

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Ki Sissa / Parah
March 6, 2026 / 17 Adar 5786
Volume 31, Issue 21
Candlelighting: 6:05 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

Friday, March 6

6:05pm Candlelighting
6:10pm Mincha

Shabbos, March 7

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush available for sponsorship
6:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
7:14pm Maariv

Sunday, March 8

9:15am *Parsha Class*
(R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, March 9

8:00pm Mitzvos and Meaning:
Shaatnez and Statutes
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, March 10

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, March 11

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –
MISHLEI (R. Stoll)

Thursday, March 12

8:00pm Sefer HaChinuch: R. Stoll
10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's
"Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple
Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more,
or download at
www.maverickpodcasting.com

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:
425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly
at all podcast locations

R. Stoll:
Zoom: 876-619-3551
Audio: 669-900-9128

Parsha: Ki Sissa

G-d commanded Moshe to take a census of the Jewish people. Although this instruction is mentioned before the sin of the Golden Calf, it was actually given after many of the participants in the sin had been killed. Rather than counting the people themselves, they were instructed to give a

half shekel each, and the coins were then counted. The half-shekel served as atonement for the nation.

After the great revelation at Sinai, Moshe told the nation that he would return from atop the mountain after forty days. The people miscalculated Moshe's

words and began the counting from the moment he left. In fact, however, Moshe had meant for the forty days to begin from the following evening, marking a complete forty days and nights. When Moshe had not returned by the fortieth day of their calculations, they feared he would not return at all. The people clamored around Aharon to make them an image as a replacement for Moshe. Although Aharon had no intention of sinning, he feared for his life. Indeed, the Midrash says that Chur, Miriam's son, was murdered trying to stop the people.

Aharon told the people to bring their gold to him. He thought he could procrastinate until Moshe returned. The people, however, rushed to bring him

their gold. Aharon took the gold and threw it into a fire. Miraculously, a golden calf appeared by itself.

Only a minority of the nation, three thousand people, actually served the Golden Calf as a god. These instigators were from the Mixed Assembly who had joined the Jews when they left Egypt and

were not from the main body of the nation. The others only viewed the calf as a physical representation of something with which they could connect to G-d, to take the place of Moshe. Yet this too was considered a serious sin because it marked a lack of trust and belief in the way G-d wanted the people to

Issue Sponsorship

by Ivan Goldberg upon the occasion of his father's yahrzeit, Moshe Yosef ben Ahron Dovid HaLevi

Spring Forward

At 2am Sunday morning the clocks move forward 1 hour.

relate to Him.

The people were all punished on various levels, according to their involvement. The tablets that Moshe had received at Sinai were broken, and only after Moshe prayed on behalf of the people were they finally forgiven. The atonement was completed on Yom Kippur when they received the second set of tablets. Their direct relationship with G-d would never be the same. Only the Levites and the women, who had not been involved with the Calf at all, were spared from punishment. The Levites were chosen to serve in the Temple instead of the firstborn, and the women were given Rosh Chodesh, the New Moon, as a monthly holiday.

Insights: Ki Sissa

The Children of Israel will observe the Shabbos (Ex 31:16) A group of Jews created a society to promote Shabbos observance and they approached the Chafetz Chaim for his approval. The Chafetz Chaim began to cry. When asked to explain this reaction, the sage answered, "If you were to see a person stopping by a home and expressing thanks to G-d that he is healthy, you would understand that there are people in this home who are ill. Similarly, if we see the need for such a society it is evident that many people are not taking Shabbos observance seriously. And that is certainly reason to cry!"

Did You Know?

Certain types of materials may be koshered for Pesach, such as utensils made of metal and stone. Utensils made of plastic, china, porcelain, or earthenware may not be koshered for Pesach if they were used with hot chametz. The accepted custom is not to kosher glassware, Corning ware, or Correlle either. Pots which were coated with Teflon cannot be koshered either. Formica top surfaces should not be koshered for Pesach but should rather be cleaned well and covered with paper, aluminum foil, or some other material, and they can then be used. Rabbinic guidance is recommended for specific details regarding koshering vessels.

Thought for the Week: Some believe not in G-d but in belief. (A Candle By Day)