

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Ki Sissa

February 18, 2022 / 17 Adar I 5782

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Candlelighting: 5:45 pm

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

## Friday, February 18

7:00am Shacharis

5:45pm Candlelighting  
5:50pm Mincha / Maariv

8:35pm Parsha Class  
2362 Milton

## Shabbos, February 19

8:45am Shacharis

5:10pm Laws of Shabbos  
5:40pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /  
Maariv

## Sunday, February 20

8:00am Shacharis  
9:15am *Parsha Class*  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, February 21

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Understanding Emunah:  
Building Faith (6 / 10)*  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, February 22

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Avos D'Rav Nosson*  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, February 23

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Nach Still Speaks*  
(R. Stoll)

## Thursday, February 24

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *The 12 Jewish Months*  
(R. Stoll)  
10:15pm *Parsha Class*  
(R. Nisenbaum)

### Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**  
425-436-6200 #352171

**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 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 nation saw that Moshe was late coming down from the mountain. (Exodus 32:1)** The Chafetz Chaim was once heard late at night reciting Tikkun Chatzos. The midnight prayer some people recite mourning the Temple. Suddenly he cried out with a choked voice, "Master of the Universe! How much longer? When after forty days Moshe was supposed to come down from the mountain, the people could not wait a mere six hours later than they miscalculated, and they traded their faith in You for a golden calf! Yet, Master, we have been waiting now for almost two thousand years, and we have still kept our faith in You. Twice each day, from young to old, we say 'Shema Yisrael, Hashem is our G-d.' How much longer must we wait?"

## Did You Know?

Cooking is prohibited on Shabbos even if it is not directly on a fire. For example, one may not put uncooked spices into a hot bowl of soup, as they will be cooked. If the soup is transferred from one bowl to another, the spices may be added, as the transferring cools it sufficiently that it will no longer cook. If a solid food has already been cooked, it is permitted to 're-cook' it by putting it into something hot. Our salt and sugar today are pre-cooked, and thus may be put into hot foods. Liquids may not be re-heated, even if they were already cooked before, unless they still retain some of their original heat. One should not pour hot water into a wet cup, since the droplets of water will be cooked.

**Thought for the Week: Some stick to their guns even when they are pointed against them**  
(A Candle By Day)