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Teaching on Shavuot through Sukkot

Our Journey from Sinai to Repentance and Renewal - 5783-5784/2023-2024

Hebrew Date	**Gregorian**	**Event**	**Comment/Teaching**
15 Nisan (2448)	April 6, 2023 (1312 BCE)	Exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12)	We begin our journey from disgrace to glory, from bondage to freedom
1 Sivan	May 21	• Israelites enter the wilderness of Sinai (Exodus 19:1) • Moses goes up to speak with God (Exodus 19:3) • God speaks the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-14) All the people witness the thunder and lightening, ask Moses to speak for God...(Exodus 20:15-17)	Rosh Chodesh 3rd day (Exodus 19:16)
6-7 Sivan	May 26-27	• Moses ascends Mt Sinai and remains there for 40 days (Exodus 24:15-18) • People grow restless and build the molten calf (Exodus 32:1) • At end of 40 days, God gave Moses the two tablets of the Pact (Exodus 32:18)	This is Shavuot (Weeks), the 50th day after the first day of Passover. We have completed the Counting of the Omer - we count a week of weeks, 49 days. Reflection: What causes us to lose hope, or divert from our best intention? Cynicism, greed, loss of faith...
17 Tammuz	July 6	• God tells Moses to go down to his people; God threatens that He will destroy the people and make of Moses a great nation (Exodus 32:9-10) • Moses implores God to renounce His punishment (destroy mankind), which God does (Exodus 32:11-14) • Moses shatters the tablets, destroys the Molten Calf, punishes the people (Exodus 32:19-29)	Basic premise of wickedness of humankind and God's reaction to this is to destroy humankind (Genesis 6:5-7) Since this is man's nature, there must be some means by which man can redeem himself. Moses argues for a means for the people to earn pardon and forgiveness.

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19 Tammuz	July 8	• Moses ascends the mountain, to ask forgiveness for the people's sin (Exodus 32:30-34) • An angel (instead of God) will travel before the people; people hear this and go into mourning (Exodus 33:3-4) • God agrees to go in the lead of the people (Exodus 33:14), but has not granted forgiveness to the people	Moses argues: how would that look to the nations? God is too angry to be close to the people. This is a 'no win' situation: the people have a natural tendency to wickedness; God responds with regret and anger; the people are sad and mourn the loss of God's Presence. Three weeks of mourning begin, and culminate on the 9th of Av. Reflection: Anger brings distance; how does one bring forgiveness and resolution, and whose responsibility is it to begin?
9 Av 13 Av	July 27 July 31		Culmination of 3 weeks of mourning 7 Weeks of Consolation begin
1 Elul	Aug 18	• Moses carves two tablets and ascends Mt Sinai (Exodus 34:1-7) and pleads for forgiveness on behalf of the people (Exodus 34:8-9) • God responds with the covenant (Exodus 34:10-26) • Moses writes the tablets (Exodus 34:27-28), concludes 40 days	The people have violated their relationship with God in the worst way by building the molten calf. How does one restore a relationship when the most fundamental agreement has been breached? What does it take to win forgiveness? What steps do we see Moses taking in these passages?
10 Tishri	October 5 Yom Kippur 5783	After 40 days and nights, Moses comes down Mt Sinai with the tablets of the Pact (Exodus 34:29) God has granted forgiveness, and the Israelites have been given the Covenant, the tablets of the Pact	Moses is radiant, but those around him are fearful and need shielding from his radiance. How can we relate to this? Do we merit forgiveness? What can we do to merit forgiveness? Today this is the Day of Atonement, a day of self-denial, a day of no work.
11 Tishri	October 6	People begin making offerings for and assembling the components of the Mishkan (Exodus 35:1-39:43)	In present day we begin building the Sukkah right after Yom Kippur. Is there a correlation in activity? Reflection: When we have experienced a true forgiveness, how do we react? What do we want to do? What plans do we make?

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15 Tishri 22 Tishri	October 10 October 17	Feast of Booths (Leviticus 23:33-36), lasts 7 days; additional 8th day	No work on the first day (Sukkot). No work on additional 8th day (Sh'mini Atzeret). This is a celebratory time, like a reunion or wedding. What reunion or wedding settings have you attended that were the most memorable to you? Why - what made it memorable?
15 Tishri	October 10	Additional instructions: Leviticus 23:39-43	Take the product of the hadar trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook and rejoice seven days. Live in booths seven days. Relates to Exodus - we lived in booths.
2nd Year			
1 Nisan (2449)	April 9, 2024 (5784) (1311 BCE)	Set up the Tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting (Exodus 40:2) and (Exodus 40:17-34)	All of our plans and preparations are becoming a reality. How does it feel to follow through and complete God's instruction?