



## Ki Tissa

*Shemot* (Exodus) 30:11 – 34:35

As *Parshat Ki Tissa* begins, G-d commands Moses to take a census of the Israelites. As part of this census, each Israelite aged 20 years and older would pay a half shekel to help maintain the *Mishkan* as an offering to G-d.

Bezalel and Oholiab are selected to act as the chief builders of the *Mishkan*, and all its components. Then Moses is told to remind the Israelites to keep the Sabbath forever as a sign of the covenant between G-d and the people. When G-d has finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gives him the two tablets upon which are inscribed the laws.

While Moses is receiving the laws on Mt. Sinai, the people grow impatient, and scared. They ask Aaron to make them a god to lead them. Aaron takes the gold jewelry from the people and makes the "*Aigel HaZahav*" the Golden Calf, and declares a festival and the people offer sacrifices to the calf as they dance before it.

Moses descends from the mountain and, in his anger at seeing the Golden Calf, smashes the tablets of the law that G-d had given him, and punishes the people severely. Moses then pleads with G-d not to forsake the covenant. G-d tells Moses to carve two new tablets of stone for Him to inscribe once again.

Moses ascends Mount Sinai with the new tablets and G-d appears to him in a cloud and renews the covenant with the Israelites. Moses remains on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

When Moses descends from Mount Sinai the second time, he is a changed man. His face is radiant, for he has spoken to G-d face to face. The Israelites are frightened by his strange and wondrous appearance. Because of this, Moses wears a veil over his face except when he is speaking to G-d or speaking G-d's words to the Israelites.



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