

Parashat Ki Tisa: Hidden Revelations of the Golden Calf

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Parashat Ki Tisa



Hidden Revelations of the Golden Calf

Shemoth [Exodus]

30: 11- 34: 35

Shemoth [Exodus]

32: 1-35

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Yisrael Corrupts Themselves With The Golden Calf

Shemoth [Exodus] 32: 1 And when the people saw that Mosheh was so long in coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aharon and said to him, "Arise, make us mighty ones who go before us. For this Mosheh, the man who brought us up out of the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt], we do not know what has become of him." **2** And Aharon said to them, "Take off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons and your daughters and bring them to me." **3** "And all the people took off the golden earrings which were in their ears and brought them to Aharon. **4** And he took this from their hand and he formed it with an engraving tool and made a moulded calf. And they said, "This is your mighty one, O Yisra'ël, that brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim!" **5** And Aharon saw and built an altar before it and he called out and said, "Tomorrow is a festival to יהוה." **6** And they rose early on the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. **7** And יהוה said to Mosheh, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Mitsrayim have corrupted themselves. **8** "They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a moulded calf and have bowed themselves to it and slaughtered to it and said, 'This is your mighty one, O Yisra'ël, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim!'"

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Mosheh Intercedes For Yisrael

9 And יהוה said to Mosheh, "I have seen this people and see, it is a stiff-necked people! 10 "And now, let Me alone, that My wrath might burn against them, and I consume them, and I make of you a great nation." 11 But Mosheh pleaded with יהוה his Elohim and said, "יהוה, why does Your wrath burn against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt] with great power and with a strong hand? 12 "Why should the Mitsrites speak and say, 'For evil He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from the heat of Your wrath and relent from this evil to Your people. 13 "Remember Abraham, Yitschaq [Isaac] and Yisra'el, Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself and said to them, 'I increase your seed like the stars of the heavens. And all this land that I have spoken of I give to your seed, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14 And יהוה relented from the evil which He said He would do to His people. 15 And Mosheh turned and went down from the mountain and in his hand were the two tablets of the Witness, tablets written on both their sides, written on the one and on the other. 16 And the tablets were the work of Elohim, and the writing was the writing of Elohim engraved on the tablets. 17 And Yahusha [Joshua] heard the noise of the people as they shouted and he said to Mosheh, "A noise of battle in the camp!" 18 But he [Mosheh] said, "It is not the sound of those who shout of might, nor is it the sound of those who cry out in weakness, but the sound of singing that I hear."

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Mosheh Smashes The Tablets

19 And it came to be, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. And Mosheh's displeasure burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. 20 And he took the golden calf which they had made and burned it in the fire and ground it into powder and scattered it on the face of the water and made the children of Yisra'el drink it. 21 And Mosheh said to Aharon, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?" 22 And Aharon said, "Do not let the displeasure of my master burn. You know the people, that it is in evil. 23 "And they said to me, 'Make us mighty ones who go before us. For this Mosheh, the man who brought us out of the land of Mitsrayim, we do not know what has become of him.' 24 "And I said to them, 'Whoever has gold, let them take it off.' And they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire and this calf came out." 25 And Mosheh saw that the people were let loose, for Aharon had let them loose, to their shame among their enemies. 26 And Mosheh stood in the entrance of the camp and said, "Who is for יהוה? Come to me." And all the sons of Lēvi gathered themselves to him. 27 And he said to them, "Thus said יהוה Elohim of Yisra'el: 'Each one put his sword on his side and pass over to and fro from gate to gate in the camp and each one slay his brother and each one his friend and his relative.'" 28 And the sons of Lēvi did according to the word of Mosheh. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

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29 And Mosheh said, "You are ordained for יהוה today – since each one has been against his son and his brother – so as to bring upon you a blessing today." 30 And it came to be on the next day that Mosheh said to the people, "You, you have sinned a great sin. And now I am going up to יהוה – if I might atone for your sin." 31 And Mosheh returned to יהוה and said, "Oh, these people have sinned a great sin and have made for themselves a mighty one of gold! 32 "And now, if You would forgive, their sin, but if not, please blot me out of Your book which You have written." 33 And יהוה said to Mosheh, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I blot him out of My book. 34 "And now, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. See, My Messenger shall go before you. And in the day of My visitation, I shall visit their sin upon them." 35 And יהוה plagued the people because they made the calf, which Aharon made.

Torah: Shemoth [Exodus] 30:11- 34:35

Introduction: Our torah portion begins with "Ki tisa rosh" which means when you lift up the head which is an idiom for making a head count, so it deals with a census plus further instructions for the Mishkan [the Tabernacle] like the anointing oils, the incense offerings and the shabbat. However, let us not forget at this time in the story Mosheh is still up the mountain so these instructions are for a later time. The true significance of the Torah reading then lies in the exceedingly gross sin of the people found in the incident of the Golden Calf which we will address.

The Summary Details of the Reading:

1. YHWH instructs the half shekel ransom as a means of doing a head count of the people.
2. Details are given regarding the formula for Anointing Oil & Incense with Betzalel given as the chief craftsman in the Mishkan plus observance of the Shabbat given.
3. The Yisraelites waiting for Mosheh become disillusioned & urge Aaron to make a Golden calf with Mosheh returning & breaking the two Tablets.
4. After Mosheh intercedes for Yisrael they obtain mercy.
5. After ascending the 3rd time up the mountain YHWH inscribes for Mosheh who cut new tablets the words written on the 1st.
6. On the mountain YHWH gives further instructions about destroying the altars in Canaan or making covenants with them.
7. Further instructions are given Mosheh & his face upon his return beamed with radiant light that he put a veil over his face.

A Grievous Incident:

Finally, we come to the chronological sequence in our great saga. Mosheh had remained long on Mt. Sinai without any sustenance, so the people failed to wait for him any longer and pressured Aaron to make an El [god] to go before them. This is after all the great miracles that Yahweh had done to set them free from the appalling slavery of Mitsrayim and provide for them on their journey to Mt. Sinai. It may seem hard to imagine this decision, but poor decisions do happen when people are idle & lose patience. As a result of this we find YHWH calling these people Mosheh's people & not his, desiring to destroy them & calling on Mosheh to stand aside that He can vent his extreme wrath on them. This was after Mosheh receives the glorious tablets on Mt. Sinai as we see here:



When Good People Fail To Act:

The true probing question here, is whether all of Yisrael participate in this grievous sin. It does appear not, but the remainder of the congregation did lack to take action which contributed to the remainder being considered by Yahweh to be complicit which is something all of us in our time must consider. Therefore, we must come to see that obedience to Torah can in no way be passive since it was only a small group who were responsible for insisting Aaron form the Golden calf. The people's passivity therefore caused them to share in the sin which resulted in the death of the perpetrators numbering 3,000.

Something amazingly significance that we should not overlook however is that we read at **Shavuot** (Pentecost) in the **Brit Chadashah (the New Testament)** that the **Ruach Ha Kodesh (the Holy Spirit)** was given to empower & implant the Torah in the hearts of the believers, but this verse then follows, revealing a type of reversal to the punishment of Sinai bringing rather a great blessing in:

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TORAH IMPLANTED IN HEARTS



Ma'esah Ha Shilichyim (Acts) 2:40 -41
And with many other words Kepha
(Peter) earnestly witnessed and urged
them, saying, "Be saved from this
perverse generation." **41** Then those
indeed who gladly received his word
were immersed; and that day about
three thousand souls were added to
them.

Ma'esah Ha Shilichyim (Acts) 2:40-41 And with many other words Kepha (Peter) earnestly witnessed and urged them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." **41** Then those indeed who gladly received his word were immersed; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Surely this figure has a connection to our portion with Yahweh revealing the restoration of His people with the number reported playing a prophetic role.

The Hidden Good News Message:

Within our Torah portion is a verse that has haunted Yisrael ever since. This verse is found in:

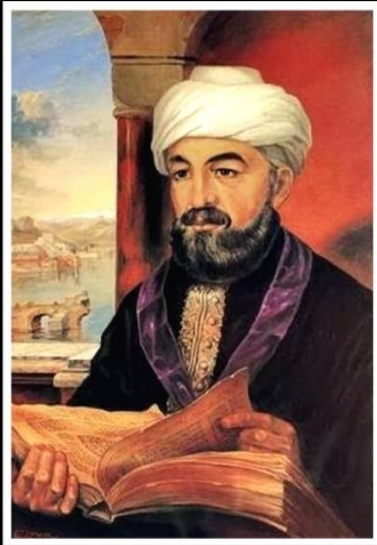
Shemoth (Exodus) 32:34b See my Messenger goes before you and in the day of my visitation I shall visit their sin upon them.

So, YHWH their Elohim postponed Israel's punishment being the shedding of their blood, i.e. DEATH for the Sin of the Golden Calf.

This particular phrase has led to a concept in Judaism as Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki known by Yahudim (Jews) as **Rashi** a highly respect sage puts it when he writes:

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The Spiritual Residue of the Golden Calf

“There is no punishment that comes upon Yisrael which does not have in it some retribution for the sin of the Golden Calf”

Rashi (Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki)

“There is no punishment that comes upon Yisrael which does not have in it some retribution for the sin of the Golden Calf”

This then suggests that all the pogroms, persecutions & even the Holocaust is therefore retribution by the Almighty over the Golden Calf gross sin.

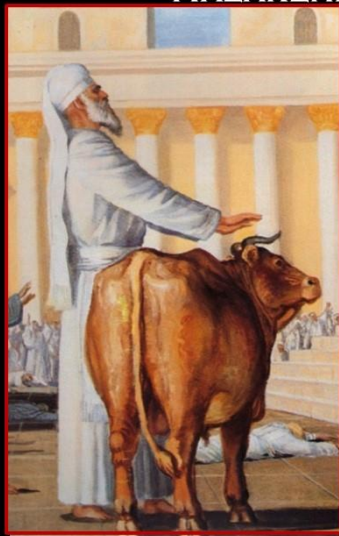
It is therefore said in Judaism that wherever National sins are committed they are due in part to the Spiritual residue that stems from the Golden Calf sin.

Is it of interest then that all the Priestly sacrificial service found in the book of the Law is inaugurated & established after this gross Sin? Could there be something significant here?

We remember from last week our quotation from Hebrews in this verse that reads:

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Beyth Ha Mikdash [Temple] Sacrifices

Ibrim (Hebrews) 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

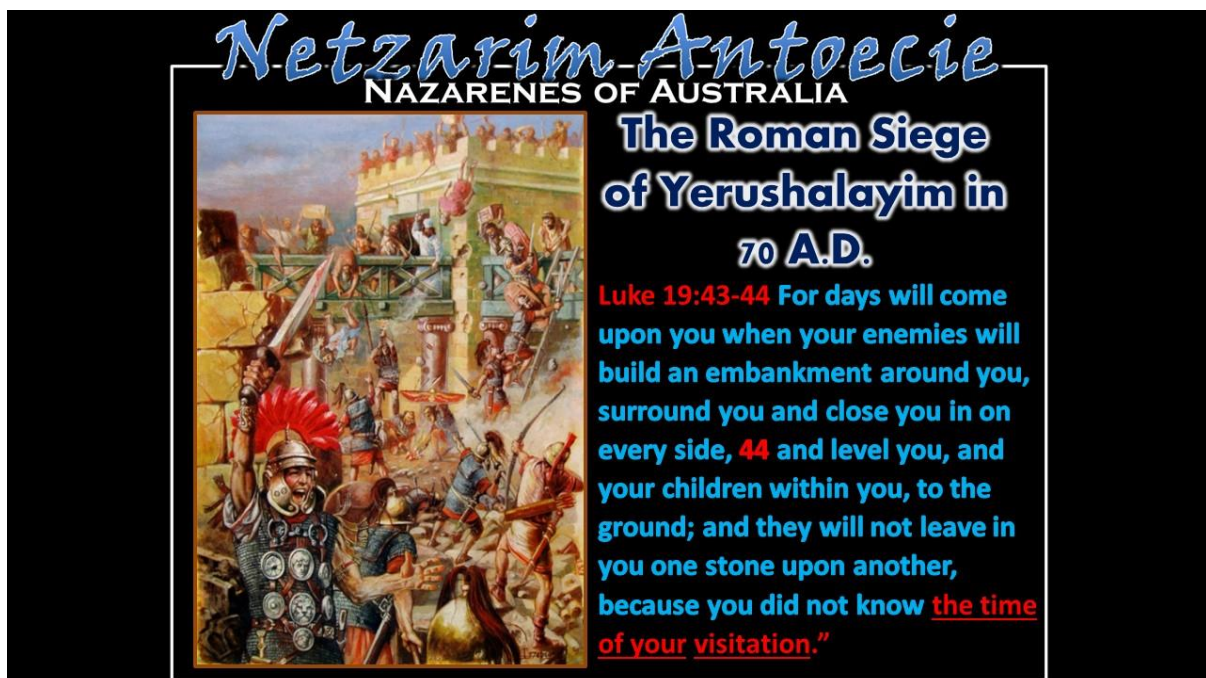
Iv'brim (Hebrews)10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Therefore, what purpose did these sacrifices perform?



Could we consider the sacrifices acting as a covering for sin but not their removal much like a credit card covers a payment for something that has not been fully paid. Therefore, our verse that says Yahweh in the day of his visitation shall visit their sins upon them becomes a promise.

So, when was the time of Yahweh's visitation? Was it not when our Master came, for we read in:



Luke 19:43-44 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment

around you, surround you and close you in on every side, **44** and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

The good news found in our Torah is that it points to the promise that Yahweh himself will bear the sin of the World including Yisrael by Yeshua His son. This verse has also the subtle promise that the **Beyth Ha Miqdash [the Temple]** was to be destroyed which was also promising that the debt would be paid & that no more sacrifices were needed & this may explain why Yisrael has never been able to regain the Temple mount also.

This is no other than the fulfilment of the Covenant Yahweh made with Abram at the Covenant of the Parts in **Bereshiyth [Genesis]**.



This therefore is not a promise of calamity but of the Good News of Yeshua which has remained Hidden to Yisrael ever since.

Conclusion:

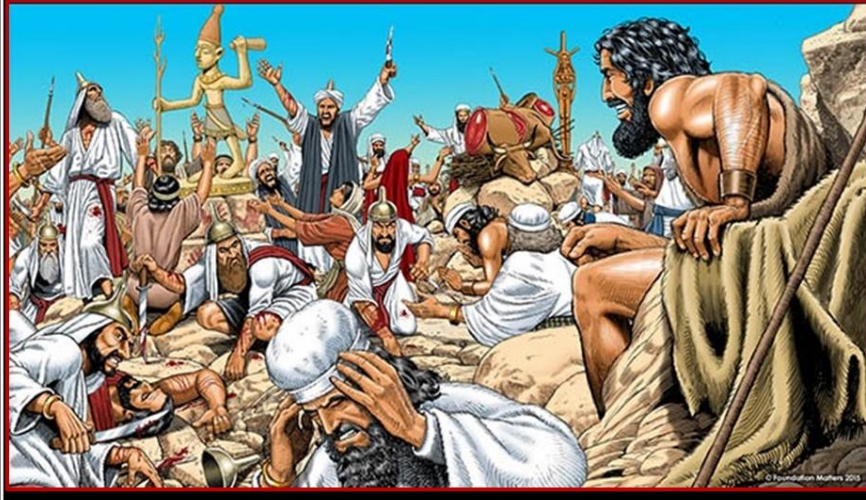
As we look to this story I do pray that we see it more as a view of all humanity who sin either by actively participating in sin or passively neglecting to act and thereby being an accomplice & so we know that all man truly require the great promise of redemption through **Yeshua Ha Mashiach [the Messiah]** & that is the Good News that comes out of our Torah portion so I hope we can pray that the Jews come to see that their redemption has already come. **Amen.**

Haftarah: Melekim Aleph [1 Kings] 18:20-39

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Haftarah: Melekim Aleph [1 Kings] 18:20-39



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EliYahu [Elijah] Challenges Yisrael

Melekim Aleph [1 Kings] :17 And it came to be, when Aḥaḅ saw Ēliyahu, that Aḥaḅ said to him, "Is that you, O disturber of Yisra'ēl?" **18** And he answered, "I have not disturbed Yisra'ēl, but you and your father's house, in that you have forsaken the commands of יהוה and you have followed the Ba'als/Lords. **19** "And now, send and gather all Yisra'ēl to me on Mount Karmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Ba'al and the four hundred prophets of Ashērah, who eat at Izeḅel's table." **20** Aḥaḅ then sent for all the children of Yisra'ēl and gathered the prophets on Mount Karmel. **21** And Ēliyahu came to all the people and said, "How long would you keep hopping between two opinions? If יהוה is Elohim, follow Him; and if Ba'al, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. **22** And Ēliyahu said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of יהוה, but the prophets of Ba'al are four hundred and fifty men. **23** "Now let them give us two bulls. And let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood but set no fire. And I, I'll prepare the other bull and shall lay it on the wood but set no fire. **24** "And you shall call on the name of your mighty one and I, I call on the Name of יהוה. And the elohim who answers by fire, He is elohim." So, all the people answered and said, "The word is good." **25** And Ēliyahu said to the prophets of Ba'al, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many. And call on the name of your mighty one but set no fire."

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The Prophets Of Ba'al & EliYahu call Upon Their Els

26 So they took the bull which was given them and prepared it and called on the name of Ba'al from morning even until noon, saying, "O Ba'al, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they had made. 27 And it came to be at noon, that Ēliyahu taunted them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a mighty one; he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or it could be that he is asleep and has to be awakened!" 28 And they cried aloud and cut themselves, according to their ruling, with knives and spears, until the blood gushed out on them. 29 And it came to be when midday was past, that they prophesied until the time of bringing the evening offering. But there was no voice, and no one answered, and no one paid attention. 30 Then Ēliyahu said to all the people, "Come closer to me." And all the people came closer to him, and he repaired the altar of יהוה that was broken down. 31 And Ēliyahu took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Ya'aqob, to whom the Word of יהוה had come, saying, "Yisra'el is your name." 32 And with the stones he built an altar in the Name of HWHY. And he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. 33 And he arranged the wood and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood and said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood."

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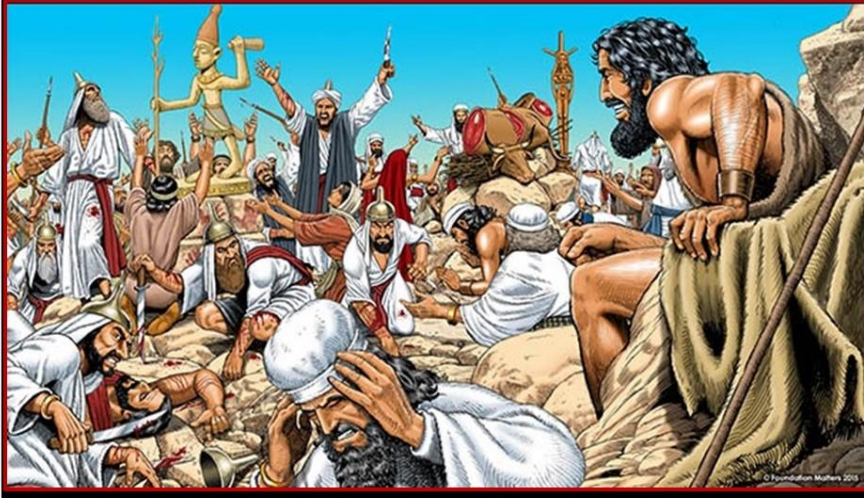
Yisrael Finally Declare That YHWH is the Elohim

34 Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. 35 And the water flowed around the altar, and he filled the trench with water too. 36 And it came to be, at the time of bringing the evening offering, that Ēliyahu the prophet came near and said, "יהוה Elohim of Abraham, Yitsḥaq [Isaac] and Yisra'el, let it be known today: You are Elohim in Yisra'el and I Your servant, have done all these matters by Your word. 37 "Answer me, O יהוה, answer me and let this people know that You are יהוה Elohim and You shall turn their hearts back to You again." 38 Then the fire of יהוה fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And all the people saw and fell on their faces and said, "יהוה, He is the Elohim! יהוה, He is the Elohim!"

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Saftarah: **Melekim Aleph [1 Kings] 18:20-39**



The connection we clearly find in this reading is that the **Navi [the Prophet]** utters the famous words: **“How long will you hop between two opinions?”** Just like the people in our Torah portion failed to restrain active sin these people just watched & answered him not a word. It seemed that Yisrael had not totally rejected Yahweh but were seeking to combine it with the worship of Baal. Today that may not seem so relevant, but have you considered how so-called believers try to combine faith in Elohim with that of Evolution. Therefore **Eliyah** {Elijah} challenges the people that if Yahweh is Elohim serve Him & if Baal serve him.

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EliYah calls down fire from Heaven



We conclude with Eliyahu calling down fire from the Heavens & these people finally declaring:

“Yahweh He is the Elohim; Yahweh He is the Elohim.”

This is the choice we are given too. Do we require fire to come down from heaven before we passionately declare Yahweh is Elohim & serve Him with complete conviction & not with a lukewarm faith because this is what the Master says of those:

Hitgalut [Revelation] 3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Netzarim Ketuvim: Hitgalut [Revelation] 1:9-19



Netzarim Antoecie NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA The Glorious Revelation Of Yeshua

Hitgalut [Revelation] 1:9 I, Yahuchanan [John], both your brother and partner in persecution and in the reign and endurance of יהושע Yeshua [Yahusha] Messiah, came to be on the island that is called Patmos for the Word of Elohim and for the witness of יהושע Yeshua [Yahusha] Messiah. **10** I came to be in the Spirit on the Day of יהוה, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, **11** saying, "I am the 'Aleph' and the 'Tav', the First and the Last," and, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven assemblies of Asia – to Ephesos and to Smurna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodikeia." **12** And I turned to see the voice which spoke with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands [Menorot], **13** and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Adam, dressed in a robe down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. **14** And His head and hair were white as white wool, as snow and His eyes as a flame of fire, **15** and His feet like burnished brass, as if refined in a furnace and His voice as the sound of many waters. **16** And in His right hand He held seven stars and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword and His face was as the sun shining in its strength. **17** And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead and He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last,

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The One Who Possesses The Keys of Death

Hitgalut [Revelation] 1:18 and the living One. And I was dead, and see, I am living forever and ever. Amēn. And I possess the keys of the grave and of death. **19** "Write therefore what you have seen, both what is now and what shall take place after these:

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Netzarim Ketuvim: Hitgalut [Revelation] 1:9 -19

This reading is given to us to encourage us to stand strong in the face of all opposition. It so powerfully describes the beauty, magnificence, esteem, power & exceeding love of our Master that hopefully will leave no doubt in the eyes of the faithful. It is given for us to strengthen our faith that we may persevere in guarding & keeping the commandments of Elohim and diligently clinging to our faith in Yeshua for in that we are & shall be truly blessed. Yeshua is truly the hope of our salvation & those who wholeheartedly put their faith in Him will by no means be put to shame.

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I am the First and the last (the Aleph and the Tav)

Yahuchanan [John] was so overwhelmed by the sight of the Master that He fell down as though dead, but He, the Master Yeshua placed a loving hand on his head to reassure him of his unending love for the faithful. That truly is the Elohim we serve. May you always remember that & by that picture always stay true to the one who has redeemed you & loves you perfectly & eternally.

Tehillim: Mizmor [Psalm] 2:1-12

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Tehillim:

Mizmor

[Psalm]

2:1-12

**The
Exceeding
Esteem Of
The Son**

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The Suffering & Praise Of Messiah

Mizmor [Psalm] 2:1 Why do the nations rage, And the peoples meditate emptiness? **2** The sovereigns of the earth take their stand, And the rulers take counsel together, Against יהוה and against His Anointed and say, **3** "Let us tear apart Their bonds, And throw away Their ropes from us." **4** He who is sitting in the heavens laughs, יהוה scoffs at them. **5** Then He speaks to them in His wrath, And terrifies them in His rage, saying, **6** "But I, I have set My Sovereign on Tsiyon, My set-apart mountain." **7** "I declare for a statute of יהוה : He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have brought You forth. **8** 'Ask of Me and I will give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth Your possession. **9** 'Break them with a rod of iron, Dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" **10** And now, be wise, O sovereigns; take warning, you rulers of the earth. **11** Serve יהוה with fear and rejoice with trembling. **12** Kiss the Son, lest He be enraged, And you perish in the way, For soon His wrath may be kindled. Blessed are all those taking refuge in Him.

In this wonderful **Mizmor** [Psalm] we are confronted with a mankind that is rebellious but more so with the Elohim of might & power who laughs & scorns at their feeble rebellious overtures. Most important however, is that this reading points to one that Yahweh terms His son & instructs the rulers of the Earth to Kiss Him lest He become angry and destroy them. Therefore, Elohim attributes to the Son the Power and esteem reserved for Elohim alone. May this **Mizmor** truly encourage us, that even here in the Psalms, the Son of Yahweh is given such honour, showing that the truth of His Majesty is not limited to the Brit Chadashah [**The New Testament**] as we read in **Hitgaluth** [**Revelation**].

Amen. Shavua Tov Aleychem [A good Week Unto You all]