KI TISA { תִּשָּׂא כִי } (When You Take/Elevate)

Exodus 30:11 –34:35, 1 Kings 18:1-39, 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Ki Tisa begins with YHWH commanding Moses to tell Bnei Israel “to lift up their heads/elevate”. Every man was required to give half a shekel as a ransom for his soul

No one can really ‘purchase’ their eternal redemption with silver or gold – money cannot buy our eternal redemption, for the value of our soul is priceless: “None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to YHWH a ransom for him – for the redemption of their souls is costly.” (Psalm 49:7-8)

The good news is that the atonement (kapparah) for our eternal nefesh (soul) has been provided as a free gift through the costly blood sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah. “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” (Hebrews 9:12)

We now come to the shameful account of the sin of Israel with the idolatrous golden calf. When the people saw that Moses was delayed from coming down from the mountain, they got a ‘great idea’ – “Hey! Let’s make ourselves a god for ourselves out of all this gold we got from Egypt. Moses? Who knows what has happened to him. We want a god we can see!”

And so Aaron, ever the peace lover, fashioned a golden calf and said, “Here is your god, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” (Exo 32:4)

This shows us the danger of compromising our integrity for the sake of peace or ‘people pleasing’. Thankfully Moses stood in the gap and interceded on behalf of the people of Israel. Moses’ intercedes and plead for Divine mercy upon a whining, complaining, ungrateful bunch of ‘rag-tag’ people who were sinful, faithless, and disobedient is nothing short of amazing!

May we have the same merciful spirit of humility as had Moses, not to sit in judgment when we see the sins and faults of others, but to plead for YHWH’s forgiveness upon them.