



Parent Child Learning

פְּרָשַׁת פִּי תִשָּׂא

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Topic:

Broken Tablets



Review these two sections about *Chet haEgel*, the sin of the Golden Calf...

¹ Meanwhile, the people began to realize that Moses was taking a long time to come down from the mountain. They gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Make us an oracle to lead us. We have no idea what happened to Moses, the man who brought us out of Egypt.'² 'Take the rings off the ears of your wives and children,' replied Aaron. 'Bring them to me.'³ All the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.⁴ He took [the rings] from the people, and had someone form [the gold] in a mold, casting it into a calf. [Some of the people began to] say, 'This, Israel, is your god, who brought you out of Egypt.'⁵ When Aaron saw [this], he built an altar before [the calf]. Aaron made an announcement and said, 'Tomorrow, there will be a festival to God.'⁶ Getting up early the next morning, [the people] sacrificed burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink, and then got up to enjoy themselves. Moses' Response ⁷ God declared to Moses, 'Go down, for the people whom you brought out of Egypt have become corrupt.'⁸ They have been quick to leave the way that I ordered them to follow, and they have made themselves a cast-metal calf. They have bowed down and offered sacrifice to it, exclaiming, 'This, Israel, is your god, who brought you out of Egypt.'

¹⁵ Moses turned around, and began going down the mountain with the two Tablets of Testimony in his hand. They were tablets written on both sides, with the writing visible from either side.¹⁶ The Tablets were made by God and written with God's script engraved on the Tablets.¹⁷ Joshua heard the sound of the people rejoicing, and he said to Moses, 'It sounds

שמות פרק לב, א-ח

(א) וַיֵּרָא הָעָם כִּי בִשֵׁשׁ מִשָּׁה לָרֶדֶת מִן הַהָר וַיִּקְהַל הָעָם עַל אֶהֱרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו קוּם עֲשֵׂה לָנוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יִלְכוּ לִפְנֵינוּ כִּי זֶה מִשָּׁה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֹא יָדַעְנוּ מָה הָיָה לוֹ: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אֶהֱרֹן פְּרָקוּ נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּאָזְנֵי נְשֵׁיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם וּבְנֹתֵיכֶם וְהָבִיאוּ אֵלָי: (ג) וַיִּתְּפְּרוּ כָל הָעָם אֶת נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל אֶהֱרֹן: (ד) וַיִּקַּח מֵיָדָם וַיַּצַּר אֹתוֹ בַּחֶרֶט וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ עֵגֶל מִסַּכָּה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלֵנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (ה) וַיֵּרָא אֶהֱרֹן וַיָּבֹא מִזִּבְחֵי לִפְנֵינוּ וַיִּקְרָא אֶהֱרֹן וַיֹּאמֶר חַג לִיקְנוֹק מָחָר: (ו) וַיִּשְׁכְּבִימוּ מִמִּתְחַרֵּת וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלֹת וַיִּגְשׁוּ שְׁלָמִים וַיֵּשֶׁב הָעָם לֶאֱכֹל וּשְׂתוֹ וַיִּקְמוּ לְצַחֵק: (ז) וַיְדַבֵּר יְקֹנֹק אֶל מִשָּׁה לֵּד רֹד כִּי שָׁחַת עַמְּךָ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלִיתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (ח) סְרוּ מִהֵר מִן הַדָּרָךְ אֲשֶׁר צְוִיתָם עֲשׂוּ לָהֶם עֵגֶל מִסַּכָּה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לוֹ וַיִּזְבְּחוּ לוֹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלֵנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

שמות פרק לב, טו-כ

(טו) וַיָּפֹר וַיֵּרֵד מִשָּׁה מִן הַהָר וַיִּשְׂגֵי לַחַת הַעֲדוּת בְּיָדוֹ לַחַת כְּתָבִים מְשֻׁנֵי עֵבְרִיָּהֶם מִזָּה וּמִזָּה הֵם כְּתָבִים: (טז) וְהַלַּחַת מַעֲשֵׂה אֱלֹהִים הַמָּה וְהַמְּכַתֵּב מְכַתֵּב אֱלֹהִים הוּא חֲרוּת עַל הַלַּחַת: (יז) וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת קוֹל הָעָם בָּרַעַה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל

as though there is a battle going on in the camp!' ¹⁸ 'It is not the song of victory,' replied [Moses], 'nor the dirge of the defeated. What I hear is just plain singing'. ¹⁹ As he approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses displayed anger, and threw down the tablets that were in his hand, shattering them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ He took the calf that the [people] had made, and burned it in fire, grinding it into fine powder. He then scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.

מֹשֶׁה קוֹל מִלְחָמָה בַּמַּחֲנֶה : (יח) וַיֹּאמֶר
אֵין קוֹל עֲנוֹת גְּבוּרָה וְאֵין קוֹל עֲנוֹת
חֲלוּשָׁה קוֹל עֲנוֹת אֲנָכִי שְׁמַע : (יט) וַיְהִי
כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרַב אֶל הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיֵּרָא אֶת הָעֵגֶל
וּמַחֲלַת וַיַּחַר אֵף מֹשֶׁה וַיִּשְׁלֹךְ מִיָּדָיו אֶת
הַלְּחֹת וַיִּשְׁבֵּר אֹתָם תַּחַת הַהָר : (כ) וַיִּקַּח
אֶת הָעֵגֶל אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ וַיִּשְׂרֹף בְּאֵשׁ וַיִּטְחֶנּוּ עַד
אֲשֶׁר דָּק וַיִּזְרַק עַל פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׁקֵן אֶת בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל :

...and discuss the following questions based on the text you read.

- 1) What did the Jewish people “see” before making the Golden Calf? What do you think the Jewish people felt at that moment and why?
- 2) What did the Jewish people ask Aharon to do? Why didn't they ask him to be the leader instead of Moshe?
- 3) How many things wrong did the Jewish people do in this section? What are they?
- 4) What was the purpose of the holiday that Aharon declared? Who was it for? Why was this strange?
- 5) How did the Jewish people “celebrate” this holiday? Was this the proper way to celebrate a holiday?
- 6) What did Moshe “see” just before he breaks the luchot, the tablets?
- 7) [Middle School Question] Was it a sin to break the luchot? Did Hashem get angry at Moshe for breaking the luchot? Why or why not? See Kil Yakar.

כלי יקר

וי"א ששברם, כדי להצטרף גם את עצמו עמהם בחטא וישראל גרמו שפרחו האותיות ומשה שבר הלוחות וכדי שלא יוכל הקב"ה לומר אכלה אותם ואעשה אותך לגוי גדול, שהרי הושוו בחטא ועל זה אמר משה ועתה אם תשא חטאתם, רוצה לומר ועתה נתחדש דבר שגם אני חוטא כמותם וא"כ אם תשא חטאתם מוטב ואם לאו אזי גם לי לא תשא וא"כ מחני נא מספרך

Some say that Moshe broke them in order to join them in their sin. And Israel caused that the letters floated up off the tablets and Moshe broke them so that Hashem could not say that I will destroy them and make you Moshe into a great nation. Because Moshe was now equal to them in the sin. About this Moshe said “and now if You, Hashem, bear (forgive) their sin”, which means to say and now things have taken a new turn because I have sinned just like them. And therefore, if you forgive their sin then all will be good, but if not then you cannot forgive my sin and you will have to erase me from your Torah.