Class # 21 **Ki Tisa - A practical guide to battle Satan**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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**Pesach Seder**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbGSI0Ahtac&t=3s>

1. How many people feel like Sebastian about the “2 hours of reading materials”?
2. What conflicts does it usually create?
3. Why do the same fights happen every year? Why isn’t there a change?
4. What other areas of life does this occur - namely- the same issues with the same people in the same way?? E.g. Children and parents, siblings, husband and wife/boyfriend, in-laws and couples..etc.

Shemot 32:1-6

The Golden Calf

32:1 Meanwhile, the people began to realize that Moses was taking a long time to come down from the mountain. They gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Make us an oracle – Elohim [lit. god] to lead us. We have no idea what happened to Moses, the man who brought us out of Egypt.'

32:2 'Take the rings off the ears of your wives and children,' replied Aaron. 'Bring them to me.'

32:3 All the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

32:4 He took [the rings] from the people, and had someone form [the gold] in a mold, casting it into a calf. [Some of the people began to] say, 'This, Israel, is your god, who brought you out of Egypt.'

32:5 When Aaron saw [this], he built an altar before [the calf]. Aaron made an announcement and said, 'Tomorrow, there will be a festival to God.'

32:6 Getting up early the next morning, [the people] sacrificed burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink, and then got up to enjoy themselves.

Rashi 32:1

1. that Moses was late: Heb. בשֵׁשׁ, as the Targum [Onkelos] renders אוֹחַר, an expression for lateness. Likewise, [in the verse] “is his chariot late (בֹּשֵׁשׁ) ” (Jud. 5:28); “and they waited until it was late (בּוֹשׁ) ” (Jud. 3:25). When Moses went up the mountain, he said to them [the Israelites], “At the end of forty days I will come, within six hours” [from sunrise of the fortieth day]. They thought that the day he went up was included in the number [of the forty days], but [in fact] he had said to them, “forty days,” [meaning] complete [days], including the night. But the day of his ascent did not have its night included with it [because Moses ascended in the morning], for on the seventh of Sivan he ascended. Thus, the fortieth day [of Moses’ absence] was the seventeenth of Tammuz. On the sixteenth [of Tammuz], Satan came and brought confusion into the world and showed a semblance of darkness, [even] pitch darkness, and confusion, [as if] indicating [that] Moses had surely died and therefore, confusion had come upon the world. He [Satan] said to them, “Moses has died, for six [additional] hours have already passed, and he has not come, etc.,” as is found in tractate Shabbath (89a). We cannot say that their [the Israelites’] only error was that on a cloudy day [they were confused] between before noon and after noon, because Moses did not descend until the next day, as it is said: “On the next day, they arose early, offered up burnt offerings…” (verse 6).

Because this man Moses: Satan showed them something resembling Moses, being carried in the air, high above in the sky. -[from Shab. 89a, Midrash Tanchuma 19] who brought us up from the land of Egypt: And directed us the way we should go up [from Egypt]. Now we need gods who will go before us [instead of Moses].

3) that are on the ears of your wives…: Aaron said to himself, “The women and children are fond of their jewelry. Perhaps the matter will be delayed, and in the meantime, Moses will arrive.” But they did not wait [for their wives and children to give them their earrings], and they took off their own [earrings]. -[from Midrash Tanchuma 21]

6. When Aaron saw: that it was alive, as it is said: “for the likeness of an ox eating grass” ([Ps. 106:20)](http://www.chabad.org/16327#v20), and he saw that Satan’s work had succeeded, and he had no words to stall them completely [i.e., to keep the Israelites from worshipping the calf, so then]

he built an altar: to stall them.

and said: “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.”: But [it will] not [be] today. Perhaps Moses would come before they would worship it. This is its simple meaning.

אמר ר"ל הוא שטן הוא יצר הרע הוא מלאך המות" (מסכת בבא בתרא טז/א.

Tractate Baba Batra 17A states – “Raish Lakish says, The Satan is the evil inclination is the Angel of death.”

1. Why wasn’t Aaron afraid and hysterical about Moshe’s lateness?

**Rambam laws of Idolatry 11:16**

All the above matters are falsehood and lies with which the original idolaters deceived the gentile nations in order to lead them after them. It is not fitting for the Jews who are wise sages to be drawn into such emptiness, nor to consider that they have any value as [implied by [Numbers 23:23](http://www.chabad.org/9951#v23)]: "No fortune telling can be found among Jacob, or wizardry within Israel." Similarly, [[Deuteronomy 18:14](http://www.chabad.org/9982#v14)] states: "These nations which you are driving out listen to astrologers and diviners. This is not [what God... has granted] you."

Whoever believes in [magic] of this nature and, in his heart, thinks that they are true and words of wisdom, but are forbidden by the Torah, is foolish and feebleminded…...

The masters of wisdom and those of perfect knowledge know with clear proof that all these crafts which the Torah forbade are not reflections of wisdom, but rather, emptiness and vanity which attracted the feeble minded and caused them to abandon all the paths of truth. For these reasons, when the Torah warned against all these empty matters, it advised [[Deuteronomy 18:13](http://www.chabad.org/9982#v13)]: "Be of perfect faith with God, your Lord."

2) What is the first step in being a wise person?

3) How would it help solve conflict that Sebastian brought up?

4) What is the focus of Proverbs, Ethics of our Fathers and the entire book Beraishit?

5) Aaron was renowned for his peacemaking skills. What did he do?