

Episode: God and His Family No. 05

Narrator: Hur

Primary Scriptures: Exodus 17:10-17, Exodus 24:13-14, Exodus 38 :22

Story Summary: The importance of being a person of God

Location: Israel

Time: 1500 BC

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Exodus 17:12-13

Of all the turning points in history, none is bigger than the event described in Exodus 19:5-6. God makes the Israelites an incredible, unbelievable, one-sided offer. God, who can demand anything he wants, who can cause to happen anything he wants, who doesn't need anything, chooses to make an offer. If the Israelites will obey him fully and keep his covenant they will be God's treasured possession and will be his kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Or, as is said multiple times in the Bible: "I will be their God and they will be my people."

The offer was so valuable that the Israelites immediately accepted it. Then, they must have begun wondering just what it means to be "God's people." They must have begun to think about what it means to obey God fully and keep his covenant. And, since they had just come from out of slavery in Egypt, they might have begun to regret trading one master for another when they had dreamt of not having a master at all.

Except for Moses, the first two people most likely to exemplify the meaning of being God's people were Aaron and Hur. Aaron was the older brother of Moses. Tradition indicates Hur may have been the nephew of Moses. The Amalekites attacked the Israelites shortly after they left Egypt. During the battle, it was determined the Israelites won when Moses held up the Staff of God, but the Amalekites won when the staff was lowered. Aaron and Hur faithfully held up Moses's arms until the Israelites prevailed.

After God made his offer to be the God of the Israelites, he instructed Moses to go up to the top of Mount Sinai. He ended up being on the mountain for forty days. He left Hur and Aaron to resolve any disputes among the elders and people. Moses must have had complete faith in them.

God's faith in Hur may have been backed up during those forty days because God chose the nephew of Hur, Bezalel, to build much of the Tabernacle.

However, the biggest example of Hur being a person of God may be that he is never mentioned again! When Moses comes down from the mountain, Aaron is leading the people in making the golden calf. Hur is not included, even though he likely was a metalsmith. Did Hur refuse to build the idol and get killed for his refusal? The Bible doesn't say, but that is something some of the ancient rabbis concluded.

Sometimes being a person of God means not doing something.