

## D'VEYKUS IN OUR TIMES

### Background

The Jewish nation is gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai. This is the moment that they have been preparing for since they left Mitzrayim. This is the most important moment in their lives, as well as the key moment in Creation — the giving of the Torah. HASHEM already told Moshe to tell the Jewish nation that there is a limit; no one is allowed to go up to the mountain itself. We are now standing three days later, right before the moment of climax, when HASHEM is going to reveal Himself to the Jewish nation. And now HASHEM tells Moshe a second time, “Go warn the people that they aren’t allowed up on the mountain.”

#### ספר שמות פרק יט

בְּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי לְצֵאת  
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם  
בְּיוֹם הַזֶּה בָּאוּ מִדְּבַר סִינַי  
(כא) וַיֹּאמֶר יְדֹד אֶל מֹשֶׁה  
רַד הָעֵד בְּעַם פֶּן יִהְרְסוּ  
אֶל יְדֹד לְרֹאוֹת וְנִפְּל  
מִמֵּנוּ רַב

#### רש"י על שמות פרק יט פסוק כא

(כא) העד בעם - התרה  
בהם שלא לעלות בהר  
פן יהרסו וגו' - שלא  
יהרסו את מצבם ע"י  
שתאותם אל ה' לראות  
ויקרבו לצד ההר

*It was in the third month from the time that the Jewish People left Egypt that they came to Mt. Sinai. HASHEM said to Moshe, “Go down and warn the people, lest they come up and a multitude from them will die.”*

**Rashi** – “Warn them not to come up,” lest because of their great desire for HASHEM, they will come closer to the side of the mountain.

### Questions

If this is the moment of the giving of the Torah, isn't it safe to assume that the Jewish nation will obey HASHEM's commands? Yet the *posuk* says that HASHEM told Moshe to warn the Jewish people again because “their great desire to see HASHEM” might cause them to break loose. First of all, what is this great desire to see HASHEM? There are many desires and cravings in the world, but seeing HASHEM isn't usually one of them. Secondly, even if they have such a craving, surely with all of the pageantry and display of HASHEM's might at the giving of the Torah, the average person would be too terrified to violate that which HASHEM already warned against. So why is there a need to repeat the warning?