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Shabbat Ki Tisa - P. Parah

שבת פ' כי תשא - פ' פרה

Sat. 13 - 14 Mar. 2020 - 18th of Adar 5780

י"ח באדר תש"פ

Issue Number 943

Baal Koreh <i>Yom Shabbat Kodesh</i>	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page-484).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page-838) (Page -1216).

Mincha, Shir Hashirim, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	17:35
Shabbat Candles.	17:44
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 09:10).	08:30
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	*
Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shelishit. (*) (Sunset - 18:04).	17:30
Arbit Motzei Shabbat.	18:53
Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 7:30).	06:30
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	17:00
Mincha & Arbit.	17:50
Next Friday: Mincha, Shir Hashirim, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	17:45
Next Friday: Candles. Shabbat. Vayakhel / Pikudei - HaChodesh	17:53

Ki Tisa 5780 (Exodus 30:11-34:35)

Mar 8, 2020 | by [Rabbi Yitzchak Zweig](#)

GOOD MORNING! Do you have any idea what April 1st 2020 is called? No, not April Fool's Day; it's actually known as National Census Day. This week, households will receive the census forms that count the population in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

Every ten years, the Census Bureau counts every single person living in the United States; legally, illegally, conventionally, and unconventionally. The data collected from the census determines how many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives each state has.

Interestingly enough, the United States was the first country that made participating in the census part of its

constitution (Article 1, Section 2). It became law under George Washington and was referred to as the "enumeration of its inhabitants." The first census in 1790 sought the number of free, white males over the age of 16 to determine how many young men were eligible to be drafted for war.

Generally, a nation's interest in censuses is only natural as it provides a pretty good measure of a nation's strength and overall wellbeing. Over three thousand years ago, the Babylonians conducted an exhaustive census of their population, livestock, and food staples. The records of a Chinese population study, done during the Han Dynasty in the first century, are still extant.

Loyal readers of the Shabbat Shalom Weekly will probably not be surprised to learn that the Jewish nation's census

precedes all of these. In fact, the type of census taken was materially different than most nations, yet eerily similar to the U.S. census taken in 1790.

Guess what we find in this week's Torah reading??? If you guessed that we find the Torah's account of the first Jewish census, you would be 100% correct!

"When you take the census of the people of Israel according to their number... from twenty years old and above..." (Exodus 31:12-14).

The commentaries (*ad loc.*) explain that this census wasn't really a population study, rather the only ones who were counted were the males above age twenty who were eligible for service in the army. (Unsurprisingly, the founding fathers, being both men of faith and well versed in the Bible, patterned the first U.S. Census similarly.)

Obviously, every leader wants to know the number of men eligible for service in the army because it is an indicator of potential military strength. But this hardly portrays the actual number of men, women, and children in the nation. Yet, the Jewish people conducted no other census. Why not?

The answer to this question defines the essence of the Jewish people and perhaps even reveals the secret to its longevity. Most nations are made up of a collection of individuals living in a certain geographic location with similar ideals and goals with, perhaps, some kind of common ancestry.

By contrast, the Jewish people perceive themselves as a unified whole. In other words, the Jewish nation is a living corporeal body that just changes cells over time. Meaning, we are a community of people, not merely a collection of individuals choosing to live in a specific

geographic location. In such a community there is really very little value to knowing the number of individuals.

The real strength of the Jewish people stems from the cumulative effect of community. This is what has enabled us to survive for 3,000 years after being driven out of just about everywhere we have lived. If you ever ask a typical non-Jew, "How many Jews are there in the world?" You will invariably get answers ranging from 300 million and up. The fact that we number only 13 million or so not only comes as a shock to most people, but is also pretty irrelevant.

According to Jewish tradition the age of twenty is when a man begins to engage in communal activities (*Ramban Bamidbar* 1:2). Not surprisingly, the age of twenty was also the time when men were eligible for service in the army. Because a Jewish census was to gauge the strength of the community, the only ones that were counted were the ones who were ready to go to war and sacrifice themselves for the sake of the community.

This would also explain why in this week's Torah reading we find the recipe for the special incense mixture that was used in the Tabernacle and in King Solomon's Temple. The recipe contained a mixture of eleven spices in a very special formula.

Yet one of the spices was well known for having a putrid smell - "chelbona or galbanum." The commentaries explain this strange inclusion in to the incense mixture: "This comes to teach us that we should be vigilant in the law of including in our prayer gatherings even those people who have committed severe transgressions" (see *Rashi Shemos* 30:34).

On the surface, this seems rather illogical. If we are gathering to pray to God, wouldn't we want to pray only with those

who have pure hearts and good deeds? Wouldn't God be more inclined to answer our prayers if everyone in the congregation was righteous?

The answer, of course, is no. The whole strength of the Jewish people comes from the strength of our community. Just as the special formula for sweet smelling incense is invalid without the putrid smelling galbanum, so too we must include everyone in our gatherings. It is only when we present ourselves to God as a unified community that He will truly respond to our prayers.



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11 - 34:35

The Torah portion includes: instructions for taking a census (by each person donating a half shekel); instructions to make the Washstand, Anointing Oil, and The Incense for the *Mishkan* (the Portable Sanctuary also known as the Tabernacle); appointing Bezalel and Oholiab to head up the architects and craftsmen for the *Mishkan*; a special commandment forbidding the building of the *Mishkan* on Shabbat (people might have thought that they would be allowed to violate the Shabbat to do a *mitzvah*...).

The Torah portion continues with the infamous story of the Golden Calf. The people wrongly calculated that Moses was late in coming down from Mt. Sinai and the people were already seeking a replacement for him by making the Golden Calf (there is a big lesson in patience for us here). Moses sees them dancing around the calf and in anger breaks the Two Tablets; he then punishes the 3,000 wrongdoers (less than .1% of the

3 million people), pleads to God not to wipe out the people, requests to see the Divine Glory, and receives the second set of Tablets of the Ten Commandments.

* * *

Dvar Torah

*based on [Growth Through Torah](#) by
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin*

Moses is on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments. The Almighty relates to him all that has happened in the creating of the Golden Calf and with the worshipping of it. Then the Almighty concludes with this final verse in summation as to why He wants to annihilate the Jewish people, "[...] I have seen this people and they are a stiff-necked people" (Exodus 32:9). What is it that makes our stiff-neckedness the "final straw" for the Almighty?

Rabbi Simcha Zissel of Kelm explains that the main fault of the Jewish people was that they were stiff-necked. That is, they lacked the flexibility to admit that they made a mistake. When someone is flexible, even if he makes many mistakes, he will regret them and will change. However, if a person is inflexible, when he makes a mistake he will not repent and improve.

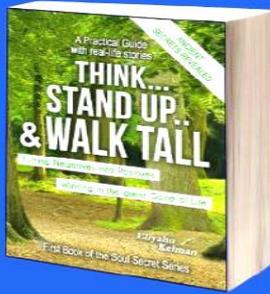
It is important to be flexible to improve oneself. However, there is also a time to be inflexible: When upholding values and maintaining one's honesty and integrity.



In loving memory of
Rabbi Kalman Packouz
Kalman Moshe ben
Reuven Avigdor
1950-2019
Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Yitzchak Zweig

THE JOURNEY OF THE SOUL ON THE ROLLER-COASTER OF LIFE

22nd MARCH 2020 - 7:00 – 8:30pm



**COVID-19 – THE PANDEMIC...
...A KABBALISTIC APPROACH**

**REFLECTION... CONNECTION...
MIND-DIRECTION
A UNIQUE MEDITATION**

**FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS, STRAP ON YOUR MASK
AND ENJOY THE RIDE**

...WE'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH A N95 BREATHABLE MASK
(And you've probably been looking for one of these anyway)

Please don't shake hands, cuddle or kiss!

Join Prof Eliyahu Kelman at the Ohel David Synagogue Hall,
4-15 Broadwalk (behind Tesco) Golders Green Road NW11 8HB
Entrance fee donation £5 - Light refreshments will be served

Kiddush: Sponsored by Dr Kelly Saltoun on the occasion of donating a new Sefher Yona. Also in memory of **Violette** Levy ע"ה, the mother of Meir, Raphael, Avi, Shulamit and Gilda ה"ו.

Seuda Shelishit: Sponsored by David Gigi ה"ו in memory of his late father **Haim** ben David & Masuda ז"ל.

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagogue. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

01 Adar Mr Yaakov Georgy	22 Adar Mr David Gigi
02 Adar Mr Asher Moses	22 Adar Mr Charles F. Silas
04 Adar Mr William Yadid	23 Adar Mr Benny Benaiah
08 Adar Mr Fouad Yadgar	24 Adar Mr Albert Ibrahim
13 Adar Mr Elie Menahem	24 Adar Mr Aziz Ibrahim
16 Adar Miss Florence Ruth David	26 Adar Mr David Gigi
18 Adar Mr Solomon Judah	27 Adar Mr Ghassan Cohen
19 Adar Mrs Rosalind Broomer	29 Adar Mr Sabah Rashty
19 Adar Mr Mayer Levy	29 Adar Mr Peres Rashty
19 Adar Mrs Gilda Aslan	29 Adar Mr Morris Rashty
19 Adar Mrs Shulamit Rachamim	

“Quote of the Week”

Don't just count your days, make your days count.