

א שטיקל תורה A LITTLE SLICE OF TORAH

פון פרשת דער וואָך FROM THE WEEKLY PORTION

April 11, 2020



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְעֲסוֹק בְּדַבְרֵי תוֹרָה:

“Torah-Out-of-Season” (Because of the Season)

Weekly Portion: *Shabbat Chol ha-Mo’eid*

Consists of: Exodus 33:12-34:26

Reprinted from the Portion “*Ki Tissa*”— which we read on March 14— and from the corresponding *Chol haMo’eid* [intermediate Shabbat] during Sukkot half a year away in the Fall.

- A Salient Selection from the Portion -

Exodus 33:12-23, 34:10-20a

Exodus 32 describes how the Israelites, growing impatient at Moses’s long absence convening with God atop Mount Sinai, fabricate and worship the golden image of a calf.

^{33:12} Moses said to The Eternal One “Look, You tell me: ‘Lead this people forward’— yet You have not made known to me whom You will send with me! Moreover, You have said, ‘I have singled you out by name, and you have, indeed, gained My favor.’”

¹³ “Now, if I have truly gained Your favor, pray let me know Your ways, that I may know You and continue in Your favor. (Consider, too, that this nation is Your people!).”

¹⁴ [At which God] said, “I will go in the lead and will lighten your burden.”

¹⁵ To which [Moses] said to [God] “Unless You do go in the lead, do not compel us to leave this place.

¹⁶ “For how else shall it be known that I and Your people have gained Your favor; **is it not by Your going in our midst that we are distinguished— Your people and I—** from every other nation on earth?”

A1) Exodus 6:7

וידעתם כי אני יהוה אלהיכם
Then you will know that I, The Eternal One, am your God, once when I have brought you out from under the oppression of the Egyptians.

A2) Exodus 15:2, 15:11

זֶה אֱלֹהֵי וְאֵנֹוּהוּ אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֵי וְאַרְמֹמְנָהוּ
This is my God, Whom I will praise;
The God of my forebears,
Whom I will exalt!
Who is Your like, O Eternal One,
among the gods?
Who is Your like— majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, working wonders?

- continued

B1) Exodus 7:5

וַיִּדְעוּ מִצְרַיִם כִּי-אֲנִי יְהוָה

Then the Egyptians shall know that I am The Eternal, once I have exerted My Might upon Egypt.

B2) Exodus 15:14-16

שָׁמְעוּ עַמִּים יְרֻגְזוּן

The nations have heard, and tremble.

The residents of Philistia are seized with anguish; the clans of the Edomites are dismayed; the tribes of the Moabites are gripped by trembling—all the inhabitants of Canaan are adread.

B3) Numbers 22:3

וַיִּגַר מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי הָעָם מְאֹד כִּי רַב-הוּא וַיִּקְוַץ מוֹאָב

The [King of] Mo'av was in great dread of the people, because they were so mighty; all Mo'av was dismayed because of the Israelites.



C) Exodus 18:10-11

וַיֹּאמֶר יִתְרוֹ בְרוּךְ יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם

Yitro declared: “Blessed be The Eternal One, Who has rescued you from the power of the Egyptians.

עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי-גָדוֹל יְהוָה מִכָּל-הָאֱלֹהִים

“Now I know that The Eternal One is mightier than any other god!”

¹⁷ So The Eternal One said to Moses “I will **also do this thing that you have asked**; for you have truly gained My favor and I have singled you out by name.”

D) Exodus 32:10 -

וְעַתָּה הַנִּיחָה לִּי וַיַּחַר-אִפִּי בָהֶם וְאַכִּלְם וְאַעֲשֶׂה אוֹתָךְ לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל

Now, let Me be, that My wrath may blaze among them to destroy them all—then I will make of you a great nation.

18 To which [Moses] said “Oh, let me behold Your Presence!”

19 [At which God] said “I will make all My Goodness pass before you; I will proclaim before you the Name Eternal One; and I will show grace to the deserving, and show compassion to those to whom I show it—

20 But, you cannot see My Face— **for no mortal may behold Me and live.**”

E1) Yigdal (15th-century hymn)

אין לו דמות הגוף ואינו גוף

God has no physical semblance nor appearance, **neither is God a physical entity....**

E2) II Corinthians 3:18

But we all, **ἀνακεκαλυμμένῳ προσώπῳ τὴν δόξαν Κυρίου beholding the unveiled Glory of the Lord**, are transformed according to the same image from glory to glory.

E3) Qur'an 53:7-10

He was in the highest part of the Heavens when he approached, and then bowed—and thus was only two bow-lengths away (or even closer still!) **إلى غيبه ما أوحى when He revealed Himself to His servant.**

21 Then The Eternal One said “See, there is a place near Me. Position yourself there, on the crag;

22 “then, as My Presence passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and shield you with My Hand until I have passed by.

23 “Then I will take My Hand away. You will see My Back; but My Face may not be seen.”

34:10 [Then God] said “I hereby make a covenant. Before all your people **I will work such wonders as have never been wrought on all the earth or in any nation**; and all the people who are with you shall see **how awesome are the Eternal One's deeds which I will perform for you.**

11 “Mark well what I command you this day. I will drive out before you **the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.**

Genesis 10 - Canaan engenders 11 children.

Genesis 15 - Abraham promised the land of 10 children of Canaan.

F) Deuteronomy 7:1

Once The Eternal One has brought you to the land which you are going into to dispossess it, God will be vanquishing mighty nations from before you: the Hittite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite—**those seven nations** mightier and more numerous than you!

¹² “Beware of making a covenant with the inhabitants of the land against which you are advancing, lest they be a snare in your midst.

¹³ “Rather, you must tear down their altars; smash their pillars; and cut down their sacred posts—

¹⁴ “for you must not worship any other god, because The Eternal One, whose name is Impassioned, is an impassioned God.

Two Responses to Exodus 20:5

G1) RaSHI (Shlomo Yitzchaqi, 1040-1105) -

אֵל קָנָא - מקנא להפרע ואינו עובר
על מדתו למחול על עון עבודת
אלילים

“An impassioned God” – zealous to punish, by **not invoking the Divine attribute** [of compassion] to **forgive** the transgression of idol-worship.

כל לשון קנא אנפריימנט בלעייז
(אייפערנד) נותן לב ליפרע

Every usage of קנא signifies *enfreament* [emportement / eifernd, “zeal”], giving particular attention to punishment.

G2) Midrash *Mechilta d'Rabi Yishma'El*, baChodesh 6

כִּי אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל קָנָא - אֲנִי
שְׁלִיט בְּקִנְיָא וְאִין קִנְיָא שׁוֹלֵט בִּי
שְׁנַאמֵר הִנֵּה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר
יִשְׂרָאֵל

“For I— The Eternal One, your God— am an impassioned God” – which signifies: “**I govern My zeal; My zeal does not govern Me!**”— even as it is said in Scripture: “behold, the Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps” [Psalm 121:4].

¹⁵ You must not make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, for they will go whoring after their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and then invite you to come eat of their sacrifices.

¹⁶ For should you take wives from among their daughters for your sons, their daughters will go whoring after their gods and will cause your sons to go whoring after their gods.

¹⁷ You shall not make **molded gods** for yourselves.

אֱלֹהֵי מִסְכָּה לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה-לָךְ :

G1) Exodus 20:4-5

לֹא-תַעֲשֶׂה לָךְ פֶּסֶל ... לֹא-תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם

You may not make yourselves a sculpted image . . . to worship nor to serve.

G2) Exodus 32:4

וַיִּקַּח מִיָּדָם וַיַּצַּר אֹתוֹ בַּחֲרֹט וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ עֵגֶל מִסְכָּה

[Aaron] took it from their hands and made it into a molded calf, which he finished with a chisel.

18 You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread— **eating only unleavened bread for seven days, as I have commanded you**— at the set season of the barley-ripening; **for it was in the season of the barley-ripening that you went forth from Egypt.**

H1) Exodus 12:14-15

וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לָכֶם לְזִכְרוֹן וְחֻגְתֶּם
אֹתוֹ חֹג לַיהוָה לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם חֻקַּת עוֹלָם
תִּחְגְּגוּהוּ

This day will be for you a monument, which you will feast to The Eternal One throughout generations, rejoicing in it as an eternal statute.

שִׁבְעַת יָמִים מִצּוֹת תֹּאכְלוּ

For seven days you will eat only unleavened bread....

H2) Deuteronomy 16:1-2

שְׁמֹר אֶת-חֹדֶשׁ הָאָבִיב וְעָשִׂיתָ פֶּסַח
לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ

Observe the season of the barley-ripening to make your Passover offering to The Eternal One, your God—

**כִּי בַחֹדֶשׁ הָאָבִיב הוּצִיאָךְ יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִמִּצְרַיִם לַיְלָה**

for it was at that season of the barley-ripening that The Eternal One, your God, brought you out of Egypt by night.

19 **Every first issue of the womb is Mine**, from all your livestock that drop a male as firstling, whether cattle or sheep.

**כָּל-פֶּטֶר רְחֵם לִי וְכָל-מִקְנֶךָ תִּזְכָּר
פֶּטֶר שׁוֹר וְשֵׂה :**

H) Exodus 13:2-3

**קִדַּשׁ-לִי כָל-בְּכוֹר פֶּטֶר כָּל-רְחֵם בְּבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאָדָם וּבַבְּהֵמָה
לִי הוּא**

Consecrate to Me every first-born; the first-issue of every womb among the Israelites— whether it is human or animal, it is Mine!

**זְכוֹר אֶת-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר יִצְאֶתֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים כִּי
בַחֹזֶק יָד הוּצִיא יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם מִזֶּה וְלֹא יֵאָכֵל חֶמֶץ :**

Remember this day, on which you have gone forth from Egypt, the place of servitude. Because The Eternal One, your God, brought you out of here with a mighty exercise of power, so leavened stuff is not to be eaten.

20 Now the firstling of a donkey you may redeem with a sheep— although if you do not redeem it, you must break its neck; **but the first-born among your children you are to redeem.**

H) Exodus 13:13-16

**וְכָל-פֶּטֶר חֲמֹר תִּפְדֶּה בֶּשֶׂה וְאִם-לֹא תִפְדֶּה וְעִרְפָתוֹ וְכָל בְּכוֹר
אָדָם בְּבִנְיָךְ תִּפְדֶּה**

Now the firstling of a donkey you may redeem with a sheep— although if you do not redeem it, you must break its neck; **but the first-born among your children you are to redeem.**

וְהָיָה כִּי-יִשְׁאַלְךָ בְּנֶךָ מָחָר לֵאמֹר מַה-זֹּאת וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו בַּחֹזֶק יָד

הוֹצִיאָנוּ יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים

Now should your child ask you in future, saying “what’s that about?”, you are to tell him: “By a great display of might did The Eternal One bring us out of Egypt.

וַיְהִי כִּי-הִקְשָׁה פַרְעֹה לְשַׁלַּחַנוּ וַיַּהַרְג יְהוָה כָּל-בְּכוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם מִבְּכֹר אָדָם וְעַד-בְּכוֹר בְּהֵמָה

“For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to release us, **The Eternal One killed off every first-born in the land of Egypt**— both human first-born and those of the animals.

עַל-כֵּן אֲנִי זֹבַח לַיהוָה כָּל-פֶּטֶר רֶחֶם הַזְּכָרִים וְכָל-בְּכוֹר בְּנֵי
אִפְדָּה

“Accordingly I offer up to The Eternal One every male womb-opener— **but I redeem every first-born among my children!**”

וְהָיָה לְאוֹת עַל-יָדְכָה וּלְטוֹטָפֶת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ כִּי בְּחֹזֶק יָד הוֹצִיאָנוּ
יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם

Let this be a sign upon your hand, and a token between your eyes, that **by a great display of might did The Eternal One bring us out of Egypt.**

The point of departure
Passover - day 1

The crossing-point [?]
Passover - day 7

