



YITRO

In this week's Parsha, three million Jews gather at the foot of Mount Sinai and personally witness G-d giving the Torah. The revelation at Mount Sinai is considered as the central event in Jewish history!

It is surprising, therefore, that the name of this Parsha is "Yitro." Who was this man Yitro?

The Parsha begins, "Yitro, the Priest of Midian, the father-in-law of Moses, heard all that G-d did for Moses and Israel..."

Yitro heard about the amazing events of the Exodus and came to join the Jewish people. Rashi asks, "What was it specifically that Yitro heard that caused him to come? He heard about the splitting of the Red Sea and about the war with Amalek."

But really, we are told that the entire world heard about the splitting of the Red Sea and the war with Amalek! So why does the Torah single out Yitro?

The answer is that Yitro was a truth seeker. He had traveled around, trying every type of spiritual path, ultimately rejecting one after another as false. He was honest with himself and committed to the truth. Did others hear about the Exodus? Of course! But only Yitro was open to its message. It was this act of greatness which brought Yitro to become part of the Jewish people, and for that the parsha of the Ten Commandments bears his name!

The Torah is a book of truth, and our nation is a people of truth. Let us be like Yitro and strive to seek out the truth in everything we do!

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Cohen