

Ki Tisa, Torah, March 2, 2024

Exodus 31:18-33:11

(18) Upon finishing speaking with him on Mount Sinai, [God] gave Moses the two tablets of the Pact, stone tablets inscribed with the finger of God. (1) When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, the people gathered against Aaron and said to him, “Come, make us a god who shall go before us, for that fellow Moses—the man who brought us from the land of Egypt—we do not know what has happened to him.” (2) Aaron said to them, “[You men,] take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” (3) And all the people took off the gold rings that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. (4)

שמות ל"א:י"ח-ל"ג:י"א

(יח) וַיִּתֵּן אֶל-מֹשֶׁה כְּכֹל־דְּבַר
אֲתוֹ בְּהַר סִינַי לְחַת הָעֵדוּת
לְחַת אֲבֹן כְּתָבִים בְּאֶצְבַּע אֱלֹהִים:
(א) וַיֵּרָא הָעָם כִּי-בִשָׁשׁ מֹשֶׁה
לָרְדֹת מִן-הָהָר וַיִּקְהֵל הָעָם
עַל-אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו קוּם |
עֲשֵׂה-לָנוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יֵלְכוּ
לְפָנֵינוּ כִּי-זֶה | מֹשֶׁה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר
הֵעֲלָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֹא יָדַעְנוּ
מָה-הָיָה לוֹ: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם
אַהֲרֹן פְּרִקוּ נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר
בְּאָזְנֵי נְשֵׁיכֶם בְּנִיכֶם וּבְנֹתֵיכֶם
וְהָבִיאוּ אֵלָי: (ג) וַיִּתְּפְּרְקוּ כָל-הָעָם
אֶת-נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם
וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל-אַהֲרֹן: (ד) וַיִּקַּח מֵיָדָם
וַיִּצַר אֹתוֹ בַּחֶרֶט וַיַּעֲשֵׂהוּ עֵגֶל
מִסֹּכָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ

This he took from them and cast in a mold, and made it into a molten calf. And they exclaimed, “This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!” (5) When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron announced: “Tomorrow shall be a festival of (6) ”! Early next day, the people offered up burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; they sat down to eat and drink, and then rose to dance. (7) spoke to Moses, “Hurry down, for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have acted basely. (8) They have been quick to turn aside from the way that I enjoined upon them. They have made themselves a molten calf and bowed low to it and sacrificed to it, saying: ‘This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!’” (9) further said to Moses, “I see that this is a stiffnecked people. (10)

יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלֹף מֵאָרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם: (ה) וַיֵּרָא אֶהָרֹן וַיִּבֶן מִזְבֵּחַ
לְפָנָיו וַיִּקְרָא אֶהָרֹן וַיֹּאמֶר הֲג
לִיהוָה מִחֵר: (ו) וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ מִמִּחְרָת
וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלֹת וַיִּגְשׂוּ שְׁלָמִים וַיֵּשֶׁב
הָעָם לֶאֱכֹל וּשְׂתוֹ וַיִּקְמוּ לְצַחֲקָ:
{פ} (ז) וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה
לֵךְ־יֵרֵד כִּי שָׁחַת עַמִּי אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלִיתָ
מֵאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (ח) סָרוּ מֵהָר
מִן־הַדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתָם עֲשׂוּ לָהֶם
עֲגֹל מִסֹּכָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ־לָהּ וַיִּזְבְּחוּ־לָהּ
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶּה אֱלֹהֵיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר
הֶעֱלֹף מֵאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (ט) וַיֹּאמֶר
יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה רְאִיתִי אֶת־הָעָם
הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה עִם־קִשָּׁה־עֲרָף הוּא: (י)
וַעֲתָה הִנֵּיחָה לִּי וַיִּחַר־אַפִּי בָהֶם
וּבְכֻלָּם וַאֲעִשֶׂה אוֹתָךְ לְגוֹי גָדוֹל:
(יא) וַיַּחַל מֹשֶׁה אֶת־פָּנָיו יְהוָה
אֲלֵהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר לָמָּה יְהוָה יַחַרָה
אַפְּךָ בְּעַמֶּךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתָ מֵאָרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם בְּכַח גָּדוֹל וּבְיַד חֲזָקָה: (יב)

Now, let Me be, that My anger may blaze forth against them and that I may destroy them, and make of you a great nation.” (11) But Moses implored his God יהוה, saying, “Let not Your anger, יהוה, blaze forth against Your people, whom You delivered from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand. (12) Let not the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he delivered them, only to kill them off in the mountains and annihilate them from the face of the earth.’ Turn from Your blazing anger, and renounce the plan to punish Your people. (13) Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, how You swore to them by Your Self and said to them: I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, and I will give to your offspring this whole land of which I spoke, to possess forever.” (14) And יהוה renounced the punishment planned for God’s

לָמָּהּ יֹאמְרוּ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר בְּרָעָה
הוֹצִיאָם לְהִרְגֵם אֶתְּם בְּהָרִים
וְלִכְלֹתָם מִעַל פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה שׁוֹב
מִחֲרוֹן אַפָּי וְהִנַּחֲתָם עַל־הָרָעָה
לְעַמִּי: (יג) זָכֹר לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק
וְלִישְׂרָאֵל עֲבָדַי אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ
לָהֶם בְּךָ וַתְּדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אַרְבָּה
אֶת־זֶרְעֶכֶם כְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם
וְכָל־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי
אֵתָּן לְזֶרְעֶכֶם וְנַחֲלוּ לָעַלְמִים: (יד)
וַיִּנַּחֲם יְהוָה עַל־הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר
לַעֲשׂוֹת לְעַמּוֹ: {פ} {טו} וַיִּפֹּן וַיֵּרֵד
מִשָּׁה מִן־הָהָר וּשְׁנֵי לַחַת הָעֵדֻת
בְּיָדוֹ לַחַת כְּתָבִים מִשְׁנֵי עֲבָרֵיהֶם
מִזֶּה וּמִזֶּה הֵם כְּתָבִים: (טז)
וְהַלַּחַת מַעֲשֵׂה אֱלֹהִים הִמָּה
וְהַמְּכָתֵב מְכָתֵב אֱלֹהִים הוּא חֲרוּת
עַל־הַלַּחַת: (יז) וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה
אֶת־קוֹל הָעָם בְּרָעָה וַיֹּאמֶר
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה קוֹל מְלַחֲמָה בְּמַחֲנֵה:
(יח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵין קוֹל עֲנֹת גְּבוּרָה

people. (15) Thereupon Moses turned and went down from the mountain bearing the two tablets of the Pact, tablets inscribed on both their surfaces: they were inscribed on the one side and on the other.

(16) The tablets were God's work, and the writing was God's writing, incised upon the tablets. (17) When Joshua heard the sound of the people in its boisterousness, he said to Moses, "There is a cry of war in the camp." (18) But he answered, "It is not the sound of the tune of triumph, Or the sound of the tune of defeat; It is the sound of song that I hear!" (19) As soon as Moses came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, he became enraged; and he hurled the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. (20) He took the calf that they had made and burned it; he ground it to powder and strewed it upon the water and so made the Israelites

וַאֲיִן קוֹל עֲנוֹת חִלוּשָׁה קוֹל עֲנוֹת
אֲנֹכִי שָׁמַעַ: (יט) וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרַב
אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיֵּרָא אֶת־הָעֵגֹל
וּמַחֲלַת וַיִּחַר־אַף מֹשֶׁה וַיִּשְׁלֹךְ
מִיָּדוֹ אֶת־הַלְּחֹת וַיִּשְׁבֵּר אֹתָם תַּחַת
הַהָר: (כ) וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָעֵגֹל אֲשֶׁר
עָשׂוּ וַיִּשְׂרֹף בָּאֵשׁ וַיִּטְחֵן עַד
אֲשֶׁר־דָּק וַיִּזֹּר עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׁק
אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (כא) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה
אֶל־אַהֲרֹן מַה־עָשִׂיתָ לָּךְ הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה
כִּי־הִבַּאתָ עָלָיו חַטָּאת גְּדוֹלָה: (כב)
וַיֹּאמֶר אַהֲרֹן אֶל־יִחִיר אָף אֲדֹנָי
אֵתָּה יָדַעְתָּ אֶת־הָעָם כִּי בָרַע הוּא:
(כג) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִי עֲשֵׂה־לָּנוּ אֱלֹהִים
אֲשֶׁר יִלְכוּ לְפָנֵינוּ כִּי־זֶה | מֹשֶׁה
הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם
לֹא יָדַעְנוּ מַה־הָיָה לוֹ: (כד) וַאֲמַר
לָהֶם לְמִי זֶהב הַתְּפָרְקוּ וַיִּתְּנוּ־לִי
וַאֲשַׁלְכֵהוּ בָאֵשׁ וַיֵּצֵא הָעֵגֹל הַזֶּה:
(כה) וַיֵּרָא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הָעָם כִּי פָרַע
הוּא כִּי־פָרַעַה אַהֲרֹן לְשִׁמְצָה

drink it. (21) Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought such great sin upon them?” (22) Aaron said, “Let not my lord be enraged. You know that this people is bent on evil. (23) They said to me, ‘Make us a god to lead us; for that fellow Moses—the man who brought us from the land of Egypt—we do not know what has happened to him.’ (24) So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold, take it off!’ They gave it to me and I hurled it into the fire and out came this calf!” (25) Moses saw that the people were out of control—since Aaron had let them get out of control—so that they were a menace to any who might oppose them. (26) Moses stood up in the gate of the camp and said, “Whoever is for יהוה, come here!” And all the men of Levi rallied to him. (27) He said to them, “Thus says יהוה, the God of Israel: Each of you put sword on thigh, go back

בְּקִמְיָהֶם: (כו) וַיַּעֲמֵד מֹשֶׁה בְּשַׁעַר
הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיֹּאמֶר מִי לִיהוּה אֱלֹהֵי
וַיֹּאסְפוּ אֵלָיו כָּל־בְּנֵי לְוִי: (כז)
וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם כָּה־אָמַר יְהוּה אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲשִׂימוּ אִישׁ־חַרְבּוֹ עַל־יְרֵכּוֹ
עִבְרוּ וּשׁוּבוּ מִשַּׁעַר לְשַׁעַר בַּמַּחֲנֶה
וְהָרְגוּ אִישׁ־אֶת־אָחִיו וְאִישׁ
אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ וְאִישׁ אֶת־קָרְבּוֹ: (כח)
וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי־לְוִי כַדְבָר מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפֹּל
מִן־הָעָם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כַּשְּׁלִשִׁת
אֶלְפֵי אִישׁ: (כט) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה
מָלְאוּ יְדֵכֶם הַיּוֹם לַיהוּה כִּי אִישׁ
בְּבָנוֹ וּבְאָחִיו וּלְתַת עֲלֵיכֶם הַיּוֹם
בָּרָכָה: (ל) וַיְהִי מִמַּחֲרַת וַיֹּאמֶר
מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָעָם אַתֶּם חָטֵאתֶם
חַטָּאה גְדֹלָה וְעַתָּה אֶעֱלֶה
אֶל־יְהוּה אוּלַי אַכַּפְרָה בְּעַד
חַטָּאתְכֶם: (לא) וַיֹּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה
אֶל־יְהוּה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי חָטָא הָעָם
הַזֶּה חַטָּאה גְדֹלָה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם
אֱלֹהֵי זָהָב: (לב) וְעַתָּה אִם־תִּשָּׂא

and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay sibling, neighbor, and kin.” (28) The men of Levi did as Moses had bidden; and some three thousand of the people fell that day. (29) And Moses said, “Dedicate yourselves to יהוה this day—for each of you has been against blood relations—that [God] may bestow a blessing upon you today.” (30) The next day Moses said to the people, “You have been guilty of a great sin. Yet I will now go up to יהוה; perhaps I may win forgiveness for your sin.” (31) Moses went back to יהוה and said, “Alas, this people is guilty of a great sin in making for themselves a god of gold. (32) Now, if You will forgive their sin [well and good]; but if not, erase me from the record which You have written!” (33) But יהוה said to Moses, “Only one who has sinned against Me will I erase from My record. (34) Go now, lead the people where I told you. See, My

חטאתם ואם-אין מחני נא מספרך
אשר כתבת: (לג) ויאמר יהוה
אל-משה מי אשר חטא-לי אמחנו
מספרי: (לד) ועתה לך | נחה
את-העם אל אשר-דברתי לך הנה
מלאכי ילך לפניך וביום פקדי
ופקדתי עליהם חטאתם: (לה) ויגף
יהוה את-העם על אשר עשו
את-העגל אשר עשה אהרן: {ס}
(א) וידבר יהוה אל-משה לך עליה
מזה אתה והעם אשר העלית
מארץ מצרים אל-הארץ אשר
נשבעתי לאברהם ליצחק וליעקב
לאמר לזרעך אתננה: (ב) ושלחתי
לפניך מלאך וגרשתי את-הכנעני
האמרי והחתי והפרזי החוי
והיבوسی: (ג) אל-ארץ זבת חלב
ודבש כי לא אעלה בקרבך כי
עם-קשה-עורף אתה פן-אכלך
בדרך: (ד) וישמע העם את-הדבר
הרע הזה ויתאבלו ולא-שתו איש

messenger shall go before you. But when I make an accounting, I will bring them to account for their sins.” (35) Then יהוה sent a plague upon the people, for what they did with the calf that Aaron made. (1) Then יהוה said to Moses, “Set out from here, you and the people that you have brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring will I give it’— (2) I will send a messenger before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites— (3) a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go in your midst, since you are a stiffnecked people, lest I destroy you on the way.” (4) When the people heard this harsh word, they went into mourning, and none put on finery. (5) יהוה said to Moses, “Say to the Israelite people, ‘You are a stiffnecked people. If I were to go

עֲדִינוּ עֲלֵינוּ: (ה) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אָמַר אֶל־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
אַתֶּם עִם־קִשְׁיֵה־עֶרְפָּךְ רַגַע אֶחָד
אַעֲלֶה בְּקִרְבְּךָ וְכִלְיִתִּיךָ וְעַתָּה
הוֹרֵד עֲדִיךָ מֵעֲלִיךָ וְאֲדַעַה מָה
אַעֲשֶׂה־לָּךְ: (ו) וַיִּתְנַצְּלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶת־עֲדֵימָם מִהָר חוֹרֵב: (ז) וּמֹשֶׁה
יָקַח אֶת־הָאֱהָל וּנְטָה־לוֹ | מִחֻיז
לְמַחֲנֶה הַרְחֵק מִן־הַמַּחֲנֶה וְקָרָא
לוֹ אֱהָל מוֹעֵד וְהָיָה כָּל־מִבְּקֶשׁ
יְהוָה יֵצֵא אֶל־אֱהָל מוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר
מִחֻיז לְמַחֲנֶה: (ח) וְהָיָה כִּצְאֹת
מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָאֱהָל יָקוּמוּ כָּל־הָעָם
וְנִצְבּוּ אִישׁ פֶּתַח אֱהָלוֹ וְהִבִּיטוּ
אַחֲרֵי מֹשֶׁה עַד־בָּאוּ הָאֱהָלָה: (ט)
וְהָיָה כִּבְּאֵ מֹשֶׁה הָאֱהָלָה יָרַד
עֲמוּד הָעָנָן וְעָמַד פֶּתַח הָאֱהָל
וְדִבֶּר עִם־מֹשֶׁה: (י) וְרָאָה כָּל־הָעָם
אֶת־עֲמוּד הָעָנָן עֹמֵד פֶּתַח הָאֱהָל
וְקָם כָּל־הָעָם וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ אִישׁ פֶּתַח
אֱהָלוֹ: (יא) וְדִבֶּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה

in your midst for one moment, I would destroy you. Now, then, leave off your finery, and I will consider what to do to you.” (6) So the Israelites remained stripped of their finery from Mount Horeb on. (7) Now Moses would take the Tent and pitch it outside the camp, at some distance from the camp. It was called the Tent of Meeting, and whoever sought יהוה would go out to the Tent of Meeting that was outside the camp. (8) Whenever Moses went out to the Tent, all the people would rise and stand, at the entrance of each tent, and gaze after Moses until he had entered the Tent. (9) And when Moses entered the Tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the Tent, while [God] spoke with Moses. (10) When all the people saw the pillar of cloud poised at the entrance of the Tent, all the people would rise and bow low, at the entrance of each tent. (11) יהוה

פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים כַּאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר אִישׁ
אֶל-יָרֵעֵהוּ וְשָׁב אֶל-הַמִּחֻנֶּה
וּמִשָּׂרְתּוֹ יְהוֹשֵׁעַ בְּיָנֹן נֶעַר לֹא
יִמִּישׁ מִתּוֹךְ הָאֵהָל: {פ}

would speak to Moses face to face,
as one person speaks to another.

And he would then return to the
camp; but his attendant, Joshua son
of Nun, [serving as] deputy, would
not stir out of the Tent.