Parashah 17 Yitro - יִתְרוֹ
“Jethro”

Torah: Sh’mot (Exodus) 18:1-20:23
  Aliyah 1 - 18:1 - 12 Yitro brings Moshe’s wife and sons; recognizes Adonai; offers sacrifice
  Aliyah 2 - 18:13 - 23 Yitro observes and advises Moshe on delegating leadership for the good of all
  Aliyah 3 - 18:24 - 27 Moshe implements Yitro’s suggestions, Yitro departs.
  Aliyah 4 - 19:1 - 6 Israel sets up camp at Sinai; Moshe goes up the mountain; God offers covenant
  Aliyah 5 - 19:7 - 19 People accept, are separated to God, Adonai descends onto the mount
  Aliyah 6 - 19:20-20:14 God speaks the Ten Words to all the people
  Aliyah 7 - 20:15-23:26 People request Moshe mediate; idolatry forbidden; proper altar described

Haftarah: Yesha’yahu (Isaiah) 6:1-7:6 (Messianic adaptation to 14); 9:5-6

1. (18:1-6) Who is Yitro? Why does Yitro come to Moshe? Who does he bring with him? When did we last see Tzipporah?

2. (18:23) How does Yitro present his advice to Moshe? (18:21) What three characteristics of leadership that he suggests? Why is this event described before the giving/receiving of Torah?

3. (19:1-6) What picture is painted in Aliyah 4? How has He proved his intentions? What is required of the people? To what is God calling his bride if she agrees?

4. (19:8-13) What is the bride's answer? What were God's instructions? Why were these boundaries required?

5. (20:1-2) What is the first “commandment” of the Ten Commandments? How does this revelation end the speculation about “gods?”

6. (20:15(18)) What was the “thunder” that the people heard? Who heard it?
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7. The events of Acts 2 occurred during Shavuot/Pentecost. What was significant about the events in relation to the feast of Shavuot?

Questions for reflection and application:


4. (19:1) God courts Israel for 3 months before she accepts His proposal. Have you accepted His proposal to you? (Gen 2:24, Psa 45:10-11, 2Co 5:17, Mat 10:34-37, Exo 24:7, Son 2:10-13, Isa 55:1-3, Phi 3:7-9)

5. (19:7) Are you prepared to put God’s Word before all the people He sends your way? (Mat 3:2, Mat 4:17, Mat 21:28-32, Luk 10:36, Luk 18:8, 2Ti 4:2, 1Pe 3:15)
