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# Pearl Seeking

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## TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Ex. 30:11-31:18	The half-shekel contribution to Yahweh; The bronze basin, anointing oil and incense; Appointing Betsal'el and Oholiab, Sabbath instruction; The 2 tablets of the Witness
Tuesday:	Ex. 32	The golden calf incident
Wednesday:	Ex. 33:1-11	Seeking Yahweh after the golden calf incident; The Tent of Meeting outside the camp
Thursday:	Ex. 33:12-23	Mosheh asks to see Yahweh's esteem
Friday:	Ex. 34	Mosheh cuts the second tablet of stones and sees Yahweh's esteem; The 13 attributes of Yahweh; Instruction to the children of Yisra'el

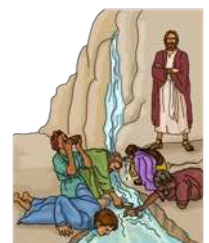
In our last Parsha Pearls lesson, we covered Yahweh's instructions to Mosheh on the mountain, regarding the specifications for the set-apart garments. In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson we will be concluding the story of Mosheh receiving the 2 tablets of stone of the Witness to bring to the people, and their lack of faith in asking Aharon to make them a mighty one. Now, let's read Ex. 32; 34:1-4, 27-35

## PARSHA POINTS

- When Mosheh remained on the mountain much longer than the people anticipated, they grew anxious about what may have become of their leader. They approached Aharon and asked him to make a mighty one for them - 32:1
- Aharon instructed the children of Yisra'el to remove their golden earrings and bring them to him, and they did so - 32:2-3
- Aharon took his engraving tool and fashioned a molded calf (**egel**) - 32:4
- The people proclaimed that the calf was now their mighty one that had brought them out of Mitsrayim - 32:4
- Aharon also built an altar near the calf and proclaimed that the next day would be a festival (**chag**) celebration to Yahweh - 32:5
- Early the next morning, the people got up and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar. Then they sat down to eat and rose up to play - 32:6
- Yahweh saw all this, and told Mosheh to get himself back down the mountain, for the people had corrupted themselves - 32:7



- Yahweh informed Mosheh that the people (32:8-9):
  - had turned aside quickly from the way Yahweh had commanded
  - had made themselves a molded calf
  - had bowed themselves to it
  - had offered sacrifices to it
  - had proclaimed that the calf was now their mighty one that brought them out of Mitsrayim
  - were a stiff-necked people
- Yahweh told Mosheh to leave Him alone, so that His wrath could burn and consume the people. He proposed to make of Mosheh a great nation instead - 32:10
- Mosheh pleaded with Yahweh on behalf of the people - 32:11
- Mosheh explained to Yahweh that the Mitsrites would say that Yahweh had brought the Yisra'elites out just to kill them - 32:12
- Mosheh beseeched Yahweh to turn from the heat of His wrath, and to relent from the evil (**rah**) He intended to do to the people - 32:12
- Mosheh reminded Yahweh of the covenantal promise He made to Abraham, Yitshaq, and Yisra'el (Ya'aqob): to increase their seed like the stars of the heavens, and to give the land of Kena'an to them and to their seed to inherit forever - 32:13
- Yahweh relented from the evil which He said that He would do to His people - 32:14
- Mosheh then turned and came down from the mountain. In his hands were the 2 (**shtayim**) tablets (**luchot**) of the Witness, containing words on both sides - 32:15
- The tablets were entirely Yahweh's work, with His own writing engraved on the tablets - 32:16
- Yehoshua heard noises of the people coming up from the foot of the mountain, and exclaimed to Mosheh that there must be a battle in the camp - 32:17
- Mosheh corrected Yehoshua, saying that the sounds were NOT of those striving in war, nor of those exhausted from battle, but rather the sound of singing - 32:18
- As Mosheh approached the camp, he saw the calf and the people dancing around it - 32:19
- When Mosheh saw this, his anger burned. He threw the tablets from his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain - 32:19
- Mosheh took the image of the calf and did the following (32:20):
  - burned it in the fire
  - ground it into powder
  - scattered it on the face of the water
  - made the children of Yisra'el drink it
- Mosheh asked Aharon what did the people do to him to make him bring such a sin upon them - 32:21



- Aharon explained to Mosheh the events that led up to making of the calf - 32:22-24
- Aharon's story was that he threw the people's gold into the fire and the calf 'just appeared' - 32:24
- Mosheh saw that Aharon's lack of leadership had let the people 'loose', to their shame among their enemies - 32:25
- Mosheh stood at the entrance of the camp and demanded to know who among the people was on Yahweh's side; anyone for Yahweh was to come to him - 32:26
- All the sons of Lewi gathered themselves to Mosheh - 32:26
- Mosheh told them that Yahweh commanded for them to get their swords and go throughout the camp and slay all those who were 'clearly' not for Yahweh - 32:27
- The sons of Lewi did as Mosheh said, and about 3,000 were slain that day - 32:28
- Because of their obedience to Yahweh's instruction, Mosheh ordained those men on that day, and said that a blessing was brought upon them - 32:29
- On the next day, Mosheh addressed the rest of the people with the pronouncement that they had sinned a great sin - 32:30
- Mosheh announced that he would go back up on the mountain before Yahweh, to try to atone for the people's sin - 32:30
- Mosheh confessed to Yahweh the people's sin and begged that they might be forgiven. If not, Mosheh pleaded that Yahweh would remove his own name from the book which Yahweh had written - 32:31-32
- Yahweh replied that removal from His Book was specifically the lot of those who committed the sin against Him - 32:33
- Yahweh then instructed Mosheh to lead the people to the place where He told them to go, and that His Messenger would go before them - 32:34
- Yahweh assured Mosheh that He would visit the sin of the children of Yisra'el upon them when He chose to do so - 32:34
- Yahweh then plagued the people who had sinned against Him in the matter of the golden calf - 32:35



*Now, let's fast forward to Chapter 34 and read the events surrounding the second set of stone tablets.*

- Yahweh told Mosheh to cut 2 tablets of stone like the first ones, and He would write the same words on them that were on the first tablets, which Mosheh broke - 34:1
- Yahweh told Mosheh to be ready in the morning to come up to Mt. Sinai and present himself to Him there on the mountaintop - 34:2
- Yahweh told Mosheh NOT to bring any man with him, or to allow any living thing, such as humans or animals, come anywhere near the mountain - 34:3
- Mosheh cut the 2 tablets of stone and rose early to meet Yahweh on Mt. Sinai with the 2 stones in his hand - 34:4



- Yahweh told Mosheh to write down the Words which He spoke in order to make a covenant with Mosheh and with Yisra'el - 34:27
- Mosheh was on the mountain with Yahweh for 40 days and 40 nights - 34:28
- Mosheh did not eat bread or drink water those 40 day and nights - 34:28
- Yahweh wrote the Words of the Covenant on the tablets - 34:28
- After Mosheh had met with Yahweh, he came down from the mountain and was unaware that his face shone - 34:29
- Aharon and all the children of Yisra'el were afraid to come near Mosheh after seeing his face - 34:30
- Mosheh then called everyone to him and he told them all that Yahweh had spoken with him on Mt. Sinai - 34:31-32
- Mosheh then put a veil on his face after he spoke to the people - 34:33
- Whenever he went to speak with Yahweh, Mosheh would remove his veil and when he spoke to the people he would put on the veil - 34:34-35



## DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- After all the wonders He had done against the Mitsrites' elohim, how do you think Yahweh felt when He saw the children of Yisra'el proclaiming that the golden idol they had fashioned was the one who delivered them out of Mitsrayim? (32:4)
- When Yahweh told Mosheh that He was going to kill all the people and make a great nation of him alone, do you think He really intended to do that? Or was He merely testing Mosheh and his ability to deal humbly and compassionately with these stiff-necked people? (32:9-10)
- What is the book that Mosheh and Yahweh were talking about in Exodus 32:32-33?