

QUESTIONS FOR PARSHAT KI TISA 5770
by Rabbi Edward Davis

I. From the Text

1. What would happen to Bnei Yisrael if they conducted a census without the means of a contributed item (i.e. they performed a head count)? (30:12)
2. What was the Kiyor (Laver) used for? (30:18)
3. Who was chosen to be the chief craftsman for the construction of the Tabernacle? What tribe was he from? (31:2)
4. How did Moshe demonstrate the enormity of the sin of the Golden Calf to Bnei Yisrael? (32:15-19)
5. During and immediately after the sin of the Golden Calf, who were the only ones who were totally loyal to Hashem and willing to expose themselves to physical danger on behalf of Hashem? (32:26)

II. From Rashi

6. What was the half shekel used for when collected in future years? (30:15)
7. What do our Sages teach us from the fact that a foul smelling spice (galbanum) was used in the Incense offering? (30:39)
8. Why was the mitzvah of Shabbat repeated here right before the sin of the Golden Calf? (31:13)
9. Who died trying to stop the people from having a Golden Calf? (32:6)
10. What did Hashem instruct Moshe to do at a time when Bnei Yisrael needed to seek God's compassion? (33:19)

III. From the Rabbis

11. What was the Anointment Oil used for in this Sidrah and in the future?
12. What was the original intent of the people who wanted a Golden Calf? (Ramban and others)
13. Yehoshua stayed at the foot of Mount Sinai for the entire 40 days and nights that Moshe was on top of the mountain, far from his own tent. What did he eat during that time? (Talmud Yoma 76a, Rashi there)

IV. Relationships

- a) Moshe – Chur
- b) Chur – Gershom
- c) Chur – Betzalel
- d) Shem – Canaan
- e) Terach – Lavan

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1. The resulting punishment would be a plague.
2. To wash the hands and feet of the Kohanim.
3. Betzalel from the tribe of Yehudah.
4. Moshe smashed the Tablets in sight of the entire people.
5. The tribe of Levi.
6. The half shekel donation in the future was used to cover the costs of all communal Temple sacrifices.
7. Sinners may be included with the community in its prayers.
8. Despite the importance of building the Tabernacle, the work was prohibited on Shabbat.
9. Chur.
10. The people should say, "Hashem.... The thirteen merciful attributes of the Almighty."
11. The Anointment Oil was used to consecrate all the vessels of the Tabernacle, and also Aharon and his sons. In the future the same oil would be used to anoint the kings of the Davidic dynasty and the Kohanim Gedolim until the waning days of the First Temple.
12. They were seeking to create a Moshe substitute and not an idol.
13. Yehoshua ate mannah during that time. His mannah fell at the foot of Mount Sinai indicating that he was at the correct place where he was supposed to be.

Relationships:

- a) Uncle Moshe
- b) First cousins
- c) Grandfather Chur
- d) Uncle Shem
- e) Great-grandfather Terach