



## **Parashat Ki Tissa**

### **22 Adar I 5784 – March 2, 2024**

It is only appropriate that this Shabbat is Shabbat Across America for in this parashah we learn how important it is to observe Shabbat. It can often be said that it is not the Jewish people that keep Shabbat, it is Shabbat that keeps the Jewish people.

Why do we observe Shabbat? Because HaShem “keeps” Shabbat. There are 39 laws pertaining to Shabbat. That would mean that if we, as Jews, are mandated to observe 39 Shabbat laws, HaShem would also be. One of the 39 laws is not to carry in a public domain unless there is an Eruv (a wall of some sort). That law would apply to HaShem as well. It would seem then that HaShem could not have it rain on Shabbat. Rabbi Akiva answers by saying, “HaShem owns the whole world therefore HaShem can have it rain on Shabbat and not be considered as carrying the water for HaShem observes all Torah laws.”

By keeping Shabbat, it forces us to connect with HaShem as HaShem keeps Shabbat. As challenging as B’nei Yisrael has been throughout history, to HaShem, HaShem still keeps us close as in a marriage. The Hebrew for marriage is Kiddushin, similar to Kiddush for Shabbat, a true sanctification of HaShem, B’nei Yisrael, and Shabbat.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer