

## Ekev



### Part 1: Parsha Summary

In *Parshat Ekev*, Moshe continues his farewell speech to the Jewish people. He reviews the story of the golden calf as well as the receiving of the second *luchot* (tablets) with the commandments from Hashem. He also offers words of encouragement to the Jewish people concerning keeping the mitzvot, entering Eretz Yisrael, and remembering that Hashem is the source of all blessing in life. Towards the end of the *parsha*, we find the second of the three paragraphs of the *Shema*, known as "*V'haya im Shamo'a*," that we recite twice every day, in the morning and at night.



### Part 2: The Inside Scoop

Read the *pesukim* below, where Moshe retells how Hashem commanded him to make the second *luchot*.



Devarim 10:1-2, 5, 10	דברים פרק י פסוקים א-ב, ה, י
At that time, the Lord said to me, "Carve for yourself two stone tablets like the first ones and come up to Me onto the mountain, and make for yourself a wooden ark, And I shall inscribe on the tablets the words that were upon the first tablets which you broke and you shall place them into the ark..."	בַּעַת הַהוּא אָמַר ה' אֵלַי, פֶּסֶל-לְךָ שְׁנֵי-לוּחֹת אֲבָנִים כְּרֵאשֵׁינִים וְעֹלָה אֵלַי הִהְרָה; וַעֲשִׂיתָ לְךָ אֲרוֹן עֹץ. וְאָכַתְבָּ עַל-הַלּוּחַת אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ עַל-הַלּוּחַת הַרְאשֵׁינִים אֲשֶׁר שִׁבַּרְתָּ וְשָׂמְתָם בְּאֲרוֹן...
And I turned and came down from the mountain, and placed the tablets in the ark which I had made, and there they were, as the Lord had commanded me... And I remained on the	וָאֵפֵן וָאֵרַד מִן-הַהָר וְאָשַׁם אֶת-הַלּוּחַת בְּאֲרוֹן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי; וַיְהִיו שָׁם כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי ה'... וְאֲנֹכִי עֹמְדִתִּי בְּהַר פְּנִימִים הַרְאשֵׁינִים אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים

mountain like the first days forty days and forty nights, and the Lord hearkened to me also at that time; the Lord did not wish to destroy you.

לילה; וישמע ה' אלי גם בפעם ההוא  
לא-אבה ה' השחיתך.



### Part 3: Let's Discuss

#### Kids:

- Why do you think Hashem instructed Moshe to write a second set of *Luchot* despite the people having worshiped the golden calf?
- What can we learn from here about giving other people a second chance when they do something wrong or do not succeed at something the first time?
- Is it hard to give someone a second chance if they make a mistake?
- Why is it important to give others a second chance?
- Can you think of a time that someone else asked you for a second chance? What was it for?



#### Grownups:

- Give two examples of cases when you think it is important to give someone who does not succeed or makes a mistake a second chance. Why?
- Can you think of a time where you gave someone else (a child, employee, etc.) a second chance? Why did you give it, and what was the result?



### Part 4: Story

Read [this](#) inspiring story about asking for forgiveness and being given a second chance.

- Answer the questions on the website following the story that are appropriate for your age.
- Based on this story, what should someone who did something wrong do to receive a second chance?

- Can you think of a similar time you felt you deserved a second chance for something that you did wrong? Did you get it?



## Part 5: Bonus

How has Hashem giving the Jewish people a second chance in *Parshat Ekev* impacted on the yearly Jewish calendar? Read the following statement of Rabbi Yaakov bar Asher in his halachic work known as the Tur to find out.

Tur, Orach Chaim, Siman 481	טור, אורח חיים סימן תפא
<p>It was taught in Pirkei D'Rabbi Eliezer: On Rosh Chodesh Elul, Hashem said to Moshe: "Come up to me on the mountain." At that point, he ascended to receive the second tablets, and they blew a shofar in the camp. Moshe ascended the mountain so that they should not stray after idol worship any more, and Hashem was sanctified with that shofar, as it says (Tehillim 47:6), "God went up in <i>terua</i>." <b>Therefore, Chazal instituted that they should blow the shofar on Rosh Chodesh Elul every year, as well as the entire month in order to urge Israel to do teshuva (repent).</b></p>	<p>תניא בפרקי דרבי אליעזר: בראש חדש אלול אמר הקב"ה למשה "עלה אלי ההרה" שאז עלה לקבל לוחות אחרונות והעבירו שופר במחנה. משה עלה להר שלא יטעו עוד אחר ע"ג והקב"ה נתעלה באותו שופר שנאמר (תהילים מ"ז:ו') עלה אלהים בתרועה וגו'. לכן התקינו חז"ל שיהו תוקעין בר"ח אלול בכל שנה ושנה וכל החדש כדי להזהיר ישראל שיעשו תשובה.</p>

- According to the Tur, what was the date on which Hashem told Moshe to go up to Har Sinai again to receive the second *luchot*? What do we do nowadays because of what happened at that time?
- Why do you think the idea of doing *teshuvah* fits well with the idea of being given a second chance and Moshe receiving the second *luchot*?
- Suggest one area or mitzvah that you can improve on this Elul.



## Part 6: More on the Parsha – For Grownups

Throughout Sefer Devarim, and particularly in Parshat Ekev, an emphasis on what the "eyes" of the people of Israel had seen in Egypt and in the wilderness appears numerous times. In a shiur available [here](#), Rabbi Yair Kahn discusses the meaning of this phrase and how its message can be applied to future generations.