

## Oddities in Scripture with Perryn Rice

### And God Tried to Kill Him... Exodus 4:24-26

Introduction: And God does what?

#### **One Argument:**

It's not Moses God plans to kill, but Moses' son.

#### **The Purpose(s) of this Text:**

1.) God comes first

2.) Role of a leader's spouse (wife)

“Bridegroom of blood” – This is problematic; we don't really know what Zipporah means. Perhaps the most logical answer is that she did not approve of her son being circumcised, thus putting some division between her and her husband due to the covenantal action that *she* knew should have taken place. This understanding works well in defending the intended victim to be Moses or Moses' son. In either case, Zipporah's actions saved a life; either her husband's or her son's.

3.) Women Saviors

4.) The connectivity between divine and human actions

“God ‘let him alone,’ immediately and without a word. The action of Zipporah therefore is not effective in and of itself. God *decides* to let Moses live. The blood is thus not magically conceived, efficacious apart from the divine decision. What Zipporah provides is the *occasion* for the divine action. Her action does affect what God does and is thus a powerful testimony to the importance of human activity in God-human relationships, but the ground for the divine decision remains wholly with God. Whatever the ground (mercy?), it constitutes a recognition that the situation is not such that the mission that God is about with Moses can proceed.”<sup>1</sup>

Conclusion: Vulnerability.

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<sup>1</sup> Terence E. Fretheim, Exodus – Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Pg.79.