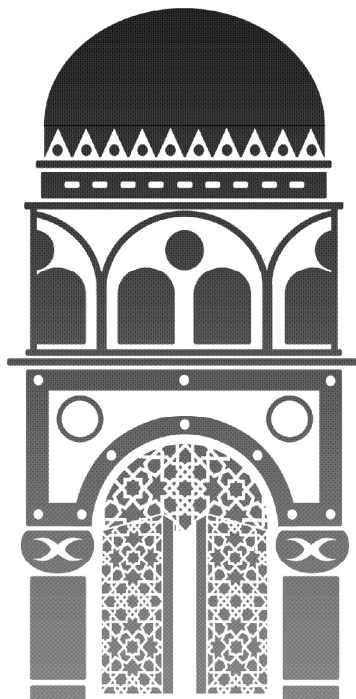


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SHABBAT SHALOM

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26/27 June 2020

5 Tammuz 5780

## SHABBAT CHUKKAT

*Parashat Chukkat* begins by describing the ritual slaughter and sacrifice of the *parah adumah*, or “red cow”, by Eleazar the priest, and the ritual cleansing for those who touch a corpse. Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, dies at Kadesh. Again the people complain that they have no water to drink. God tells Moses to take his rod and order a rock to bring forth water. Angry at the complaining people, whom he calls “rebels”, Moses strikes the rock with his rod. Water pours out. The people drink and water their animals. God informs Moses that because of his anger he will not be allowed to lead his people into the Land of Israel. Moses asks the king of Edom for permission to pass through his land. The king refuses, and the Israelites take another route. When they reach Hor, Aaron dies, and his priestly authority is passed on to his son, Eleazar. The people mourn Aaron for thirty days. Afterwards they are attacked by the Canaanites, whom they conquer with God’s help. However, the people continue to complain to Moses: “Why did you make us leave Egypt to die in the wilderness?” God sends snakes among the people to bite them for their disloyalty. Moses begs forgiveness for them when they admit their wrongdoing. God tells Moses to place a *seraph* figure—a snake made of copper—on his staff. When the people see it, they will be healed. The Israelites are later attacked by the Amorites and the people of Bashan and Og. In each battle the Israelites emerge victorious, conquering towns and acquiring large territories.

א וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל־הָעֵדָה מִדְּבַר־צֹן בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיָּשֹׁב הָעָם בְּקֹדֶשׁ  
וַתָּמֶת שָׁם מֵרֹגְסִים וַתִּקְבַּר שָׁם: ב וְלֹא־הָיָה מִיִּם לָעֵדָה וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל־מֹשֶׁה  
וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן: ג וַיִּרְבַּ הָעָם עִם־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֵאמֹר וְלוֹ גִּוְעָנוּ בְּגֹעַ אַחֲינוּ לִפְנֵי  
יְהוָה: ד וְלָמָּה הִבַּאתֶם אֶת־קִהְל יְהוָה אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּר הַזֶּה לָמוֹת שָׁם אֲנַחְנוּ  
וּבְעֵירָנוּ: ה וְלָמָּה הֶעֱלִיתֵנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לְהַבְיֵא אֹתָנוּ אֶל־הַמְּקוֹם הַרְעֵה הַזֶּה לֹא  
מְקוֹם זֶרַע וַתֵּאֱנָה וּלְפָן וּרְמוֹן וּמִים אֵין לַשְּׁתוֹת: ו וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן מִפְּנֵי  
הַקִּהְל אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וַיִּרְא כְבוֹד־יְהוָה אֲלֵיהֶם:  
ז וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ח קַח אֶת־הַמַּטֵּה וְהַקְהֵל אֶת־הָעֵדָה אֹתָהּ  
וְאַהֲרֹן אַחִיד וּדְבַרְתֶּם אֶל־הַסֵּלַע לְעֵינֵיהֶם וְנָתַן מִימֵי וְהוֹצֵאתָ לָהֶם מִיִּם  
מִן־הַסֵּלַע וְהִשְׁקִיתָ אֶת־הָעֵדָה וְאֶת־בְּעֵיֲרֵם: ט וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַמַּטֵּה מִלִּפְנֵי  
יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ: י וַיִּקְהָלוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶת־הַקִּהְל אֶל־פְּנֵי הַסֵּלַע וַיֹּאמֶר  
לָהֶם שְׁמַעוּ־נָא הַמַּרְיָם הַמִּן־הַסֵּלַע הַזֶּה נוֹצֵיא לָכֶם מַיִם: יא וַיִּרְם מֹשֶׁה  
אֶת־יָדוֹ וַיִּךְ אֶת־הַסֵּלַע בְּמִטְּהוֹ פַּעַמִּים וַיִּצְאוּ מִיִּם רַבִּים וַתִּשָּׂת הָעֵדָה  
וּבְעֵיֲרֵם: יב וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאַל־אַהֲרֹן יַעַן לֹא־הֵאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִּישֵׁנִי  
לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֵן לֹא תְבִיאוּ אֶת־הַקִּהְל הַזֶּה אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־נָתַתִּי לָהֶם:  
יג הֲמָה מִי מְרִיבָה אֲשֶׁר־דָּבוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־יְהוָה וַיִּקְדַּשׁ בָּם: יד וַיִּשְׁלַח  
מֹשֶׁה מַלְאָכִים מִקְדָּשׁ אֶל־מִלְכָּד אֲדוֹם כֹּה אָמַר אַחִיד יִשְׂרָאֵל אֹתָהּ זָדַעְתָּ אֶת  
כָּל־הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר מְצַאֲתָנוּ: טו וַיִּרְדּוּ אֲבֹתֵינוּ מִצְרַיִם וַנִּשָּׁב בְּמִצְרַיִם וּמִיִּם  
רַבִּים וַיִּרְעוּ לָנוּ מִצְרַיִם וְלֹאֲבֹתֵינוּ: טז וַנִּצְעַק אֶל־יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמַע קוֹלָנוּ וַיִּשְׁלַח  
מַלְאָךְ וַיִּצְאָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וְהִנֵּה אֲנַחְנוּ בְּקֹדֶשׁ עִיר קִצָּה גְבוּלָה: יז נַעֲבְרָה־נָּא  
בְּאַרְצָה לֹא נַעֲבֹר בְּשָׂדֵה וּבְכָרִים וְלֹא נִשְׁתֶּה מִי בְּאֵר דָּרָךְ הַמִּלְכָּד נִלְךְ לֹא נִטָּה  
וּמִיִּן וּשְׂמַאוּל עַד אֲשֶׁר־נַעֲבֹר גְּבוּלָה: יח וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדוֹם לֹא תַעֲבֹר בִּי  
פֶן־בַּחֲרֹב אֵצֶא לְקִרְאָתְךָ: יט וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמַסְפָּה נַעֲלֶה  
וְאִם־מִימִיד נִשְׁתֶּה אֲנִי וּמִקֻּזִי וְנָתַתִּי מִכֶּרֶם רַק אִין־דְּבַר בְּרַגְלִי אֶעֱבְרָה:  
כ וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא תַעֲבֹר וַיִּצֵא אֲדוֹם לְקִרְאָתוֹ בְּעַם כְּבֹד וּבְגֵד חֲזָקָה: כא וַיִּמְאֹן |  
אֲדוֹם נָתַן אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל עֹבֵר בְּגִבְלוֹ וַיִּט יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵעַלָיו:

## NUMBERS 20:1-21

**1** The Israelites arrived in a body at the wilderness of Zin on the first new moon, and the people stayed at Kadesh. Miriam died there and was buried there. **2** The community was without water, and they joined against Moses and Aaron. **3** The people quarreled with Moses, saying, "If only we had perished when our brothers perished at the instance of Adonai! **4** Why have you brought Adonai's congregation into this wilderness for us and our beasts to die there? **5** Why did you make us leave Egypt to bring us to this wretched place, a place with no grain or figs or vines or pomegranates? There is not even water to drink!" **6** Moses and Aaron came away from the congregation to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and fell on their faces. The Presence of Adonai appeared to them, **7** and Adonai spoke to Moses, saying, **8** "You and your brother Aaron take the rod and assemble the community, and before their very eyes order the rock to yield its water. Thus you shall produce water for them from the rock and provide drink for the congregation and their beasts." **9** Moses took the rod from before Adonai, as he had commanded. **10** Moses and Aaron assembled the congregation in front of the rock; and he said to them, "Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?" **11** And Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank. **12** But Adonai said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them." **13** Those are the Waters of Meribah—meaning that the Israelites quarrelled with Adonai—whose sanctity was affirmed through them. **14** From Kadesh, Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom: "Thus says your brother, Israel: You know all the hardships that have befallen us; **15** that our ancestors went down to Egypt, that we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and that the Egyptians dealt harshly with us and our ancestors. **16** We cried to Adonai who heard our plea, sending a messenger who freed us from Egypt. Now we are in Kadesh, the town on the border of your territory. **17** Allow us, then, to cross your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, and we will not drink water from wells. We will follow the king's highway, turning off neither to the right nor to the left until we have crossed your territory." **18** But Edom answered him, "You shall not pass through us, else we will go out against you with the sword." **19** "We will keep to the beaten track," the Israelites said to them, "and if we or our cattle drink your water, we will pay for it. We ask only for passage on foot—it is but a small matter." **20** But they replied, "You shall not pass through!" And Edom went out against them in heavy force, strongly armed. **21** So Edom would not let Israel cross their territory, and Israel turned away from them.

## II KINGS 3:9-12

So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah and the king of Edom; and they made a circuit of seven days journey; and there was no water for the camp, nor for the animals that followed them. And the king of Israel said: 'Alas, for the Eternal has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.' But Yehoshaphat said, 'Is there not here a prophet of Adonai, that we may enquire of the Eternal by him?' And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said: 'Elisha, the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.' And Yehoshaphat said 'The word of the Eternal One is with him'. SO the king of Israel and Yehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. And Elisha said to the king of Israel; 'What have I got to do with you? Go instead to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother' And the king of Israel said: 'it is not so, for the Eternal has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hands of Moab.' And Elisha said: 'As the Eternal One of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely, were it not for the presence of Yehoshaphat, the king of Judah, I would take no notice of you, nor see you at all. But now bring me a minstrel.' And it came to pass that when the minstrel played, the hand of the Eternal came upon him. And he said : 'Thus says the Eternal: Make this valley full of trenches. For thus again says the Eternal One: You shall not see wind nor rain, but that valley will be filled with water; and you shall drink, you and your cattle and your other animals. And this is but a small thing in the sight of the Eternal One. God will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. And you will attack every fortified and special city and fell every good tree, and stop all fountains of water and mar every good piece of land with stones. And it came to pass in the morning, about the time of making the offering, that behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.