



What Did the Tablets Look Like?

Question:

I read in the Torah that Moses came down from the mountain with two tablets of stone, but did not see anything about their size, shape, or what kind of stone they were made of. Can you shed some light?

Response:

The Dimensions:

Tradition tells us that they were thick square blocks of stone, six handbreadths tall, six hand breadths wide, and three handbreadths deep. In modern measurements, that is about 18" x 18" x 9". The sages of the Talmud demonstrate how tablets of this size — along with a few other relics — fit neatly into the Ark of the Covenant that Moses made as described in Exodus.

It is interesting to note that nowhere is there any mention of them having the rounded tops that are so common in the popular drawings of Moses and the tablets. This design appears to be the invention of non-Jewish artists.



The Material:

The tradition is that both sets of tablets were made of sapphire. After Moses broke the first set, G-d revealed a large deposit of sapphire under Moses' tent. Moses used some of the stone to carve the second tablets, and was permitted to keep the remainder.

The Writing:

The most common understanding is that the first five commandments were written on one tablet, and the other five commandments were on the second.

The Torah describes the writing as "inscribed from both their sides; on one side and on the other side they were inscribed."

This means that the inscription was engraved through and through. As such, the words were clearly legible on one side and written in mirror writing on the other. Now there are two Hebrew letters, the **ד** and the **ד**, that are closed from all sides. The centers of these letters, Rav Chisda concludes, must have been miraculously suspended in place.

Others teach that the writing was miraculously legible on each side — in other words, although the letters were engraved all the way through, they could nevertheless be read from right to left on both sides. Rabbeinu Bechayei explains that this is because the Torah can be understood on two levels, one revealed and one hidden.

(by Rabbi Menachem Posner from <http://www.chabad.org/>)

Lesson Learned

"Isn't he embarrassed?? He mentioned in his lecture, something he learned from a 10 year old!!"

"And G-d spoke to Moshe in the desert of Sinai." (Bamidbar 1:1) The Medrash Rabbah 1:7 says "whoever doesn't make himself open and free like a desert will not be able to acquire wisdom and Torah." According to the Matnas Kehuna, this refers to humility and the ability to learn from everyone!!

"Who is wise? One who learns from everyone." (Pirkei Avos 4:1)

(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)



All Children are invited to enjoy some Ice cream
after the reading of the Aseres Hadibros (10 Commandments)
on the 1st day of Shavuot.



Rabbi Kaplan will be giving a shiur in Shul
on the 1st night of Shavuot (Sunday night) from 12 to 4 a.m..
The first part of the shiur will be "**Torah from Sinai to Cyberspace.**"
The second part of the shiur will be "**Maamer on Shavuot.**"
Source sheets will be available.

This week's kiddush is sponsored by
Friends of Louis Leder, a"h,
Eliezer Yaakov ben Dovid Moshe,
commemorating **his first Yartzeit**
this past Wednesday, the 1st of Sivan.
We thank everyone who participated.



Yahrzeits This Week:

Joseph Zakar	4 Sivan - Friday night / Shabbat	for father	Emanuel ben Shabsi
Binyomin Gutman	7 Sivan - Monday night / Tuesday-Shavuot	for brother	Dovid ben Avraham
Marsha Blumberg	8 Sivan - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for father	Nathan Brenner

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 5/30 — 3 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 5/31 — 4 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:21 a.m.
Minchah — 7:50 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Shkiah — 8:27 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 9:15 p.m.

Sunday — Erev Shavuot, 6/1 — 5 Sivan

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Yom Tov Candles — 8:09 p.m.
Minchah — 8:15 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 9:16 p.m.
Tikun Layl Shavuot — 12:00 to 5:00 a.m.

Monday — Shavuot, 6/2 — 6 Sivan

Earliest Talis — 4:43 a.m. and Sunrise — 5:41 a.m.
Shacharit — 9:30 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
Minchah — 8:15 p.m.
Yom Tov Candles — after 9:17 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 9:17 p.m.

Tuesday — Shavuot, 6/3 — 7 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.
Yizkor — after 10:45 a.m.
Minchah — 8:15 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 9:17 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/4 — 8 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.
Tanya Shiur: 2nd part of Tanya Shaar HaYichud
V'Emunah which deals w/the nature of creation
and the unity of Hashem — 8:55 p.m.

Thursday, 6/5 — 9 Sivan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Friday, 6/6 — 10 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 8:12 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.