

Yitro, Torah, February 15, 2025

Exodus 19:1-20:23

(1) On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone forth from the land of Egypt, on that very day, they entered the wilderness of Sinai.

(2) Having journeyed from Rephidim, they entered the wilderness of Sinai and encamped in the wilderness. Israel encamped there in front of the mountain, (3) and Moses went up to God. יהוה called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob and declare to the children of Israel: (4) 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me. (5) Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is

שמות י"ט:א'-כ':כ"ג

(א) בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי לְצֵאת
בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בַּיּוֹם
הַזֶּה בָּאוּ מִדְבַר סִינַי: (ב) וַיִּסְעוּ
מִרֶפְדִּים וַיָּבֹאוּ מִדְבַר סִינַי וַיַּחֲנוּ
בְּמִדְבַר וַיַּחֲנוּ־שָׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל נֹגֵד
הָהָר: (ג) וּמֹשֶׁה עָלָה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים
וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה מִן־הָהָר לֵאמֹר
כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבַיִת יַעֲקֹב וְתִגִּיד לְבְנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ד) אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם אֲשֶׁר
עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרַיִם וְאֲשָׂא אֶתְכֶם
עַל־כַּנְּפֵי נְשָׁרִים וְאָבָא אֶתְכֶם אֵלָי:
(ה) וְעַתָּה אִם־שָׁמְעוּעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי
וַיִּשְׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־בְּרִיתִי וְהָיִיתֶם לִי
סֻגָּלָה מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כִּי־לִי
כָל־הָאָרֶץ: (ו) וְאַתֶּם תְּהִיוּ־לִי
מִמְּלַכְת פְּהַנִּים וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ אֱלֹהִים
הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תְּדַבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי

Mine, (6) but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.” (7) Moses came and summoned the elders of the people and put before them all that יהוה had commanded him. (8) All those assembled answered as one, saying, “All that יהוה has spoken we will do!” And Moses brought back the people’s words to יהוה. (9) And יהוה said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after.” Then Moses reported the people’s words to יהוה, (10) and יהוה said to Moses, “Go to the people and warn them to stay pure today and tomorrow. Let them wash their clothes. (11) Let them be ready for the third day; for on the third day יהוה will come down, in the sight of all the people, on Mount Sinai. (12) You shall set bounds for the people

יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ז) וַיָּבֵא מֹשֶׁה וַיְקַרְא
לְזִקְנֵי הָעָם וַיִּשָּׂם לְפָנֵיהֶם אֶת
כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר צִוְּהוּ
יְהוָה: (ח) וַיַּעֲנוּ כָּל־הָעָם יַחְדָּו
וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה נַעֲשֶׂה
וְנִשְׁמָע אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה
אֶל־יְהוָה: (ט) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה הֲיֵה אֲנֹכִי בְּאֵי אֵלֶיךָ
בְּעֵב הָעֲנֹן בְּעֵבֹר יִשְׁמַע הָעָם
בַּדְּבָרִי עֲמֹד וְגַם־בְּךָ יֵאֱמִינוּ לְעוֹלָם
וַיִּגַּד מֹשֶׁה אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה
אֶל־יְהוָה: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵךְ אֶל־הָעָם וְקַדְּשָׂתֶם
הַיּוֹם וּמָחָר וְכַבְּסוּ שְׂמֹלֹתֶם: (יא)
וְהָיוּ נְכֻנִים לַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי כִּי |
בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי יֵרֵד יְהוָה לְעֵינַי
כָּל־הָעָם עַל־הָר סִינַי: (יב) וְהִגַּבְלָתָם
אֶת־הָעָם סָבִיב לְאַמֵּר הַשְּׂמֵרוּ
לְכֶם עֲלֹת בְּהָר וּנְגַע בְּקִצְצוֹ
כָּל־הַנֶּגַע בְּהָר מוֹת יוּמָת: (יג)
לֹא־תִגַּע בּוֹ יָד כִּי־סָקוֹל יִסְקֶל

round about, saying, 'Beware of going up the mountain or touching the border of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death (13) without being touched—by being either stoned or shot; beast or person, a trespasser shall not live.' When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they may go up on the mountain." (14) Moses came down from the mountain to the people and warned the people to stay pure, and they washed their clothes. (15) And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day: [the men among] you should not go near a woman." (16) On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled. (17) Moses led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain. (18) Now Mount

אוֹרֵיָהּ יִירָה אִם־בְּהֶמָּה אִם־אִישׁ
 לֹא יַחִיָּה בְּמִשְׁךְ הַיָּבֵל הַזֶּה יַעֲלוּ
 בָהֶר: (יג) וַיֵּרֵד מֹשֶׁה מִן־הָהָר
 אֶל־הָעָם וַיְקַדְּשׁ אֶת־הָעָם וַיִּכְבְּסוּ
 שְׂמֹלְתָם: (יד) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָעָם הֲיוּ
 נֹכְחִים לְשִׁלְשַׁת יָמִים אֶל־תִּגְשׁוּ
 אֶל־אִשָּׁה: (טו) וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי
 בָּהֵיט הַבִּקְרָר וַיְהִי קָלִת וּבְרָקִים
 וַעֲנָן כָּבֵד עַל־הָהָר וְקוֹל שֹׁפָר חָזֵק
 מְאֹד וַיִּחַרֵּד כָּל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר
 בַּמַּחֲנֶה: (טז) וַיּוֹצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הָעָם
 לְקִרְיַת הָאֱלֹהִים מִן־הַמַּחֲנֶה
 וַיִּתְיַצְּבוּ בְּתַחֲתֵית הָהָר: (יז) וְהָרָא
 סִינַי עָשָׂן כְּלוֹ מִפְּנֵי אֲשֶׁר יֵרֵד עָלָיו
 יְהוָה בְּאֵשׁ וַיַּעַל עֲשָׂנוּ כְּעֲשָׂן
 הַכֹּבֶשֶׂת וַיִּחַרֵּד כָּל־הָהָר מְאֹד: (יח)
 וַיְהִי קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר הוֹלֵךְ וְחֲזֵק מְאֹד
 מֹשֶׁה יִדְבֹר וְהָאֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֶנּוּ בְּקוֹל:
 (יט) וַיֵּרֵד יְהוָה עַל־הָהָר סִינַי
 אֶל־רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה לְמֹשֶׁה
 אֶל־רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה: (כ)

Sinai was all in smoke, for יהוה had come down upon it in fire; the smoke rose like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently. (19) The blare of the horn grew louder and louder. As Moses spoke, God answered him in thunder. (20) יהוה came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain, and יהוה called Moses to the top of the mountain and Moses went up. (21) יהוה said to Moses, “Go down, warn the people not to break through to יהוה to gaze, lest many of them perish. (22) The priests also, who come near יהוה, must stay pure, lest יהוה break out against them.” (23) But Moses said to יהוה, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You warned us saying, ‘Set bounds about the mountain and sanctify it.’” (24) So יהוה said to him, “Go down, and come back together with Aaron; but let not the priests or the people break through to come up to יהוה,

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה רֵד הָעֵד
בְּעַם פְּוִיֶּהֶרְסוּ אֶל־יְהוָה לְרֵאוֹת
וְנִפְל מִמֶּנּוּ רַב: (כב) וְגַם הַכֹּהֲנִים
הַנִּגְשִׁים אֶל־יְהוָה יִתְקַדְּשׁוּ
פְוִיֶּפְרִיץ בָּהֶם יְהוָה: (כג) וַיֹּאמֶר
מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה לֹא־יִוְכַל הָעָם
לָעֹלֹת אֶל־הָר סִינַי כִּי־אַתָּה
הַעֲדַתָּה בְּנוֹי לְאֹמֶר הַגְּבִל
אֶת־הָהָר וְקִדְשָׁתּוּ: (כד) וַיֹּאמֶר
אֱלֹוֹי יְהוָה לְדָוִד וְעָלִית אֵתָה
וְאַהֲרֹן עִמָּךְ וְהַכֹּהֲנִים וְהָעָם
אֶל־יְהוָה לָעֹלֹת אֶל־יְהוָה
פְוִיֶּפְרִיץ־בָּם: (כה) וַיֵּרֵד מֹשֶׁה
אֶל־הָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם: {ס} (א)
וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים
הָאֵלֶּה לְאֹמֶר: {ס} (ב) אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים: (ג)
לֹא־יְהִי־לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים
עַל־פָּנָי: (ד) לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה־לְךָ פֶסֶל |
וְכָל־תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם | מִמַּעַל

lest [God] break out against them.”
 (25) And Moses went down to the people and spoke to them. (1) God spoke all these words, saying: (2) I am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage: (3) You shall have no other gods besides Me. (4) You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. (5) You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I your God am an impassioned God, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generations of those who reject Me. (6) but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments. (7) You shall not swear falsely by the name of your God; for will not clear one who swears falsely by God’s name.

וְאֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ מִתְחַת וְאֲשֶׁר בַּמַּיִם
 | מִתְחַת לָאָרֶץ: (ה) לֹא־תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה
 לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה
 אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל קַנָּא פֹקֵד עֵוֹן אָבֹת
 עַל־בָּנִים עַל־שְׁלֹשִׁים וְעַל־רְבָעִים
 לְשָׁנָאִי: (ו) וְעָשָׂה חֶסֶד לְאֲלֹפִים
 לֹא־הֵבִי וּלְשֹׁמְרֵי מִצְוֹתַי: {ס} (ז)
 לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת־שֵׁם־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
 לְשׂוּא כִּי לֹא יִנְקָה יְהוָה אֶת
 אֲשֶׁר־יִשָּׂא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ לְשׂוּא: {פ}
 (ח) זְכוֹר אֶת־יְוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ:
 (ט) שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְעָשִׂיתָ
 כָּל־מְלָאכְתֶּךָ: (י) וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי
 שַׁבָּת | לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה
 כָּל־מְלָאכָה אַתָּה | וּבְנֶהֱוֹבֹתֶךָ
 עֲבֹדֶךָ וְאַמְתֶּךָ וּבְהַמְתֶּךָ וּגְרֶךָ אֲשֶׁר
 בְּשַׁעֲרֶיךָ: (יא) כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת־יָמִים עָשָׂה
 יְהוָה אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ
 אֶת־הַיָּם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּם וַיִּנַּח
 בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל־כֵּן בֵּרַךְ יְהוָה
 אֶת־יְוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת וַיְקַדְּשֵׁהוּ: {ס} (יב)

(8) Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is a sabbath of your God יהוה: you shall not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, or your cattle, or the stranger who is within your settlements. (11) For in six days יהוה made heaven and earth and sea—and all that is in them—and then rested on the seventh day; therefore יהוה blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it. (12) Honor your father and your mother, that you may long endure on the land that your God יהוה is assigning to you. (13) You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (14) You shall not covet your neighbor's house: you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox or ass, or anything that is your neighbor's. (15) All the

כַּבֵּד אֶת-אֲבִיךָ וְאֶת-אִמְךָ לְמַעַן
יֵאָרְכוּן יְמֶיךָ עַל הָאָדָמָה
אֲשֶׁר-יְהוּה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ: {ס} {יג} לֹא תִרְצָח: {ס} לֹא תִנְאַף: {ס}
לֹא תִגְנוֹב: {ס} לֹא-תַעֲנֶנֶה בְרַעְיָךְ עַד
שָׁקֵר: {ס} {יד} לֹא תַחְמֹד בַּיִת
רַעֲיָךְ {ס} לֹא-תַחְמֹד אִשְׁתִּי רַעֲיָךְ
וְעַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתְּךָ וְשׁוֹרְךָ וְחִמְרְךָ וְכָל
אֲשֶׁר לְרַעֲיָךְ: {פ} {טו} וְכָל-הָעַם
רְאִים אֶת-הַקּוֹלֹת וְאֶת-הַלְפִידִם
וְאֵת קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר וְאֶת-הַהָר עֲשׂוֹן
וַיֵּרָא הָעָם וַיִּנְעוּ וַיַּעֲמְדוּ מֵרָחֵק:
{טז} וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-מֹשֶׁה דַּבֵּר-אַתָּה
עִמָּנוּ וְנִשְׁמָעָה וְאֵל-יְדַבֵּר עִמָּנוּ
אֱלֹהִים פֶּן-נָמוּת: {יז} וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה
אֶל-הָעָם אֵל-תִּירְאוּ כִּי לְבַעֲבוֹר
נִסוֹת אֶתְכֶם בָּא הָאֱלֹהִים וּבַעֲבוֹר
תִּהְיֶה יְרֵאתוֹ עַל-פְּנֵיכֶם לְבַלְתִּי
תַחֲטְאוּ: {יח} וַיַּעֲמֵד הָעָם מֵרָחֵק
וּמֹשֶׁה נִגַּשׂ אֶל-הָעֶרְפֶּל אֲשֶׁר-שָׁם
הָאֱלֹהִים: {יט} וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּה

people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the blare of the horn and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they fell back and stood at a distance. (16) “You speak to us,” they said to Moses, “and we will obey; but let not God speak to us, lest we die.” (17) Moses answered the people, “Be not afraid; for God has come only in order to test you, and in order that the fear of God may be ever with you, so that you do not go astray.” (18) So the people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was. (19) יהוה said to Moses: Thus shall you say to the Israelites: You yourselves saw that I spoke to you from the very heavens: (20) With Me, therefore, you shall not make any gods of silver, nor shall you make for yourselves any gods of gold. (21) Make for Me an altar of earth and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your sacrifices of well-being,

אֶל־מֹשֶׁה כֹּה תֹאמַר אֶל־בְּנֵי
 יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם כִּי
 מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם דִּבַּרְתִּי עִמָּכֶם: (כ) לֹא
 תַעֲשׂוּן אֵתִי אֱלֹהִי כֶסֶף וְאֱלֹהִי
 זָהָב לֹא תַעֲשׂוּן לָכֶם: (כא) מִזְבֵּחַ
 אֲדָמָה תַעֲשֶׂה־לִּי וְזִבְחֹתַי עָלָיו
 אֶת־עֹלֹתֶיךָ וְאֶת־שְׁלָמֶיךָ אֶת־צֹאנֶיךָ
 וְאֶת־בְּקָרֶיךָ בְּכֹל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר
 אֶזְכִּיר אֶת־שְׁמִי אָבוֹא אֵלֶיךָ
 וּבִרְכֹתֶיךָ: (כב) וְאִם־מִזְבֵּחַ אֲבָנִים
 תַעֲשֶׂה־לִּי לֹא־תִבְנֶה אֶתְהֶן גִּזִּית כִּי
 חֲרִבֶיךָ הִנֵּפֶת עָלֶיךָ וַתַּחֲלִלְהָ: (כג)
 וְלֹא־תַעֲלֶה בָּמַעֲלֹת עַל־מִזְבְּחִי
 אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִגְלֶה עֲרוֹתְךָ עָלָיו: {פ}

your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be mentioned I will come to you and bless you. (22) And if you make for Me an altar of stones, do not build it of hewn stones; for by wielding your tool upon them you have profaned them. (23) Do not ascend My altar by steps, that your nakedness may not be exposed upon it.