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Rabbi Bob Benbow

For those who do not know, the Portion name comes from the first word or words of the portion in Torah. This week Ki Tisa is translated as "When You Lift Up."

#### **The Torah Commentary:**

*And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, You shall also make a laver brass, and his foot brass, to wash: and you shall put it between the Tabernacle of the Congregation and the altar, and you shall put water therein. For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet there at: When they go into the Tabernacle of the Congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire to YHVH: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute forever to them, to him and to his seed throughout their generations. (Ex. 30:17-21) And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to Aaron and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the Children of Israel, and that they profane not My Holy Name which they hallow to Me: I YHVH. Say to them, Whosoever of all your seed among your generations, that goes unto the holy things, which the Children of Israel hallow to YHVH, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from My presence: I YHVH. (Lev. 22:1-3) Judge me, O YHVH; for I have walked in my integrity: I have trusted also in YHVH; I shall not slide. Examine me, O YHVH, and prove me; try my reins and my heart, for Your lovingkindness before my eyes: and I have walked in Your truth. I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemlers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash my hands in innocency: so will I compass Your altar, O YHVH: that I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works. YHVH, I have loved the habitation of Your House, and the place where Your honor dwells. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands mischief, and their right hand full of bribes. But as*

*for me, I will walk in my integrity: redeem me, and be merciful to me. My foot stands in an even place: in the congregations will I bless YHVH. (Ps. 26) YHVH shall judge the people; judge me, O YHVH, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity in me. (Ps. 7:8) YHVH rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands has He recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of YHVH, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgments before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me. I was also upright before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. Therefore has YHVH recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His eyesight. With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; with an upright man You will show Yourself upright; with the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the foward You will show Yourself foward. For You will save the afflicted people; but will bring down high looks. (Ps. 18:20-27) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness: according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight: that You might be justified when You speak, be clear when You judge. Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive/warm me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden You shall make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence; and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation; and uphold me (with Your) free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Your ways; and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, You God of my salvation: my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open You my lips: and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You desire not sacrifice; else would I give; You delight not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion: build You the walls of Jerusalem. Then shall You be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon Your altar. (Ps. 51) The transgression of the wicked said within my heart, there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. The words of his mouth iniquity and deceit: he has left off to be wise, to do good. He devises mischief upon his bed; he sets himself in a way not good; he abhors not evil. Your mercy, O YHVH, in the heavens; Your faithfulness unto the clouds. Your righteousness like the great mountains; Your judgments a great deep: O YHVH, You preserve man and*

*beast. How excellent Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Your house; and You shall make them drink of the river of Your pleasures. For with You the fountain of life: in Your light shall we see light. O continue Your lovingkindness to them that know You; and Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me. There are the workers of iniquity fallen; they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise. (Ps. 36) And you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant might be with Levi, said YHVH of Hosts. My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared Me, and was afraid before My Name. The Torah of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with Me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the Torah at his mouth: for he the messenger of YHVH of Hosts. (Ma. 2:4-7) If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15) Wash in the water of His Word and do as He commands. Selah.*