

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Ki Sissa
March 10, 2023 / 17 Adar 5783
Volume 28, Issue 21
Candlelighting: 6:09 pm

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

Friday, March 10

6:09pm Candlelighting
6:10pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, March 11

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
the Post Family for a
continued refuah for
Basya bas Mindel Laya*

6:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, March 12

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

Monday, March 13

8:00pm "The Rest of the Story"
- "The Exodus"

Tuesday, March 14

8:00pm Pirkei d'Rebbi Elazar
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, March 15

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

Thursday, March 16

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

New episodes twice a week!

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 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.

Issue Sponsorship
by Ivan Goldberg on the
occasion of his father's yahrzeit,
Moshe Yosef ben Ahron Dovid
Halevi, 19 Adar

Insights: Ki Sissa

The Children of Israel will observe the Shabbos (Exodus 31:16)

A group of Jews created a society to promote Shabbos observance and they approached the Chafetz Chaim to ask 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. Is that not sufficient reason to cry!"

Did You Know?

There are several customs regarding one's position during Kiddush and Havdalah. Some sit for the entire Kiddush to make it more of a set and established ceremony. Others stand for the first paragraph, since it offers testimony to G-d's Creation, and testimony must be presented standing. Others stand for the entire Kiddush to show the importance of the prayer. Regarding Havdalah too, some stand to show the importance of the prayer, while others sit to make it more of a fixed ceremony. Even those who stand during Kiddush and Havdalah should sit when drinking the wine.

Thought for the Week: Heads should be cool and hearts warm. (A Candle By Day)