

PARSHAT KI TISA
EXODUS 30:11-34:35
HAFTARAH I KINGS 18:1-39
13 ADAR 5785/13 MARCH 2025



La Gare Saint-Lazare (Interior of the Auteuil Line)
Oil on canvass by Claude Monet

LIKE THE EVER-SPREADING LIGHT OF DAYBREAK

1. “When you raise up the heads of the children of Israel...” (Exodus 30:12)
2. Instruction to elevate. Regression. Shattering. Re-imagining. Freedom
3. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was God’s writing... (Exodus 32:16)
4. “Carve two tablets of stone like the first and I will inscribe....And Moses wrote down on the tablets... (Exodus 34:1, 28)
5. “Do not grieve about the first tablets. They only contained the Ten Commandments. In the second tablets there will also be laws, midrash and aggadah”....It is written, “to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” (Midrash, Shemot Rabbah 46:1, 46:2)

6. “And the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was God’s writing.” Read not קָרוֹת (graven) but חֵירוֹת (freedom). (Avot 6:2)
7. 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)