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Parshah Ki Tisa
Exodus 30:11 34:35
by Julie Zhuk on 2022-02-19
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It's a really rough story in the Torah this week. The Jewish people don't look where they are going and really mess up big time. Moses has gone up to Mount Sinai to speak to G-d. The Jews feel they have waited enough for Moses to come down and they grow impatient. Many Jews did not feel they needed G-d in their lives nor Moses.

Maybe they thought both G-d or Moses forgot about them all together. These Jews decide to collect a lot of pieces of jewelry consisting of gold and they build a golden calf. G-d knowing everything that happens, will happen, or has happened has a huge desire to destroy the nation of the Jews.

Despite their terrible act of losing faith in G-d and losing patience in Moses, he himself goes before G-d and begs to give the Jewish people another chance. Moses has come down the mountain with two tablets to show the Jewish people, but he witnesses the atrocity of Jews celebrating in dance movements, praising, and singing something that they have created by themselves. Here they are performing an act of idolatry which Moses never believed the Jewish people could do. He lets the two tablets fall from his hands and they shatter instantly into pieces on the ground.

Moses destroys the golden calf. Moses confides in G-d and asks Him to forgive the Jews. At the same time Moses seeks the advice of G-d what to do with those who were committing evil acts.

The words he chooses when speaking to G-d works well because he says, "If You cannot forgive the Jewish people, please blot me out from the book that You have written."

Thanks to the words of Moses G-d listens and gives the Jewish people another chance. Moses finds the people who came up with the idea of worshipping this golden calf and has them killed. We find out in this parsha that it was around 3 thousand men who did this. The Jewish women took no part in the act of the golden calf nor giving any of their jewelry pieces of gold nor did they practice idolatry towards it.

The Jewish people start over a new chapter with G-d. He does forgive them, but the effect of their sin was so awful it would be felt for many generations to come. G-d wants to show the Jewish people the promised land. At first, he wants to send an angel to show them where it is. Moses intervenes asking for instead of the angel, G-d come Himself. Now that the Jews are all on board for a new chapter in their lives, Moses shares a new set of tablets explaining the rules for living a Jewish life. This means Moses went back up to the mountain and the Jewish people waited patiently for him to return. When he was up there talking to G-d he saw a vision of thirteen attributes of mercy.