

Chapter 18

Iethro Moyfes father in law bringeth to him his wife and childrens. 8. And hearing the great workes of God, 12. offereth Sacrifice: 13. and wifely aduifed Moyfes to appoint fubordinate officers to iudge leſe cauſes, referu- ing the greater to him ſelfe.

And when Iethro the ^aprieſt of Madian, the allied of Moyſes, had heard al the thinges, that God had done to Moyſes, and to Ifrael his people, and that our Lord had brought forth Ifrael out of Ægypt: ²he tooke Sephora the wife of Moyſes whom he had ſent backe: ³and her two ſonnes, of which one was called Gerſam, his father ſaying: I haue bene a ſtranger in a forren countrie. ⁴And the other Eliezer: for the God of my father, quoth he, is my helper, and hath deliuered me from Pharaos ſword. ⁵Iethro therfore the allied of Moyſes came and his ſonnes, and his wife to Moyſes into the deſert, where he was camped beſide the mountayne of God. ⁶And he ſent word to Moyſes, ſaying: I Iethro thy allied come to thee, and thy wife, and thy two children with her. ⁷Who going forth to mete his allied, adored, and kiſſed him: and they ſaluted one an other with wordes of peace. And when he was entred into the tent, ⁸Moyſes told his allied al thinges that our Lord had done to Pharaos, and the Ægyptians for Ifrael: and the whole trauaile which had chanced to them in the iourney, and that our Lord had deliuered them. ⁹And Iethro reioyced for al the good thinges, that our Lord had done to Ifrael, becauſe he had deliuered them out of the handes of the Ægyptians, ¹⁰and he ſaid: Bleſſed is the Lord, that hath deliuered you out of the hand of the Ægyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaos, that hath deliuered his people out of the hand of Ægypt. ¹¹Now doe I know, that the Lord is great aboue al goddes: for

^a *Cohen* in Hebrew ſignifieth *Prince* or *Prieſt*, which offices in the law of nature were often ioyned in one perſon.

because they dealt proudly againſt them. ¹² Iethro therefore the allied of Moyſes offered holocaustes and hoſtes to God: and Aaron and al the ancientes of Ifrael came, to eate bread with him before God. ¹³ And the next day Moyſes fate to iudge the people, who ſtoode by Moyſes from morning vntil night. ¹⁴ Which thing when his allied had ſeene, to witte, al thinges that he did in the people, he ſaid: What is this that thou doeſt in the people? Why fitteſt thou alone, and al the people attendeth from morning vntil night? ¹⁵ To whom Moyſes answered: The people cometh to me ſeeking the ſentence of God. ¹⁶ And when anie controuerſie chanceth among them, they come vnto me to iudge betwene them, and to ſhew the preceptes of God, and his lawes. ¹⁷ But he ſaid: Thou doeſt not wel: ¹⁸ thou art tyred with fooliſh labour, both thou, and this people that is with thee, the buſines is aboute thy ſtrength, thou alone canſt not ſuſteyne it. ¹⁹ But ^aheare my wordes and counſails, and God ſhal be with thee. Be thou to the people in thoſe thinges that pertaine to God, to report their wordes vnto him: ²⁰ and to ſhew to the people the ceremonies and rite of worſhipping, and the way wherein they ought to walke, and the worke that they ought to doe. ²¹ And prouide out of al the people men that are wiſe, and doe feare God, in whom there is truth, and that doe hate auarice, and appointe of them tribunes, and centurions, and quinquagenarians, and deanes, ²² which may iudge the people at al tymes: and what great matter ſoeuer ſhal fal out, let them referre it to thee and let them iudge the leſſe matters only: and ſo it may be lighter for thee, the burden being imparted vnto others. ²³ If thou doeſt this, thou ſhalt fulfil the commandment of God, and ſhalt be able to beare his preceptes: and al this people ſhal returne to their places with peace. ²⁴ Which thinges when Moyſes

^a Manifold wiſdome, wherof Daniel prophecieth (*c. 12. v. 4.*) in Chriſtian gentils, was here prefigured in Iethro a gentil.

heard ^{a)}he did al thinges that he had fuggefted vnto him. ²⁵ And choofing fubftantial men out of al Ifrael, he appointed them princes of the people, tribunes, and centurions, and quinquagenarians, and deanes. ²⁶ Who iudged the people at al time: and whatfoeuer was of greater difficultie they referred to him, themfelues iudging the eafier cafes only. ²⁷ And he difmiffed his allied: who returning went into his countrie.

^a To whom Moyfes willingly yelded. *Origen in hunc locum*. Morally Superiors are admonifhed by Moyfes example to lerne of anie man, that which is good. S. Chryfoftom *ho. de ferendis reprehentionibus*.