

Ki Tisa When You Elevate

Torah: Ex. 30:11-34:35

(1) **32:1**. Make us a god who will walk before us, for we do not know what has become of Moses. Even after the year of *miraculous plagues*, the *crossing* of the sea, the *provisions* and the *signs* from the mountain, the people had not made the *paradigm shift away from paganism*. They had not yet learned to know that G-d was G-d *beyond their wildest imagination* and that a portion of Him would always remain *unknowable* and out of reach. They still wanted a god they could see and who would meet their needs, but who did not require them to consider *higher purposes beyond their own immediate temporal needs*, like the gods they were used to. They wanted a tangible god (a *supernatural edge* to make their life better), *they had not yet learned to want the only G-d*. Do you want a god who will serve you or whom you will serve? Are you stuck in your agenda, where you want faith to be *part of your life*, or have you reached the point where *faith is your life*?

(2) **32:28, 35**. A line was drawn and the visible leaders of the rebellion were killed (28), then their followers who thought they had gotten away with it. The first time the *righteous core* had to take the camp back from the *idolatrous core*. The generational battle against *idolatry* (religion of convenience) and *fornication* (physical pleasure as the highest good) was set between the two cores.

(3) **34:19**. I will make my *goodness* pass before you and declare the *name* of YHVH (34:5-7) Now the people will have no more doubt or uncertainty about the kind of god they serve: eternal (generational), merciful, as well as accountable. *Do you have a clear idea of the G-d you serve?*

(4) **34:28**. 40 more days/nights, two more tablets, the same ten words. Even though Moses went out of the camp (protectively), the people had to understand that *G-d does not change, He changes us*. His requirements never change, they change us. The Ten are His will and indicate the kind of god that He is and outline His spiritual/moral requirements. It is never a do it yourself, make Him up as you go. *He always was, always is and always shall be YHVH*. It is never about us or about what is going on in our lives – it is always about whether or not He is going on in our lives.

Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39

(5) **18:21**. How long will it take for you to make your mind up? *Is YHVH G-d* (elohim)? Their ancestors made a calf, they had Baal (means lord, similar to adonai). The idolatrous core was taking over again.

(6) **18:39**. When the fire fell on the triple soaked sacrifice, at the time of the evening offering, they fell on their faces and confessed that YHVH, not Baal was Elohim (G-d) – *totally different from the carnal, local, good luck gods of the nations* – unfathomable beyond their wildest imaginations, yet whose commands remain tangible and unchangeable (Deut. 29:29)

Brit Chadashah: 2 Cor. 3:1-18

(7) 3:3. Written upon the tablets of our hearts (Micah 6:8 – you know what He requires of you) – *still as unknowable and mysterious as ever, but still as present, approachable as ever*, stronger than any personal or corporate backlash of personal or corporate paganism, able to overcome the old habits and make them die, *however long it takes*, until we are ready to live His life and be changed, renewed and attached to a higher agenda – which shall always remain *faith* in the transcendent One and *obedience* to His Word in every situation and generation and culture and language for as long as it takes for His final purposes to be fulfilled – first in us and then in all mankind, one way or another. *Who will you follow? How will you follow?* The two most important questions for anyone and everyone and ones which Esther and Mordecai answered and now it is time to tell their story.

Ps. 75 Jewish Heroes: Betsaleel/Oholiab