



**PhiloTorah D'var Torah**

## **PARA - D'ORAITA?**

Of the Four Parshiyot, the public reading of Parshat ZACHOR from a Sefer Torah is known to be a Torah obligation. This, in contrast to regular Torah reading, which is a Rabbinic command.

The readings of SH'KALIM and HACHODESH are Rabbinic requirements.

When it comes to Parshat Para, there are opposing opinions.

ZACHOR's d'Oraita status is based on the first of its three p'sukim - ZACHOR EIT ASHER ASA L'CHA... Our Sages define the proper fulfillment of the command as the public reading on the Shabbat before Purim. Clear enough.

But what's the Para situation? Where does it say in the Torah that we should read Parshat Para?

**SPOILER:** The opinion that Para is d'Oraita is based upon a Tosefot in Masechet Megila (17b). Important to note that later sources claim that the Tosefot stating that Para was of the same status as ZACHOR was a printer's error. In fact, some editions of the Talmud do not have that Tosefot. And this seems to be the main-

stream opinion. Para is d'Rabanan - not a Torah requirement.

However...

The minority opinion (let's call it that) still is that Para is a d'Oraita - so the question remains - where does the Torah require something that is fulfilled by the reading of Parshat Para?

And one suggested answer is very significant, because of what follows from it. And that significance is there regardless of whether Para is a Torah obligation or a Rabbinic one.

There is a widely-held notion that the Para Aduma is a KAPARA and a TIKUN for the sin of the golden calf.

It then follows that the reading of Parshat Para can be considered a fulfillment of a command from D'varim 9:7 - Z'CHOR AL TISHKACH... Remember do not forget, how you angered HaShem, your God, in the desert; from the day that you went out of the land of Egypt, until you came to this place, you have been rebelling against HaShem.

If the Torah requires us to remember all of those episodes, then it requires us to remember Cheit HaEigel, and reading Parshat Para is one way to fulfill that command...

If we have in mind that the Para Aduma is a KAPARA and TIKUN for Cheit HaEigel as we listen to the reading of Parshat Para. **PTDT**