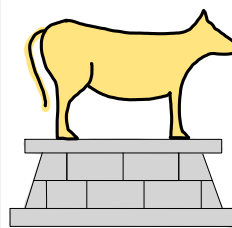


Ki Tissa

כִּי תִשָּׂא

“When You Elevate”



Idolatry

עֲבוֹדַת זָרָה



When you take the census of the children of Yisra'el (Israel) for their numbers, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.

Exodus 30:12

In this week's Parasha God completed His instruction to Moshe (Moses) on Mount Sinai concerning proper worship. He gave Moshe instruction for how and when to take a census: **כִּי תִשָּׂא** (ki tissa)

- “when you elevate”.

On the Day of Atonement each year a census was to be taken, and a ransom offering was to be given by each man counted in the census. Every male who was twenty years of age and older was commanded to give an offering of one half shekel. Taking the census on the appointed day (**מוֹעֵד** - mo'ed) as instructed by God ensured that He would not send a plague among the people.

Before Moshe descended the Mountain with the tablets of the Testimony, God emphasized the importance and eternal significance of resting weekly on the seventh day of the week. God created the seventh day and sanctified it as holy for the purpose of resting in Him. Resting weekly on the seventh day is a sign between God and His people that serves to guard against all forms of idolatry.

After God completed His instructions, Moshe returned to the people to find that they had broken the covenant God cut with them by practicing idolatry, or strange worship. In his anger Moshe broke the tablets of the Testimony. He took the calf they had made from gold and burned it in the fire. He ground it into powder, scattered it on the water and made the children of Yisra'el (Israel) drink it. Moshe called for all who repented of this evil sin to join him in war against those would not repent. The entire tribe of Levi joined Moshe and around 3,000 men - brother, friend and neighbor - were killed that day. Moshe then ascended the mountain of God again in order to mediate for the people. He asked God to forgive them and not destroy them as well as go with them into the Promised Land. Moshe found favor in the sight of God on behalf of the people. God cut a covenant with Moshe and promised to do awesome things that would impact His entire creation. These events began the age of mercy and grace upon hearing the word of God rather than seeing Him.

Therefore the children of Yisra'el shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. “It is a sign between Me and the children of Yisra'el forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”

Exodus 31:16-17

Pray First

Father God,

We praise You for Your mercy and Your grace. We thank You that You desire to know us by your character so that Your glory can be seen in us.

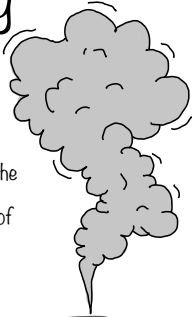
In Yeshua's name we pray.
Amen.

Read Next

Exodus 30:11-34:35

Mountaintop Experience with the King

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~
Exodus 34:10-28



God commanded Moshe to carve two tablets of stone like the first ones God carved and wrote on. Moshe had broken the tablets of the Testimony when he found the people of Yisra'el had broken their covenant with God by practicing the great sin of idolatry. Moshe found grace in the sight of God. For this reason God wrote all His words again on the second set of tablets.

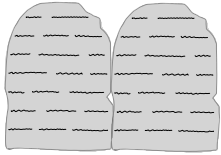
The second set of tablets and instructions of God defined the age of grace entered by way of a covenant with God.

During this age of grace all who have been redeemed by God and hear His words, responding in the Spirit to uphold them, demonstrate the glory of God.



In Exodus 34:11 God commanded Moshe to guard His commands to him because they have great value.

God's commandments have the ability to bring the will, wonder, power and presence of God among the people. God informed Moshe that He is casting out six nations before him and the people of Yisra'el as they go into the Promised Land.



In Exodus 34:12 God commanded Moshe not to make a covenant with any of the people of the nations in the land of promise. God warned Moshe that it would be displeasing and dishonoring to Him if he made a covenant with the nations. This sinful behavior would jeopardize the ability of God's people to demonstrate His glory in the world.

In Exodus 34:13 God commanded Moshe to destroy all altars, sacred pillars and wooden images that were being used by the nations to worship idols. God is holy, and He alone is worthy of worship. To use anything to worship God that has been used to worship idols is dishonoring to Him.

In Exodus 34:14 God clearly spoke, stating that He is a jealous God. When His people attempt to worship Him using objects or traditions of man that He has not sanctioned, He is offended and very displeased.

In Exodus 34:15 God further explained to Moshe that if the people cut a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, this would unite them in a relationship with false gods. There is only one God, and He is LORD of all. False gods are not real and have absolutely no power. However, when a person unites himself with false gods in place of or in conjunction with the worship of the one true God, that person is inviting evil, demonic activity into their life. God gave His holy Sabbaths and Festivals to His people to protect them and guard against such activity. These appointed days should not be acknowledged in an unbiblical way.

In Exodus 34:16 God explained that entering into a covenant with idol worshippers is not only a danger to the people that participate, but it also influences the next generation by bringing corruption into it. After many generations, these practices of idolatry will become commonplace, and the truth and power of proper worship given by God will no longer be valued. These practices over time will affect the lives of believers for Satan and will not manifest the glory of God.

The Commandments and Sabbaths of God safeguard believers from idolatry and its evil effects and influence.

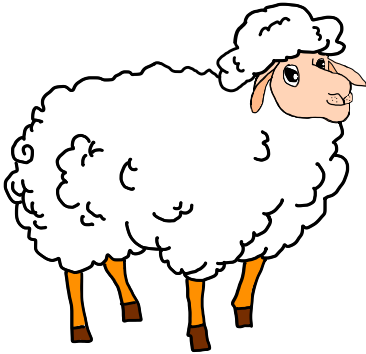
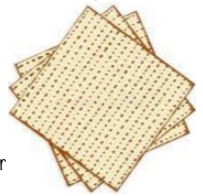
Idolatry is going after our will and setting God's will aside.

Believing that our traditions of worship are based upon religious truth is a form of spiritual idolatry.

The Festivals of the Bible, or the LORD's appointed times (**מוֹעֲדִים - mo'edim**), including the weekly Sabbath, teach us truth. They provide a way to properly worship God for who He is, what He has done and what He will do in the future. They also act to safeguard us from idolatry and protect us from evil. They should never be acknowledged by using pagan symbols or traditions of men.

In Exodus 34:17 God commanded Moshe to make no molded gods. An idol is carried around by its owner for the purpose of serving him or helping him achieve his will or desire.

In Exodus 34:18 God commanded that His Feast of Unleavened Bread be kept for seven days each year at the time it originally occurred. In Aviv, the first month of the year, on the fifteenth day of the month God redeemed the children of Yisra'el out for Egypt by the blood of the lamb. To honor God for this great work of redemption every year one is commanded to eat only unleavened bread for seven days. Unleavened bread is a flat bread because it has no yeast in it, which causes it to rise. Leaven or yeast is a symbol of pride and sin. Unleavened bread symbolizes that which has been sanctified or set apart for the purposes of God. Eating unleavened bread for seven days honors God by acknowledging that He is the only source of redemption in a person's life. A redeemed person is then set apart, making them free to worship Him in Spirit and truth.



Exodus 34:19-20 continues to teach about God's work of redemption. Because He redeemed every firstborn from death on the fifteenth of Aviv, all firstborn males of cattle belong to God and must be redeemed by a lamb. A donkey must also be redeemed by the sacrifice of a lamb, but if it is not redeemed, it must be killed so that no benefit can come from it. All firstborn male children must be redeemed with an offering to the LORD. These commands from God teach us to give to the LORD a sacrificial offering for the great things He has done to redeem His people. They remind us that death is the consequence of sin (Genesis 2:17).

In Exodus 34:21 God commanded rest every week on the seventh day of the week. Even during plowing and harvest seasons, the seventh day Sabbath must be kept. This teaches that one should honor God by resting weekly on the seventh day no matter what the circumstances of our lives.

In Exodus 34:22 God commanded that the Feast of Weeks (**שָׁבוּעוֹת - Shavuot**) at the time of gathering the first fruits of the wheat harvest and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end must be observed.

In Exodus 34:23-24 God commanded that three times each year all the men of Yisra'el must appear before the LORD, the LORD God of Yisra'el. These three pilgrimage feasts include Feast of Unleavened Bread (**מַצָּה - Matzah**), Feast of First Fruits (**יוֹם הַבִּכּוּרִים - Yom HaBikkurim**) and Feast of Ingathering (**סֻכּוֹת - Sukkot**). God explained that He will cast out the nations before the people of Yisra'el and enlarge their territory. He stated that no man will seize their property when they leave their homes to appear before Him on these mo'edim. This helps us understand that acknowledging the LORD's Sabbaths is a protection from evil for the redeemed.

In Exodus 34:25 we are given more information about proper worship during these holy Sabbaths. No leaven is to ever be offered with a blood sacrifice to the LORD. This teaches us that we are not to worship God in a dishonoring way, nor are we to do acts of worship for sinful reasons. Also, the lamb sacrifice of the Feast of Passover (פסח - Pesach) that occurs on the fourteenth day of Aviv in preparation for the Feast of Unleavened Bread must not be left until the morning. This teaches us that we must not waste God's work of redemption or attempt to use it for personal gain.

In Exodus 34:26 we learn that the first fruits of the land shall be brought to the house of the LORD during the Feast of First Fruits. God is the provider and sustainer of all and should be honored as such.

All of these Festivals are to be honored at the appointed times given by God. They serve as a means to worship Him properly and to safeguard the redeemed from idolatry and evil. Because they are established by God for His purposes, they should not be acknowledged or celebrated in any other way. This understanding gives meaning to the command, "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk." A mother's milk is a source of life for a young goat, and it should never be used to kill the goat. Likewise, the Feasts of the LORD and His holy Sabbaths are a source of protection to the believer and a way to honor and worship God properly. They should never be celebrated in a way that would invite evil into the lives of the redeemed. Also, they should never be celebrated in conjunction with the traditions of man. To acknowledge them in this way would only serve to honor Satan and bring no glory of God to the world.

In Exodus 34:27-28 God commanded Moshe to write down all the words. According to these words, He cut a covenant with Moshe and with Yisra'el. Moshe obeyed God while he was on the mountain with the LORD for forty days and forty nights without bread or water. God wrote again on the tablets, which Moshe had carved, all the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.



God's Spring Festivals



Directions: Fill in the chart below using the word bank.

Festival	Hebrew Pronunciation/Name	Date
_____	Pesach _____	Aviv _____
_____ Bread	Matzah _____	_____ 15-21
First _____	Yom _____ יום הַבְּכֹרִים	
Weeks	_____ שָׁבוּעוֹת	

Word Bank

Passover

Shavuot

Aviv

Unleavened

Fruits

מִנְחָה

14

פֶּסַח

HaBikkurim

Torah Portion Review

Directions: Reread Exodus 34:5-7. Unscramble the words below to find the thirteen attributes of God.

1. eth DORL

2. het RDLO

3. dGo

4. rclcmifu

5. riasocug

6. owsl ot nrgae

7. utdannab in nsknseid

8. butndaan ni uhttr

9. epenkgi ryeme ofr dhsnatosu

10. ggiinorfv qytuniii

11. fvrignoi gthasosisnrr

12. gviinfoqr nsi

13. asnecngil

King of the Mountain

Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39

Pray First

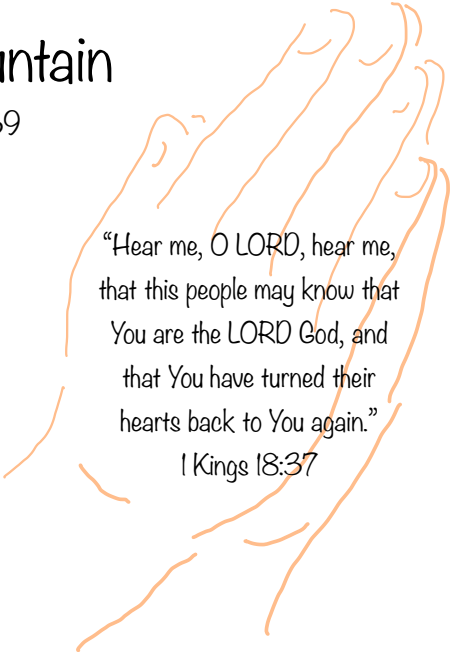
Father God,

We praise You because You are the only God and deserve all glory, honor and praise. We thank You for hearing our prayers and for forgiving us when we repent of spiritual idolatry.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

I Kings 18:1-39



“Hear me, O LORD, hear me,
that this people may know that
You are the LORD God, and
that You have turned their
hearts back to You again.”

I Kings 18:37

In this week's Haftarah the people of Yisra'el, led by King Ahab, were worshipping idols. King Ahab disobeyed God and entered into the covenant of marriage with Jezebel from among the nations. Queen Jezebel worshipped idols and influenced King Ahab to lead the people of Yisra'el into all forms of evil. She was opposed to God and had the prophets of God killed. She worshipped the false gods of Baal and Asherah and listened to false prophets.

As a result of King Ahab's disobedience to God's commandments, he lacked the protection they provided. God withheld His blessing of rain upon the land of promise. For three years there had been no rain in the land, causing a severe famine in Yisra'el. God had miraculously sustained and protected one hundred of His prophets plus His prophet Elijah from Queen Jezebel. Jezebel and Ahab searched everywhere for the prophets of God but could not find them.

One day God commanded Elijah to appear before King Ahab to confront his evil practices. Elijah obeyed God and challenged King Ahab to meet him on Mount Carmel. He told King Ahab to gather all of Yisra'el along with the 450 false prophets of Baal and the 400 false prophets of Asherah on top of the mountain.

Once everyone was assembled on the mountain Elijah spoke to the people of Yisra'el in the same manner Moshe had done previously in the wilderness. Elijah asked them how long they would continue to worship God and idols together. He told them to repent of this great sin of idolatry and worship God alone in the way pleasing to Him. The people did not repent. They did not say a word.

Elijah pointed out that he was the only prophet of God present on the mountain facing the 450 false prophets of Baal. Elijah suggested that two bulls be given to the two teams of prophets. Team Baal could choose their bull, and Elijah would take the other. Each team would prepare their bull to be consumed by fire when placed on the wood but would put no fire under it. Then the false prophets would call upon their gods to consume their bull with fire, and Elijah would call upon his God to consume his bull with fire. The god who answered the call to consume the bull with fire would make himself known to all as the one true God.

The false prophets prepared their bull as stated and began to call upon their false gods to consume it with fire. They called from morning until noon, but there was no response. They leaped around the altar and cut themselves, which was their evil custom. The false prophets cried out louder and louder to their gods, but still there was no response.

False gods are not real and have absolutely no power!

At noonday Elijah began to mock the false prophets as they continued to prophesy falsely, cut themselves and cry out loudly for their gods to respond. This continued until the time of the evening sacrifice.

Elijah mocked them, "Cry aloud because . . .

Maybe he's busy

Maybe he's away
on a journey

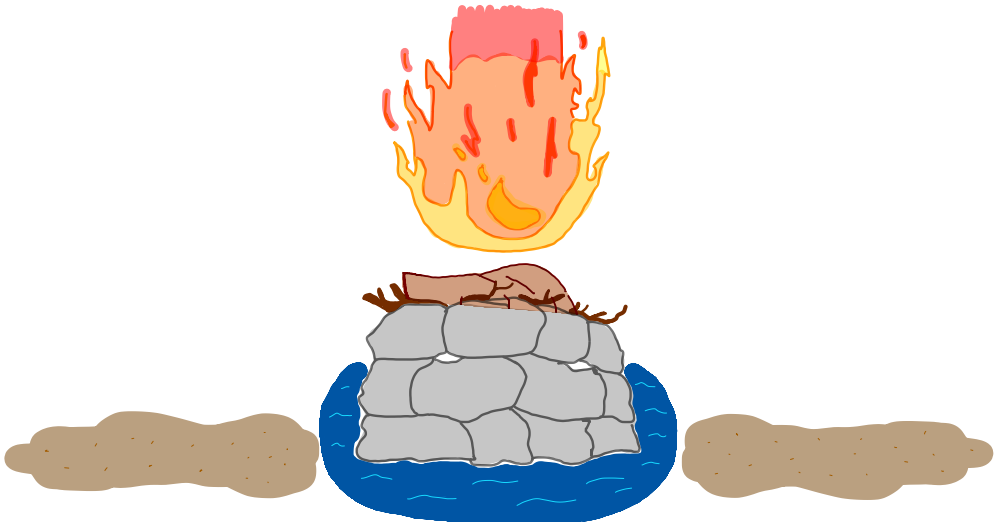
Maybe he's meditating

Perhaps he's sleeping and
must be awakened

Still there was no response.

Then Elijah summoned all the people to come near to him, and all the people came near. He repaired the altar of the LORD that had been broken by taking twelve stones to represent the twelve tribes of Yisra'el. He dug a large trench around the altar and placed the wood underneath the pieces of the bull he had prepared. He told the people to fill the trench with water and pour water on the bull and the wood. The people repeated this three times as they were instructed.

At the time of the evening sacrifice Elijah called upon the LORD God of Avraham (Abraham), Yitz'chak (Isaac) and Ya'kov (Jacob) to let it be known to all the people that he served the only God of all creation, the God of Yisra'el. Then the fire of the LORD fell upon the altar and consumed the burnt sacrifice of the bull along with the wood, the stones, the dust and the water within the trench. All the people fell on their faces in repentance and acknowledged that there is only one God, stating: "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"



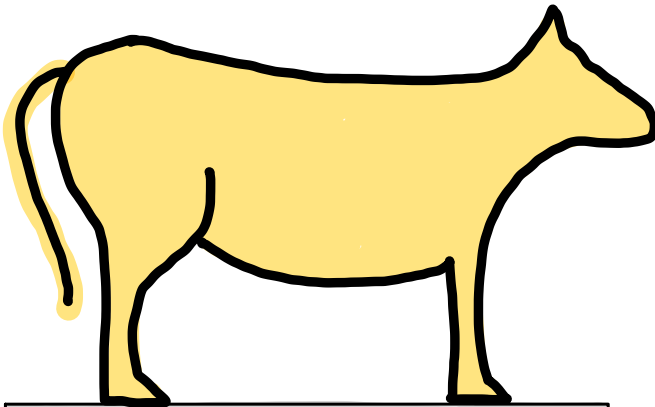
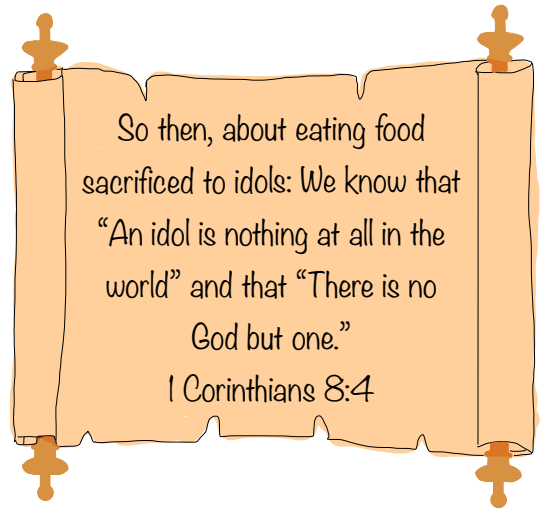
~ New Testament: 1 Corinthians 8:4-13 ~

In today's New Testament portion of Scripture the Apostle Paul explains that idols are not real, so they have no power. Because they are not real, food sacrificed to them has no power. If it is eaten, it can not influence the believer's life in any way - either good or bad.

Paul explains that many things are honored as false gods whether forms from heaven or earth, and none of them are real. They are not true; they are false. They are imaginary.

Believers have knowledge of the one true God, Yeshua (Jesus). He is the only One Who can redeem and give new life. This knowledge is good and true but should not be used in a prideful way.

Some believers are weak in their faith and are bothered by the idea that they might eat food sacrificed to idols. A strong believer, who is not bothered by this for the knowledge that it has no power over him, should not proudly consume the food while in the company of the weaker one. A strong believer should always try to support and lift up his brother in Christ. If a weaker believer sees the stronger one eating what has been sacrificed to idols, it could encourage him to participate in something that he believes is wrong. The Apostle Paul explained that it would be better to never eat meat again than to encourage a believer to eat something he believes is wrong to eat.



This New Testament teaching should not be confused with Exodus 34:13-16. In this Torah passage of Scripture God is referring to the worship of idols and being unequally yoked by marrying someone who is not a believer. To do this is being unfaithful to God and corrupts the next generation. Today's New Testament passage of Scripture is teaching us that food sacrificed to idols has no power over the believer because idols are not real. However, if a believer is bothered by this, we should know that it is very important not to do anything that would cause a believer to participate in what he feels is wrong.

Recap Review Fun

Directions: Circle the items used to worship God in a way that is pleasing to Him.



zzzz
Rest

