



Understanding the Parsha

Exodus 27:20 – 30:10

We will Learn how to

- 1) **interpret the main theme** (subject) of a Parsha (weekly reading from the Torah),
- 2) **make thematic connections to that Parsha** (study the Scriptures related by a common theme [subject], line upon line and precept upon precept)
- 3) **learn how to gain greater understanding of the Parsha we are looking at through its thematic connections to other portions of Scripture.**

The Signs of a Broken Covenant

I. Too many people really don't understand the serious offense of the golden calf and its consequences. Let us look at Parsha number ten in order to begin to understand how the sin of the golden calf changed the relationship between Adonai and Am Yisrael (the people of Israel). **Read Exodus 33:1-11.**

A. What would your answer be after thinking about:

- 1) Adonai and Israel just made a covenant in Exodus 19-24 and
- 2) He has given them commandments to build a Mishkan (dwelling place) so that He may dwell among them, so then what did Adonai say in **Exodus 33:1-3** that seems to be surprising? Fill in the answer

That Adonai won't א _____ (go or move upward) with them.

ascend

After learning about the main themes of Parashat Terumah and Tetzaveh in our last lesson, why is this statement “surprising”?

Because the purpose for the M _____ was to provide a place for Adonai to dwell among _____
Mishkan
them. Now, Adonai is saying that He will not ascend with them, which seems to cancel the entire reason for the commandments concerning the Mishkan in Terumah and Tetzaveh!]

Now read these Scriptures so that you can see this better [Exodus 25:8 and Exodus 29:45-46].

B. What seems to be the main object of discussion in verses 4-6?

The jewelry and ornaments worn by the people “from M _____ H _____.”
Mount Horeb

The jewelry and ornaments seem to be very important. We just read about them three times in these few verses.

Let’s see why verse six states that the jewelry was, “their jewelry from Mount Horeb.”

1. What is the real point of the phrase “from Mount Horeb”?

“From Mount Horeb,” is mentioned to remind us of the event that happened at Mount Horeb. It is another way of saying from the place where you entered into the C _____ with Adonai.
Covenant

Their jewelry from Mount Horeb leads us to think that they had dressed themselves in fine dress and ornament at the giving of the Torah in Exodus 19-24. Isn’t it strange that ex-slaves would have so much jewelry and gold—remember all of the gold used to make the golden calf?

**Where do you think all of this gold and jewelry came from?
Read Exodus 12:31-36 and then answer below:**

The gold, silver and jewelry came from the E _____,
Egyptians
when the Israelites left Egypt.

Can you think of a verse from Genesis, thematically connected to the verse you just read? Read Genesis 15:13-14.

What is the connection in this verse? Write in your own words what you think:



Now, how does the thematic connection to Genesis 15:13-14 help you see more clearly the importance of Exodus 12:31-36 and 33:4-6? Write down your thoughts below:

2. Putting it all together, we see that the Israelites decked themselves with jewelry and ornaments at the giving of the Torah at Mount Horeb. That's why Mount Horeb is connected with the jewelry in Exodus 33:6. The act of removing the jewelry and the command by Adonai that they remove the jewelry is basically an response that the reason for wearing it (the covenant at Mount Horeb) has been canceled or at least damaged. This is a strong clue that the covenant had been broken.

II. Whose people are they?

A. Read Exodus 33:1 —Did you notice how Adonai talks to the people in His command to Moses? In Exodus 19:3-6, Adonai makes some promises to Israel concerning them as a people/nation. How is His calling them "this people" different from when He made the promises at the covenant of Mount Sinai?

He said they would be his S / p people, a nation of priests and a holy nation. Now, He seems like He doesn't even want to admit that they are "His people."

Are there any other instances in this week's sidra (portion) where Adonai seems to have broken the ties with Israel as His people? Read Exodus 33:5, 13 and 16 paying extra attention to how Moses refers to Am Yisrael. Do you think Moses picked up on Adonai's reference to them as "this people" in Exodus 33:1?

Moses is trying to point out to Adonai that Am Yisrael isn't just "T P," they're "H P."

Moses did this because He wanted Adonai to re-e the relationship with them that was broken because of the golden calf worship.



III. The Threat of Annihilation (Being destroyed) — Why does Adonai say that He cannot ascend (go up with) to Canaan with Israel Exodus 33:3,5?

Because He may need to a them.

Is Adonai threatening them because He's the big, bad, mean God of the "Old Testament"? No. **Why does He threaten them so?**

Because, Adonai has been making Himself known

as Y _____ h _____. Part of this revelation is the truth of His intense _____.

חַיְהוּהוּ

הַקְדוּשָׁה

He cannot dwell around sin and rebellion. One has to go, either Him or the sin. The issue is His Holiness. If He's not among them, then there's no problem. But a Holy God in the midst of an unholy people is a recipe for death.

IV. Am Yisrael in the Dog House — Read Exodus 33:7-11. Thinking about the fact that

- 1) Am Yisrael is to build the Mishkan for the reason of having a suitable place for Adonai's glory to live together with them (Exodus 25:8,22), and
- 2) Adonai made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai so that they could become His people (Exodus 19:3-6), **why are the events in Exodus 33:7-11 so painful?**

The fact that He can no longer even dwell with them is a picture of how their relationship has been shattered by the incident of the golden calf. The relationship is off. They have broken the covenant! It's over!

What other evidence do you find that the covenant of Exodus 19-24 has been broken and canceled!

A. In Exodus 32:9-10 Adonai threatens to annihilate the entire nation! Were it not for Moses' intercession (to plead for them), they would have ceased to exist.

B. In Exodus 32:19 Moses shattered the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments (a symbol of the covenant). This is a picture that the covenant is broken and annulled (canceled)!

C. After Moses' intercession, he ascends (goes up) the mountain (Exodus 34) to receive a new set of tablets symbolizing a New Covenant just like he did in Exodus 19-24. **Look for the thematic connections.**

D. In Exodus 34:10 Adonai says that He is sealing a New Covenant!

E Look for the thematic connections between Exodus 34:11-28 and Exodus 23:10-33. In Exodus 23, Am Israel had just entered into a covenant with Adonai. If it were not for the sin of the golden calf, they would have gone straight to Canaan.

Although most people do not realize it, the original covenant at Mount Sinai was broken, but not beyond repair. Adonai could only ascend (go up) with Am Yisrael after making another covenant (Exodus 34)! This New Covenant was the result of Moses' intercession. If Moses had not interceded (prayed) on behalf of Am Yisrael, **Adonai would have destroyed them.** In the next section we will learn about the basis for the New Covenant sealed in Exodus 34.

