

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Ki Sissa

March 1, 2024 / 21 Adar I 5784

Volume 29, Issue 21

Candlelighting: 5:59 pm

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

## Friday, March 1

5:59pm Candlelighting  
6:00pm Mincha / Maariv  
8:45pm Parsha Shiur  
@ R. Nisenbaum

## Shabbos, March 2

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is sponsored by  
Simcha Geller on the  
occasion of his mother's  
yahrzeit, Eta Bryna bas  
David Yehuda*  
5:20pm Laws of Shabbos  
5:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
7:09pm Maariv

## Sunday, March 3

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

## Monday, March 4

8:00pm Developing a Jewish  
Personality – Overcoming  
Laziness

## Tuesday, March 5

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

## Wednesday, March 6

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

## Thursday, March 7

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

### 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.

### Sponsorships Available

*This newsletter, Kiddush, Shalosh Seudos, and more.. Contact JLC*

## Insights: Ki Sissa

**I will show favor when I choose to show favor (Ex 33:19)** The Talmud adds that Hashem shows favor even to those who may be unworthy. A wealthy man would often visit Rav Zisha of Anapoli and leave him a generous donation. Once upon coming, the Rav's wife mentioned that Rav Zisha was visiting his Rebbe, the Mezritcher Maggid. The man was surprised and thought that if Rav Zisha visited a greater Rebbe, he should do the same. The man started visiting the Mezritcher Maggid and supporting him—but he noticed that his fortune began to dwindle. He asked Rav Zisha who told him, "You see, I am but a simple Jew, but when you supported a simple Jew, Hashem did the same and supported you as well. When you started to become more selective in whom you supported, Hashem became more selective as well, and decided you were not worthy of being so wealthy.

## Did You Know?

The Talmud teaches that a person who is engaged in a mitzvah receives a special protection on his journey. However, the Talmud cautions if the danger is very common, one should not rely on this special protection, and it is prohibited to jeopardize one's safety. There is a custom to give a person embarking on a trip money to give to charity, thus making him an emissary for mitzvah and deserving of special protection. There are differing opinions regarding a person on a trip to perform a mitzvah whether or not he is required to recite the Wayfarer's Prayer, since he receives protection anyway. The prevailing opinion is to recite the prayer when leaving the greater metropolitan area.

**Thought for the Week: The disguise in most blessings in disguise is not over the blessing but over our eyes.** (A Candle By Day)