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Q1: What does Jethro hear about God taking Israel out of Egypt that makes him want to come meet Moses? Now that they have a chance to talk, what does Moses tell Jethro about the flight that he didn't hear already?

Q2: Why were Moses's wife and children with Jethro? Didn't the Torah explicitly describe them coming to Egypt with Moses?

Q3: We learn that the people question Moses "from morning until evening" regarding their disputes. What matters do you imagine arising among them? What does justice look like in a society that is aware of the law through its absence?

Q4: What are the "laws and teachings of God" which Moses is consulting? If they have access to divine law now, what is being delivered in the scene of revelation?

Q5: Why did Israel have to set up courts before they could receive the Torah? Why did they need the help of this outsider, Jethro?

Q6: Why does the Torah switch from ethical injunctions to the details of the altar as soon as the people ask Moses to interface with God for them?

Q7: How do the thunder and smoke on the mountain function as manifestations of God's presence? How does this scene compare to the parting of the sea from the last parsha?

Q8: God repeatedly warns the people not to approach the mountain from where he speaks to Moses. Trace the development of the concept of sacred prohibition in the Torah up to this point.

Q9: Between the covenant with Abraham and the revelation at Sinai, what has changed or remained the same about God's relationship to these people?

Q10: Is there any theme or organizing principle in the Ten Commandments? Does it have a structure? Is there a most important part, and is it at the beginning, end, or middle?

Q11: How many things can you count in this parsha? Can you count the Ten Commandments? Why does it matter that there are 10 commandments, even when there are different ways to count them?

Q12: What does it mean to be told not to covet your neighbor's family and property? What relationship does that affective commandment have with the others?