

Torah Portion Ki Tisa
Exodus 30:11 – 34:35

Ki Tisa is Hebrew for “when you take”.

This Portion of scripture can be broken down into sections as follows: The Ransom Money, The Bronze Laver, The Holy Anointing Oil, The Incense, Artisans for Building the Tabernacle, The Sabbath Law, The incident of the Golden Calf, The Command to Leave Sinai, Moses Meets With the LORD, The Promise of Yahweh's Presence, Moses Makes New Tablets, The Covenant Renewed and The Shining Face of Moses.

When the children of Israel sinned with the golden calf, Yahweh wanted to destroy them all and raise up a nation from Moses (32:9-10). Moses was greatly concerned and no doubt wondered if forgiveness could ever be found for the people who had greatly displeased their God. However, He was willing to stand in the gap for them, going so far as to tell Yahweh that if He would not forgive them then He could just blot his name out of the Book of Life also (32:31-32). What a great leader he was, and what a great love for the people he had. Not many people would be willing to make such an offer before God for their immediate family, much less a multitude of people. Also, not many people would have the confidence to stand before a Holy LORD with that much confidence.

In chapter 34 Moses returns to the mountain, for the second time, to receive the commandments on tablets of stone. It is during this time that God calls out to Moses and proclaims to Him the attributes of His Holy Name, YHVH. If Moses had any reservations that Yahweh would forgive the people of their sin, they all vanished. In Jewish literature these attributes of Yahweh's Holy Name are called: **The 13 Attributes of Mercy**. In these two verses, Yahweh gives us a glimpse of His ever abiding Mercy. What would we do without His Mercy? We have all sinned and fall short of the requirements of a Holy God, but His Mercy

Let us examine these verses in Hebrew and see what Yahweh declares about Himself, so that we never forget:

Exodus 34:6-7

1. יְהוָה *YHVH* — Shows mercy even before a person sins;
2. יְהוָה *YHVH* — Shows mercy even after a person has sinned and gone astray;
3. אֵל *El* — His name denoting power as creator of all and mighty in compassion to give all creatures according to their need;
4. רַחוּם *Rachum* — merciful, so that humankind may not be distressed and tempted beyond which he can endure; having sympathy for human frailty.
5. וְחַנּוּן *VeChanun* — and gracious if humankind is already in distress; raising up the oppressed.
6. אֶרְאֶפִּים *Erech appayim* — slow to anger; giving time for the sinner to reflect, improve and repent.
7. וְרַב־חֶסֶד *VeRav chesed* — and plenteous in kindness; even to those undeserving by merit
8. וְאֱמֶת *VeEmet* — and truth; never forgetting a promise made to those who serve Him
9. נֹזֵר־חֶסֶד לָאֻלָּם *Notzer chesed laalafim* — keeping kindness unto thousands; remembering the righteousness of the faithful, even down to their undeserving descendants
10. נוֹשֵׂא עוֹן *Noseh avon* — forgiving iniquity; forgiving intentional sin as long as there is repentance.

11. וַפֶּשַׁע *VaFeshah* — and transgression; forgiving those who rebel against Him, if they repent.
12. וְחַטָּא'ה *VeChata'ah* — and sin; forgiving sins of carelessness and apathy
13. וְנָקָה *VeNakeh* — and pardoning, wiping away the sins of those who repent.

The number 13 and their meanings is adopted from Rabbinic tradition and translation, but describes the scriptures perfectly. For even more insight please visit:

http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Parashah/Summaries/Ki_Tisa/ki_tisa.html

Please visit: www.ourancientpaths.org for more teachings in rediscovering the ancient paths of our Christian faith.

Bibliography:

1. <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-13-attributes-of-mercy/>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Attributes_of_Mercy