

PARSHAT KI TISA
20 ADAR 5781/04 MARCH 2021



You are the light of the world and the salt of the earth
Painting by Lalo Gutierrez

TO BE A SOURCE OF RADIANCE

1. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was God's writing. (Exodus 32:16)

“Carve two tablets of sone like the first, and I will inscribe upon the tablets”....And he [Moses] wrote down on the tablets... (Exodus 34:1, 28)

Only one of those tablets endured.

2. The glory of God settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain. On the seventh day God called to Moses from within the cloud. (Exodus 24:16)

The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of God filled the tabernacle. (Exodus 40:34)

3. The redemption of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt required supernatural intervention, a Divine rescue from above (*itaruta del'eylah*, an awakening from above). But the future redemption will take place within the laws of nature. It will emanate from the stirring of the human heart (*itaruta deletata*, an awakening from below). The Jewish people will rise from their exilic slumber....Step by step, without overriding the laws of nature, so that even the beneficiary of the miracle is unaware of the great miracle that is unfolding....Then our future redemption will not be in haste, but will advance steadily, like the ever-spreading light of daybreak. (Rav Kook)

4. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of Testimony in his hands, he was unaware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with God. (Exodus 34:29)