jethro... he gave his daughter Zipporah for a wife to Moses. And she bore him a son..."

--- Moses liked **to** do good. He **had his** weaknesses but he also had his good qualities.

### **Exodus 4:18-26**

<sup>8</sup>So went Moses said to his father-in-law Jethro, I will go now, and I will return to my brethren who are in Egypt, to see if they are still alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.

<sup>19</sup>The Lord also said to Moses in Midian, Go and return to Egypt, for all who procured your death have died.

<sup>20</sup>**Then Moses took his wife and sons and put them on a donkey, and returned to the land of Egypt.** Moses also took the rod of God in his hand.

<sup>21</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, when you have returned to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the wonders that I have placed in your hand; but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

<sup>22</sup>And you shall say to Pharaoh, The Lord has said thus, Israel is my son, my firstborn.

<sup>23</sup> I have already told you to let go of my son, that he may serve me, but you have not wanted to let him go; behold, I am going to kill your son, your firstborn.

<sup>24</sup>**And it came to pass on the way, that in an inn the Lord went out to meet him, and wanted to kill him" (for not having circumcised his son Gershon).**

--- Genesis 17:14 "And the uncircumcised man ... he will be cut off from his people." Circumcision was a rite given by God as a sign or seal of the covenant with His people, the descendants of Abraham. When every male was circumcised on the eighth day of his life, he became a child of the covenant with Abraham and heir to the promises given to Abraham in Genesis 12.

--- Moses, married to a woman who was not an Israelite, had neglected the circumcision of his son Gershon.

--- It is quite possible that this sin was simply Moses' carelessness.

■ But it is possible that it was another fruit of mixed marriage. It is quite possible that Zipporah expressed indifference or even opposition to the practice.

■ It is quite possible that the husband wanting to please his wife forgets God's commandments.

--- **Neglecting circumcision was a very serious infraction because the uncircumcised son was "cut off from the people." He was not a child of God.**

--- "it happened on the way, that in an inn Jehovah went out to meet him, and wanted to kill him."

--- This language is very complicated but emphasizes the importance of circumcision.

--- This neglect can be compared to ignoring the need for baptism. They are not parallels but the two illustrate the importance of obedience.

--- Many people who are supposedly very pious and religious neglect this commandment (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-6. )

<sup>25</sup>Then Zipporah took a sharp flint and cut off her son's foreskin, and threw it at her feet, saying, To the truth you are a blood husband to me. "

--- Your son must be circumcised; for some undisclosed reason Moses is unable to circumcise him; therefore, in this case of necessity, Zipporah does.

--- She was a strong woman. She could do something uncomfortable to save her husband.

---CRISIS... EMERGENCY... AND SHE HAD

THE STRENGTH TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT A PLEASANT TASK FOR HER. (REMINDS US OF REBECCA).

--- So he let him go. And she said, Husband of blood, because of circumcision."

--- **Omissions are sins**, and must come to judgment, and particularly contempt and neglect of covenant seals; It indicates that we underestimate the promises of the covenant, and are disgusted with the terms of it.

---When God discovers to us what is wrong with our lives, we must give all due diligence to make amends quickly, and particularly return to the duties we have neglected.

--- So he let go. Problem solved by Zipporah.

--- Moses receives from God more instructions for the work that awaited him He commands him to perform miracles, not only before the elders of Israel, but before Pharaoh.

--- Words are put in his mouth to address Pharaoh, v. 22, 23. God had promised him (v.12), I will teach you what you will say; And here he teaches him. (1.) He must deliver his message in the name of the great Jehovah: Thus saith the Lord; This is the first time a man has used this preface, which is then used so often by all the prophets: whether Pharaoh will listen or not, Moses must say to him: Thus saith the Lord.

--- We must do the same. God does not put the words in our mouths, but He does reveal them very clearly in Scripture.

---He must let Pharaoh know Israel's relationship with God, and God's concern for Israel.

--- Jeremiah 2:14. "Israel is my son, my firstborn, precious in my eyes, honorable and dear to me, lest I be so insulted and abused."

--- "Let go of my son whose freedom and honor I am so jealous of. It is my son, my son who serves me.

--- You must threaten Pharaoh with the death of the firstborn of Egypt, I will kill your son, yes, your firstborn.

--- Moses is on this expedition. When God assured him (v.19) that the men seeking his life were dead, he immediately followed (v.20), took his wife and children, and set out for Egypt. --- **Ex 18:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Jethro priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard all the things God had done with Moses, and with Israel his people, and how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt.

<sup>2</sup>And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Moses' wife Sepporah after he sent her,<sup>3</sup> and his two sons; the one was called Gershon, because he said, I have been a stranger in a foreign land;

<sup>4</sup>And the other was called Eliezer, for he said, The God of my father helped me, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.

<sup>5</sup>And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, with Moses' sons and wife, came to Moses in the wilderness, where he was encamped by the mountain of God;

<sup>6</sup>And he said to Moses, I thy father-in-law Jethro come to you, with your wife, and his two sons with her.

<sup>7</sup>And Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, and bowed down, and kissed him; and they asked each other how they were, and they came to the tent.

<sup>8</sup>And Moses told his father-in-law all the things that Jehovah had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the work they had gone through along the way, and how the Lord had delivered them.

<sup>9</sup>And Jethro rejoiced in all the good that the Lord had done to Israel by delivering him from the hand of the Egyptians.

<sup>10</sup> And Jethro said, Blessed be the Lord, who delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the hand of Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from the hand of the Egyptians.

<sup>11</sup>Now I know that Jehovah is greater than all the gods; for in what they were proud he prevailed against them.

<sup>12</sup> And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took burnt offerings and sacrifices to God; and Aaron and all the elders of Israel came to eat with Moses' father-in-law before God.

*[Wayne Partain, April 3, 2023, translated from Spanish with Microsoft Word]*