

Exodus 2:16-22

¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ Then the shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸ When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "Why have you come *back* so soon today?" ¹⁹ So they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds; and what is more, he even drew the water for us and watered the flock." ²⁰ And he said to his daughters, "Where is he then? Why is it that you have left the man behind? Invite him to have something to eat." ²¹ And Moses was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses. ²² Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

It is here in **Exodus 2** that we learn the name of Moses' wife, Zipporah. Yet it is here that we also learn the name of her father, Reuel, and of his role as the priest of Midian. It would be so easy to zip through this passage which seems to offer very little relevance other than Zipporah's name. Yet it is here in these very verses that a mystery has been hidden or not openly discussed, as far as I know. First of all, Reuel's name has one of the most significant meanings that I have ever discovered. It literally means, 'Friend of God'. The Old Testament tells us that Abraham was called a friend of God, and the New Testament reveals that the Apostle John was called a friend of Jesus Christ. Yet neither of their names means 'a friend of God'. I also am fully aware that many believers consider that they have attained or been offered that special title or privilege as well. But for me, I often am reminded of **Proverbs 20:6, Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man?** It is one thing to desire or proclaim such an accolade or title, but it is an entirely different thing to live up to such an honor. But here we are told that Zipporah, the Cushite or Ethiopian, that the name of her father meant 'Friend of God'. Not only was Reuel not a Jew, but he was definitely black as well.

Many ministers have falsely proclaimed that the blacks are descendants of Ham, the son who dishonored Noah; and as such received a mark or curse of being black. This is absolutely false and heresy; because **Genesis 25:1-2**, tells us that when Sarah died, Abraham married another woman named Keturah, and that she gave Abraham six sons. Please follow along with me, ¹ **Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.** ² **And she bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah.** It is the exact same Midian family that Reuel was a priest of. But it doesn't end there. Look with me at the descendants of Esau: **Genesis 36:2-4**, ² **Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah and the granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite;** ³ **also Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, the sister of Nebaioth.** ⁴ **And Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel.** Not only was Reuel, Esau's son, but his maternal grandfather was Ishmael, Abraham's son born to Hagar, Sarah's maidservant. It is absolutely evident and clear for all who are willing to see, that Reuel, a Cush or black man, was a direct descendant of Abraham, and as such was of the Shemetic lineage. I am not saying that he was of the lineage of promise, as was Isaac; but that he certainly was under no curse imposed on Ham or his descendants.