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**Parshah Yitro**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2023-02-11**

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Seven weeks have gone by since the Jews walked out of Egypt. At the beginning of the parsha we meet the character Yitro, Moses' father-in-law. Yitro heard of all these wonderful miracles that G-d had performed. He wanted to come and see for himself. He thought probably if he saw for himself, it would help him believe better. Most people would want to see for themselves, anything we can see will help us believe. He left the Midian area he was living in and came to the camp where the Jews were living in. He brought with him Moses' wife and his two sons.

Yitro watches how Moses try to be a parent to all of the Jewish people at one time. He is the only one they turn to whenever they need help. It doesn't take Yitro long to realize that Moses needs to hear he needs to change things. Yitro presents an idea to Moses to delegate a group of people to lead the Jewish people. This way not everything falls on him, Moses. Moses has a great relationship with his father-in-law. He listens to everything Yitro has to say and follows his instructions. Moses sees how he can benefit by following in the path that Yitro has set him on.

In the middle of this week's parsha the Jews find themselves standing at Mount Sinai. Moses who had more faith in G-d than the Jews back then at least, told them that there would be a great revelation. Moses was preparing the Jews for G-d was going to come down Himself and give the Jewish people the Torah. He was going to do this Himself. This week's parsha is the start of the Jews learning how to live their lives in the same way that G-d expected from them. Moses told the Jews that there would be a period of three days before G-d would come forward and give them the Torah.

They were given this time to be cleansed physically and spiritually as well. It was a pretty big deal for the Jews to meet with G-d face to face. This group of Jews would be the first to meet with G-d, it had never been thought of or done before. Now that the Jews were out of Egypt completely, G-d felt they were ready to meet Him. Before getting the Torah from G-d or even Moses, they told Moses the words "We will do". They were ready to do whatever was needed from them that was asked by G-d. These words in Hebrew are "Na-aseh."

This whole event was such a spectacle that there was a shofar blown and it was so loud everyone in the encampment was able to hear it. G-d wanted all of this to happen because He wanted the Jews to be inspired. Before giving the ten commandments to the Jews, G-d wanted them to know they were not to be seen as rules that were set by a mighty ruler who was wishing for these people's servitude.

G-d wanted the Jews to recognize that these ten commandments were tools of liberation. G-d chose to give these ten commandments to us Jews. G-d stated that through these mitzvos, He was liberating the Jews from their inner slavery. By following through with these commandments the Jews were allowing their true essence to sour freely.