

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class #46
Yerovam's Revolt & the Split Kingdom - Part II
- The Temple in Bet-El - A 'calf' or a 'cruv'?

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction -

Last week, we began our study of the 'split Kingdom', and the revolt of Yerovam from both a political & religious perspective. This week, we will examine the logic (& Biblical roots) of Yerovam's 'religious reform', i.e. the Temple he builds in Bet-El, and how this leads to the proliferation of "bamot" – the high places.

I. Review of the Midrash we discussed [Sanhedrin 102a],
re: possibility of a 'shared kingdom'

(מלכים א יג, לג) אחר הדבר הזה לא שב ירבעם מדרכו הרעה

מאי אחר : אמר ר' אבא - אחר שתפשו הקב"ה לירבעם בבגדו

-ואמר לו: חזור בך -ואני ואתה ובן ישי נטייל בגן עדן

אמר לו: מי בראש? בן ישי בראש - אי הכי לא בעינא

The verse states: "And after this matter, Jeroboam returned not from his evil way" (I Kings 13:33). To what event is the verse alluding, when it states: "After this matter"?

Rabbi Abba says: It is after the Holy One, Blessed be He, grabbed Jeroboam by his garment, i.e., he sent prophets and implored him, and said to him:

Repent, and you and I and the son of Yishai will stroll together in the Garden of Eden.

Jeroboam said to Him: Who will walk in the lead?

God said to Jeroboam: The son of Yishai will walk in the lead.

Jeroboam said: If so, I do not wish to repent.

*also – question re: Yechezkel 37 [etz Efraim / etz Yehuda]
And concept of Moshiach bet Yosef

I. Review of the political reasons for the revolt:

Melachim Aleph – chapter 11 - note centrality of Yerushalaim in this section

כּו וַיִּרְבֵּעַם בֶּן-נִבְט אֶפְרָתִי מִן-הַצִּרְדָּה, 26 And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, he also lifted up his hand against the king.
וַיִּשֶׂם אִמּוֹ צְרוּעָה אִשָּׁה אֱלִמְנָה, עֶבֶד,
לְשַׁלְמָה; וַיָּרִם יָד, בַּמֶּלֶךְ.

כז וַזֶּה הַדָּבָר, אֲשֶׁר-הָרִים יָד בַּמֶּלֶךְ: 27 And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king:
שַׁלְמָה, בָּנָה אֶת-הַמְּלוּא-
-סָגַר, אֶת-פְּרָצַי עִיר דָּוִד אָבִיו.

כח והאיש ירבעם, גבור חיל; וירא שלמה את-הנער, כי-עשה מלאכה הוא, ויפקד אתו, לכל-סבל בית יוסף. {ס}

28 And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour; and Solomon saw the young man that he was industrious, and he gave him charge over all the labour of the house of Joseph. {S}

כט ויהי בעת ההיא, וירבעם יצא מירושלם; וימצא אתו אחיה השילוני הנביא בדרך, והוא מתכסה בשלמה חדשה, ושניהם לבדם, בשדה.

29 And it came to pass at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; now Ahijah had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field.

ל ויתפש אחיה, בשלמה החדשה אשר עליו; ויקרעה--שנים עשר, קרעים....

30 And Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces.

לב והשבט האחד, יהיה-לו--למען עבדי דוד, ולמען ירושלם, העיר אשר בחרתי בה, מפל שבטי ישראל...

32 but he shall have one tribe, for My servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel--

לד ולא-אקח את-כל-הממלכה, מידו: כי נשיא אשתנו, כל ימי חייו, למען דוד עבדי אשר בחרתי אתו, אשר שמר מצותי וחקתי.

34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand; but I will make him prince all the days of his life, for David My servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept My commandments and My statutes;

לה ולקחתי המלוכה, מיד בנו; ונתתיקה לך, את עשרת השבטים.

35 but I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes.

לו ולבנו, אתן שבט-אחד--למען היות-נר לדוד-עבדי, כל-הימים לפני, בירושלם, העיר אשר בחרתי לי, לשום שמי שם.

36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David My servant may have a lamp alway before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen Me to put My name there.

II. What were the building projects? /back in chapter 9

ד וישלח חירם, למלך, מאה ועשרים, כפר זהב.

14 And Hiram sent to the king sixscore talents of gold.

טו וזה דבר-המס אשר-העלה המלך שלמה, לבנות את-בית יהוה ואת-ביתו ואת-המלוא, ואת, חומת ירושלם; ואת-חצר ואת-מגדו, ואת-גזר.

15 And this is the account of the levy which king Solomon raised; to build the house of the LORD, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer.

כד אך בת-פרעה, עלתה מעיר דוד, אל-ביתה, אשר בנה-לה; אז, בנה את-המלוא.

24 But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which [Solomon] had built for her; then did he build Millo.

III. A. Change of Society due to industrialization:

Discussion:

Who paid for all the building projects

How did the new professions change daily life

Agriculture vs. Industry

B. Why would this cause political unrest?

What was Yerovam in charge of:

“sevel bet Yosef” - the work force?

“mas” – financial tax, or actual labor tax

[like “miluim” service]

C. Compare the religious [Divine] reason for revolt

[see chapter 11:1-13]

with the political [People’s] reason

[see also 11:14-25 / note parallel to Moshe\Yitro]

Note contrast – Shlomo & Egypt – pre/ post

IV. The revolt - chapter 12

א וַיֵּלֶךְ רְחָבָעַם, שָׁכֵם: כִּי שָׁכַם בָּא כָּל-
יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְהַמְלִיךְ אֹתוֹ. ¹ And Rehoboam went to Shechem;
for all Israel were come to Shechem to
make him king.

ב וַיְהִי כִשְׁמַע יְרֻבָּעַם בֶּן-נֶבֶט, וְהוּא עֹודֵנוּ
בְּמִצְרַיִם, אֲשֶׁר בָּרוּחַ, מִפְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה;
וַיֵּשֶׁב יְרֻבָּעַם, בְּמִצְרַיִם. ² And it came to pass, when Jeroboam
the son of Nebat heard of it--for he
was yet in Egypt, whither he had fled
from the presence of king Solomon,
and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt,

ג וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ, וַיִּקְרְאוּ-לוֹ, וַיָּבֹאוּ (וַיָּבֹאוּ) יְרֻבָּעַם,
וְכָל-קְהַל יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיְדַבְּרוּ, אֶל-רְחָבָעַם
לֵאמֹר. ³ and they sent and called him--that
Jeroboam and all the congregation of
Israel came, and spoke unto
Rehoboam, saying:

ד אָבִיךָ, הִקְשָׁה אֶת-עֲלֵנוּ; וְאַתָּה עֲתָה
הִקַּל מֵעֲבֹדֶת אָבִיךָ הַקְּשָׁה, וַיִּמְעַלוּ הַכֶּבֶד
אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן עָלֵינוּ--וְנִעֲבֹדְךָ. ⁴ 'Thy father made our yoke grievous;
now therefore make thou the grievous
service of thy father, and his heavy
yoke which he put upon us, lighter,
and we will serve thee.'

ה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם, לְכוּ-עַד שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים--
וַיֵּצֵאוּ. ⁵ And he said unto them: 'Depart yet
for three days, then come again to
me.' And the people departed.

ושובו אלי ; וילכו, העם.

ו וינעץ המלך רחבעם, את-הזקנים אשר-
היו עמדים את-פני שלמה אביו, בהיתו חי,
לאמר : איך אתם נועצים, להשיב את-
העם-הזה דבר.

6 And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying: 'What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people?'

ז וידבר (וידברו) אליו לאמר, אם-היום
תהיה-עבד לעם הזה ועבדתם, ועניתם,
ודברת אליהם דברים טובים--והיו לך
עבדים, כל-הימים.

7 And they spoke unto him, saying: 'If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.'

ח ויעזב את-עצת הזקנים, אשר יעצהו ;
וינעץ, את-הילדים אשר גדלו אתו, אשר
העמדים, לפניו.

8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men that were grown up with him, that stood before him.

ט ויאמר אליהם, מה אתם נועצים, ונשיב
דבר, את-העם הזה--אשר דברו אלי,
לאמר, הקל מן-העל, אשר-נתן אביך עלינו.

9 And he said unto them: 'What counsel give ye, that we may return answer to this people, who have spoken to me, saying: Make the yoke that thy father did put upon us lighter?'

י וידברו אליו, הילדים אשר גדלו אתו
לאמר, כה-תאמר לעם הזה אשר דברו
אליך לאמר אביך הכביד את-עלנו, ואתה
הקל מעלינו : כה תדבר אליהם, קטני עבה
ממתני אבי.

10 And the young men that were grown up with him spoke unto him, saying: 'Thus shalt thou say unto this people that spoke unto thee, saying: Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou speak unto them: My little finger is thicker than my father's loins.

יא ועתה, אבי העמים עליכם על כבד,
ואני, אוסיף על-עלכם ; אבי, יסר אתכם
בשוטים, ואני, איסר אתכם בעקרבים.

11 And now whereas my father did burden you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.'

יב ויבו ירבעם וכל-העם אל-רחבעם, ביום
השלישי, כאשר דבר המלך לאמר, שובו
אלי ביום השלישי.

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king bade, saying: 'Come to me again the third day.'

יג ויען המלך את-העם, קשה ; ויעזב את-
עצת הזקנים, אשר יעצהו.

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the counsel of the old men which they had given him;

יד וידבר אליהם, בעצת הילדים לאמר,
אבי הכביד את-עלכם, ואני אוסיף על-
עלכם ; אבי, יסר אתכם בשוטים, ואני,
אוסף עליכם.

14 and spoke to them after the counsel of the young men, saying: 'My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.'

אִיסַר אֶתְכֶם בְּעִקְרֵיבִים.

טו וְלֹא-שָׁמַע הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-הָעָם: כִּי-הִיְתָה סִבָּה, מֵעַם יְהוָה, לְמַעַן הַקִּים אֶת-דְּבָרוֹ אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה בְּיַד אַחִיָּה הַשִּׁילֹנִי, אֶל-יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן-נֶבֶט.

15 So the king hearkened not unto the people; for it was a thing brought about of the LORD, that He might establish His word, which the LORD spoke by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

טז וַיֵּרָא כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי לֹא-שָׁמַע הַמֶּלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ הָעָם אֶת-הַמֶּלֶךְ דָּבָר לֵאמֹר: מִה-לָּנוּ חֵלֶק בְּדָוִד וְלֹא-נַחֲלָה בְּבֶן-יִשָּׁי לְאַהֲלֵיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, עַתָּה רְאֵה בֵיתְךָ דָּוִד; וַיֵּלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְאַהֲלָיו.

16 And when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying: 'What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse; to your tents, O Israel; now see to thine own house, David.' So Israel departed unto their tents.

יז וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַיֹּשְׁבִים בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה-- וַיִּמְלֹךְ עֲלֵיהֶם, רְחַבְעָם. {פ}

17 But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. {P}

יח וַיִּשְׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ רְחַבְעָם, אֶת-אֲדָרָם אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַמָּס, וַיִּרְגְּמוּ כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל בּוֹ אֲבָן, וַיָּמָת; וְהַמֶּלֶךְ רְחַבְעָם, הִתְאַמֵּץ לָעֲלוֹת בַּמָּרְכָבָה, לָנוֹס, יְרוּשָׁלַם.

18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the levy; and all Israel stoned him with stones, so that he died. And king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

יט וַיִּפְּשְׁעוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּבֵית דָּוִד, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה. {ס}

19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David, unto this day. {S}

כ וַיְהִי כַשְׁמַע כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי-שָׁב יִרְבְּעָם, וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל-הָעֵדָה, וַיִּמְלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ עַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל: לֹא הָיָה אַחֲרֵי בֵית-דָּוִד, זֹלָתִי שֶׁבֶט-יְהוּדָה לְבַדּוֹ.

20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was returned, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel; there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

כא (וַיָּבֹא) רְחַבְעָם, יְרוּשָׁלַם, וַיִּקְהַל אֶת-כָּל-בֵּית יְהוּדָה וְאֶת-שֶׁבֶט בְּנֵימִן מֵאָה וּשְׁמֹנִים אַלְפֵי בָּחֹר, עֹשֶׂה מִלְחָמָה-- לְהִלָּחֵם, עִם-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְהָשִׁיב אֶת-הַמְּלוּכָה, לְרְחַבְעָם בֶּן-שְׁלֹמֹה. {פ}

21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, and the tribe of Benjamin, a hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men that were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom back to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. {P}

כב וַיְהִי דְבַר הָאֱלֹהִים, אֶל-שְׁמַעְיָה אִישׁ-הָאֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר.

22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying:

כג אָמַר, אֶל-רְחַבְעָם בֶּן-שְׁלֹמֹה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה, וְאֶל-כָּל-בֵּית יְהוּדָה, וּבְנֵימִן; וְיִתֵּר הָעָם, לֵאמֹר.

23 'Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying:

כד כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה לֹא-תֵעָלוּ וְלֹא-תִלָּחֲמוּן
עִם-אֶחְיִכֶם בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, שׁוּבוּ אִישׁ
לְבֵיתוֹ--כִּי מֵאֵתִי נְהִיָה, הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה;
וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת-דְּבַר יְהוָה, וַיָּשׁוּבוּ לָלֶכֶת כַּדְּבַר
יְהוָה. {ס}

24 Thus saith the LORD: Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel; return every man to his house; for this thing is of Me.' So they hearkened unto the word of the LORD, and returned and went their way, according to the word of the LORD. {S}

כה וַיִּבֶן יֶרֶבְעָם אֶת-שְׁכֶם בְּהַר אֶפְרַיִם,
וַיֵּשֶׁב בָּהּ; וַיֵּצֵא מִשָּׁם, וַיִּבֶן אֶת-פְּנוּאֵל.

25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill-country of Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and he went out from thence, and built Penuel.

כו וַיֹּאמֶר יֶרֶבְעָם, בְּלִבּוֹ: עֵתָה תָשׁוּב
הַמַּמְלָכָה, לְבֵית דָּוִד.

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart: 'Now will the kingdom return to the house of David.

כז אִם-יַעֲלֶה הָעָם הַזֶּה, לַעֲשׂוֹת זִבְחִים
בְּבַיִת-יְהוָה בִּירוּשָׁלַם, וְשָׁב לֵב הָעָם הַזֶּה
אֶל-אֲדֹנָיָהם, אֶל-רְחֻבְעָם מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה;
וְהָרַגְנִי, וְשָׁבוּ אֶל-רְחֻבְעָם מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה.

27 If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then will the heart of this people turn back unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me, and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.'

כח וַיֹּעֵץ הַמֶּלֶךְ--וַיַּעַשׂ, שְׁנֵי עֲגָלֵי זָהָב;
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם, רַב-לָכֶם מַעֲלוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם--
הִנֵּה אֲלֵהֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלוּךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold; and he said unto them: 'Ye have gone up long enough to Jerusalem; behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of Egypt.'

כט וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת-הָאֶחָד, בְּבַיִת-אֵל;
וְאֶת-הָאֶחָד, נָתַן בְּדָן.

29 And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan.

ל וַיְהִי הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה, לְחַטָּאת;
וַיֵּלְכוּ הָעָם לִפְנֵי הָאֶחָד, עַד-דָּן.

30 And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

לא וַיַּעַשׂ, אֶת-בָּיִת בְּמוֹת; וַיַּעַשׂ כַּהֲנָיִם
מִקְצוֹת הָעָם, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-הָיוּ מִבְּנֵי לֵוִי.

31 And he made houses of high places, and made priests from among all the people, that were not of the sons of Levi.

לב וַיַּעַשׂ יֶרֶבְעָם חֹג בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁמִינִי בַחֲמִשָּׁה-
עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ כַּחֹג אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה, וַיַּעַל עַל-
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ--כִּן עָשָׂה בְּבַיִת-אֵל, לְזַבַּח לַעֲגָלִים אֲשֶׁר-
עָשָׂה; וַהֲעֵמִיד בְּבַיִת אֵל, אֶת-כַּהֲנָיִם הַבְּמוֹת אֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה.

32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he went up unto the altar; so did he in Beth-el, to sacrifice unto the calves that he had made; and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places that he had made.

לג וַיַּעַל עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה בְּבַיִת-אֵל,
בַּחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁמִינִי--בַּחֹדֶשׁ,
אֲשֶׁר-בָּדָא מַלְבַּד (מַלְבּוֹ); וַיַּעַשׂ חֹג לְבָנָי
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיַּעַל עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לְהַקְטִיר. {פ}

33 And he went up unto the altar which he had made in Beth-el on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and went up unto the altar, to offer. {P}

VI. The logic of “chet ha'Egel”

A symbol of our connection to God

A. What were the people expecting? / What were they promised?

Shmot 3:16-17

טז לך ואספת את-זקני ישראל, ואמרת אליהם...
יז ואמר, אעלה אתכם מעני מצרים, אל-ארץ הפנימי והחתי,
והאמרי והפריזי והחוי והיבויסי--אל-ארץ זבת חלב, ודבש

Shmot 23:20-28

כ הנה אנכי שלח מלאך, לפניך, לשמרך, בדרך; ולהביאך, אל-המקום אשר הכנתי. 20 Behold, I send an angel before thee, to keep thee by the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

כא השמר מפניו ושמע בקלו, אל-תמר בו; כי לא ישא לפשעכם, כי שמי בקרבו. 21 Take heed of him, and hearken unto his voice; be not rebellious against him; for he will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in him.

כב כי אם-שמוע תשמע, בקלו, ועשית, כל אשר אדבר-- ואיבתי, את-איבתי, וצרתי, את-צוריך. 22 But if thou shalt indeed hearken unto his voice, and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

כג פי-ילך מלאכי, לפניך, והביאך אל-האמרי והחתי, והפריזי והפנימי החוי והיבויסי; והכחדתיו. 23 For Mine angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Canaanite, the Hivite, and Jebusite, & will cut them off.

B. Compare with their request from Aharon 32:1 -

א וירא העם, כי-בשש משה לרדת מן-ההר; ויקהל העם על-אהרן, ויאמרו אליו קום עשה-לנו אלהים אשר ילכו לפנינו-כי-זה משה האיש אשר העלנו מארץ מצרים, לא ידענו מה-היה לו. 1 when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him: 'Up, make us a god who shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out the land of Egypt, we know not what became of him.

Re: "Elokim"- see Breishit 1:2 - the spirit of God or a 'powerful wind' -see Shadal!

רוח אלוקים" ואפשר שסמך אותו לאלהים לפי שהייתה חזקה -כי כן מנהג הלשון, כשירצה להגדיל הדבר Radak

C. Where was Moshe- see Shmot chapter 24

יד ואל-הזקנים אמר שבו-לנו בזה, עד אשר-נשוב אליכם; והנה אהרן וחור עמכם, מי-בעל דברים יגש אליהם. 14 And unto the elders he said: 'Tarry ye here for us, until we come back unto you; and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whosoever hath a cause, let him come near unto them.'

טו ויעל משה, אל-ההר; וירא משה את-אלהים. 15 And Moses went up into the mount, and the cloud covered the mount....
ההר, לעיני, בני ישראל.

יח ויבא משה בתוך הענן, ויעל אל-ההר; ויהי משה, בהר, ארבעים יום, וארבעים לילה. {פ} 18 And Moses entered into the midst of the cloud, and went up into the mount; and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

D. The Golden Calf - Did the people ask for a 'god', or a 'leader'?

Or possibly something else - to help conquer the Land

Discussion: what was the last war they fought / Topic of "shirat ha'Yam"!

How many other battles have they witnessed?

What was the key to all their miraculous victories?

See Shmot 17 - War with Amalek

ט וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּחַר-לָנוּ אַנְשִׁים, וְצֵא הִלָּחֵם בְּעַמְלֵק; מָחָר, אֲנֹכִי נֹצֵב עַל-רֹאשׁ הַגְּבִיעָה, וּמַטֵּה הָאֱלֹהִים, בְּיָדִי.

9 And Moses said unto Joshua: 'Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek; tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.'

יא וְהָיָה, כַּאֲשֶׁר יָרִים מֹשֶׁה יָדוֹ--וַיִּגְבֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל... 11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Review the previous mentions of the "mateh Elokim" & Moshe's hand

Shmot 4:1-4;17-20 7: 15-20 - then compare with 17:3-6

Note "mateh" & "yad" (the interchange) in first 3 plagues, and in plagues 7 thru 9

See chapter 7 again and then see Shmot 9:22-23; and 10:12-13 & 14:15-21 !

E. What was Aharon thinking? [Shmot chapter 32]

שְׁמוֹת ל"ב: ב וַיֹּאמֶר אֶלֶהֶם, אֶהְרֹן, פָּרְקוּ נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב, אֲשֶׁר בְּאָזְנֵי נְשֵׁיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם וּבְנֹתֵיכֶם; וְהָבִיאוּ, אֵלַי.

Shmot 32: 2 And Aaron said unto them: 'Break off the golden rings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.'

ד וַיִּקַּח מִיָּדָם, וַיַּצֵּר אֹתוֹ בַּחֲרֹט, וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ, עֵגֶל מִסַּכָּה; וַיֹּאמְרוּ--אֵלֶּה אֱלֹהֵיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.

4 And he received it at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it a molten calf; and they said: 'This is thy god, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.'

ה וַיֵּרָא אֶהְרֹן, וַיְבֹן מִזְבֵּחַ לְפָנָיו; וַיִּקְרָא אֶהְרֹן וַיֹּאמֶר, חַג לַיהוָה מָחָר.

5 And when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said: 'To-morrow shall be a feast to the LORD.'

ו וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ, מִמָּחָרֶת, וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלֹת, וַיִּגָּשׁוּ שְׁלָמִים; וַיֵּשֶׁב הָעָם לֶאֱכֹל וּשְׂתוֹ, וַיִּקְמוּ לְצַחֵק. {פ}

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt-offerings, and brought peace-offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to make merry. {P}

- A symbol of God's power leading the battle?

- See Bamidbar 10:31-36

Note how a 'golden image' leads the nation in battle

Why was Hashem so disappointed?

ז וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה: לָךְ-רָד-- כִּי שָׁחַת עַמְּךָ, אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלִיתָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.

7 And the LORD spoke unto Moses: 'Go, get thee down; for thy people, that thou broughtest up out of the land of Egypt, have dealt corruptly;

ח סָרוּ מִהֶרַח, מִן-הַדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִם--עָשׂוּ לָהֶם, עֵגֶל מִסַּכָּה; וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ-לוֹ, וַיִּזְבְּחוּ-לוֹ, וַיֹּאמְרוּ, אֵלֶּה אֱלֹהֵיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.

8 they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed unto it, and said: 'This is thy god, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.'

** See Breishit 6:11-13 re "hashchata" & Breishit 17-19 re: "derech Hasehm"