

Parashat Vayakhel-Pekkudei

Exodus 35:1-40:38

March 20, 2020



SUMMARY

Although this week we are wrapping up the book of *Shemot* by reading the last two *parashiyot* together, our study will focus on the first of these. In *Vayakhel* we read about *Moshe* gathering together the Israelites to remind them about the importance of taking *shabbat* as a day of rest.

Moshe also reviews G'd's instructions to the Israelites for building the **מִשְׁכָּן** and sets the wise-hearted artists *Betzalel* and *Oholiav* as the people to lead the work.

When *Moshe* asks for the Israelites to donate the materials needed to build the **מִשְׁכָּן**, they give so much that the artists tell *Moshe* that the Israelites more than what they need to build the *mishkan*. *Moshe* then tells the Israelites to stop giving.

By the end of *Vayakhel* they have built the tent to go over the **מִשְׁכָּן** as well as the screen for the entrance to the **מִשְׁכָּן**, the ark, the *keruvim*--which some people translate it as angels--that sit on top of its cover, the bread table, the seven-branched *menorah* and the copper washbowl and stand.

From Our Commentators:

Mei HaShiloah Vol 1, Vayakhel 1

הענין הוא שנאמר שבת כאן קודם מלאכת המשכן, כי
בבנין המשכן נתחברו כל ישראל בלבם מבלי שום
התגאות אחד על חבירו

The key here is that “*shabbat*” is mentioned here before the work of building the *mishkan*, because in the act of building the *mishkan* the Israelites were united by their hearts without any pride of one over another.

FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Why do you think *Moshe* gathers all of the Israelites together to remind them of *shabbat* before they started collecting materials for and building the *mishkan*?
- 2) What is important to you this week about *shabbat* and about resting?
- 3) When the artists *Betzalel* and *Oholiav* notice that the Israelites are giving them too much stuff to build the *mishkan*, they tell *Moshe*. *Moshe* tells the Israelites to stop bringing them materials. Why do you think *Moshe* stops them?