



1. Exodus 17:1-3; see Num 20:2-13

1. Need From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as Yahweh commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

- 2. Complaint The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test Yahweh?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”

2. Exodus 17:4-6

3. Moses intercedes So Moses cried out to Yahweh, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

4. Prayer answered Yahweh said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

1Corinthians 10:4

‘They drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.’

John 19:31-34

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity.

So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.



John 19:35-37

(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe.
His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)

These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled,
‘None of his bones shall be broken.’

(Psalm 34:20 & Exodus 12:46 - the Passover Lamb)

And again another passage of scripture says,
‘They will look on the one whom they have pierced.’

(Zechariah 12:10 - 13:1)

Theodoret of Cyr is typical of ancient writers:

‘His side, like Adam’s, was opened, not to reveal the woman who by her error brought death into the world, but to reveal the fountain of life, bringing life into the world with its double stream. One stream gives us new life in the baptistery and clothes us with the robe of immortality, while the other feeds those who have been reborn at the divine table, like infants being fed with milk’ (On the Incarnation of the Lord nn 26-27).

Deuteronomy 6:16

‘Do not put YHWH your God to the test,
as you tested him at Massah.’

Matthew 4:7

Jesus said to the devil, “It is written: Do not
put the Lord your God to the test.”

3. Exodus 18:13-27

Organising Leadership - The appointment of judges

- Summarizes theological reflection on two important issues:
 1. What was Moses' essential role? He is presented first of all as providing people with answers when they came to him seeking God's will. He comes to see that his role is rather to stand before God with their cause, and from his communion with God enlighten them concerning God's will as expressed in the Law. Coming as this passage does just before the section on the Law it provides a critical context in which to understand the place of the Law in people's lives.

2. How is Moses' unique and normative role perpetuated in the life of the people of Israel, and in particular by those responsible for ensuring justice?

The administration of justice is portrayed as a sharing in Moses' charismatic, prophetic office, and as an expression of God's justice.

Deuteronomy 1:17

‘You must not be partial in judging: hear out the small and the great alike; you shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's. Any case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.’

Organisational leadership in the Christian Church

Jesus • The twelve

• Peter

Church • Presbyters

• Overseers (episkopoi)

Letter to Titus from Nicopolis (3:12) to Crete 65AD

(To young, mainly Jewish, communities)

Titus 1:5 (see Acts 14:23)

‘Appoint presbyters in every town as I directed you.’

Titus 1:7

Paul goes on to describe the kind of person Titus is to look for in appointing presbyters. Since they exercise a supervisory role he speaks of them as ‘bishops’(‘overseers’).

1Corinthians 12:28

Those 'governing'(Greek: **kubernêsis**).

Acts 20:28

Addressing the **elders** [**presbyteroi**], Paul says:
'Keep watch over yourselves and over the flock
of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**
[**episkopoi** - 'bishops'] to **shepherd** [**poimainô** -
'pastor'] the church of God.'

Exodus 18:13-14

What should Moses be doing?

- The next day Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him from morning until evening. When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?"

Exodus 18:15-19

Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make known to them the statutes and instructions of God.” Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. Now listen to me. I will give you counsel, and God be with you!

Exodus 18:19-20

You should represent the people before God, and you should bring their cases before God; teach them the statutes and instructions and make known to them the way they are to go and the things they are to do.

Moses' primary duty is to be in God's presence, and to declare to the people what God has revealed to him in communion.

Exodus 18:21-23

You should also look for able men among all the people, men who fear God, are trustworthy, and hate dishonest gain; set such men over them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Let them sit as judges for the people at all times; let them bring every important case to you, but decide every minor case themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. If you do this, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people will go to their home in peace.”

He is to choose others to carry out the daily administration of justice.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

‘You may set over you a king whom YHWH your God will choose. One of your own community ... He must not acquire many horses for himself ... And he must not acquire many wives for himself ... also silver and gold he must not acquire in great quantity for himself. When he has taken the throne of his kingdom, he shall have a copy of this law written for him in the presence of the levitical priests. It shall remain with him and he shall read in it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear YHWH his God, diligently observing all the words of this law and these statutes, neither exalting himself above other members of the community nor turning aside from the commandment, either to the right or to the left, so that he and his descendants may reign long over his kingdom in Israel.’

Deuteronomy 18:1-8

‘The levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no allotment or inheritance within Israel. They may eat the sacrifices that are YHWH’s portion but they shall have no inheritance among the other members of the community; YHWH is their inheritance, as he promised them ... For Yahweh your God has chosen Levi out of all your tribes, to stand and minister in the name of YHWH, him and his sons for all time. If a Levite leaves any of your towns and comes to the place that YHWH will choose, then he may minister in the name of YHWH his God, like all his fellow-levites who stand to minister there before YHWH.’

Deuteronomy 18:14-17

‘These nations that you are about to dispossess give heed to soothsayers and diviners. As for you, YHWH your God does not permit you to do so. YHWH your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of YHWH your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of YHWH my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.”

Deuteronomy 18:18-20

Then YHWH replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die.”

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25

YHWH said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel [Luke 10:1] bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself ... Moses went out and told the people the words of YHWH; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then YHWH came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Numbers 11:26-30

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all YHWH’s people were prophets, and that YHWH would put his spirit on them!” And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Ezekiel 33:7-9 The role of the prophets

‘I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.’