

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Vayakhel/Pekudei - Parshas HaChodesh

For the week ending 25 Adar 5756
15 & 16 March 1996

This issue is dedicated in memory of R' Avraham Yitzchak ben Yaakov zt'l and Rachel bas Nassen Nota z'l by their family

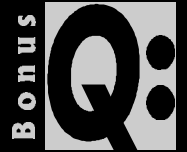
Parsha Questions

VAYAKHEL

1. Why is the prohibition against doing work on Shabbos written prior to the instruction for building the *Mishkan*?
2. In verse 35:11, what is the *Mishkan*, the tent of the *Mishkan* and the covering of the *Mishkan*?
3. What was unusual about the way the women spun the goat's hair?
4. Why were the *Nesi'im* (Princes) the last ones to contribute to the building of the *Mishkan*? How does the Torah show dissatisfaction with their actions?
5. Who does the Torah identify as the primary builders of the *Mishkan*? From which tribes were they?
6. What image was woven into the *Paroches*?
7. Why does the Torah attribute the building of the *Aron* to Betzalel?
8. Of what materials was the *Mizbe'ach haKetores* (Incense Altar) composed?
9. Of what materials was the *Mizbe'ach haOlah* (Burnt-Offering Altar) composed?
10. The *Kiyor* was made from the mirrors of the women who were crowding at the entrance to the *Ohel Mo'ed* (tent of meeting). Why were the women crowding there?

PEKUDEI

1. Why is the word *Mishkan* stated twice in verse 38:21?
2. Who was appointed to carry the vessels of the *Mishkan* in the *Midbar*?
3. What is the meaning of the name Betzalel?
4. How many people contributed a half-shekel to the *Mishkan*? Who contributed?
5. Which material used in the *bigdei Kehuna* was not used in the coverings of the sacred vessels?
6. What was on the hem of the *Me'il*?
7. Which date was the first time that the *Mishkan* was erected and not dismantled?
8. Where was the *Shulchan* placed in the *Mishkan*?
9. Where was the *Menorah* placed in the *Mishkan*?
10. On which day did both Moshe and Aaron serve as *Kohanim*?



Why are the details of the building of the *Mishkan* repeated so many times in the Torah?

I Did Not Know That!

Giving jewelry for building the *Mishkan* and its vessels acted as an atonement for the person who gave his jewelry for construction of the golden calf. The women **did not** give their jewelry for the golden calf, and did not require atonement. Nevertheless, they also gave jewelry for the *Mishkan* and the Torah stresses this fact (35:22) in order to praise them for their pure intentions.

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Production Design: Lev Seltzer

Recommended Reading List

VAYAKHEL

Ramban

- 35:1 Date of the Assembly
 35:21 Generosity and Inspiration
 35:22 Female Leadership
 38:8 Mirrors of Virtue

Ibn Ezra

- 35:27 Gifts of the Princes
 35:34 Learning and Teaching
 38:8 Mirrors of Devotion

Sefer Hachinuch

- 114 Recess from Judgment

PEKUDEI

Ramban

- 38:22 Betzalel's Genius
 40:2 Timetable of the *Yemei Miluim*

Ibn Ezra

- 38:11 Sunshine and Rain
 40:35 Covering the Aron

Sforno

- 40:18 Essence of the *Mishkan*

Ba'al HaTurim

- 39:27 Storage of the Garments

Aderes Eliyahu

- 39:33 The World of the *Mishkan*

Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

VAYAKHEL

1. 35:2 - To emphasize that the building of the *Mishkan* doesn't supersede the laws of Shabbos.
2. 35:11 - The lower curtains that were visible in the structure, the covering of goats' skins, the coverings of rams' and *tachash* skins, respectively.
3. 35:26 - It was spun directly from off of the backs of the goats.
4. 35:27 - The *Nesi'im* reasoned that they would first let the people contribute materials needed for the *Mishkan* and then they would contribute what was lacking. The Torah shows its dissatisfaction by deleting a letter from their title.
5. 35:30, 35:34 - Betzalel ben Uri from the tribe of Yehuda; Oholiav ben Achisamach from the tribe of Dan.
6. 36:35 - *Cherubim*. (See Rashi 26:31).
7. 37:1 - Because he dedicated himself to its building more than anyone else.
8. 37:25,26 - Wood overlaid with gold.
9. 38:1-2 - Wood overlaid with copper.
10. 38:8 - To donate to the *Mishkan*.

PEKUDEI

1. 38:21 - To allude to the *Beis Hamikdash* that would twice be taken as a "*mashkon*" (pledge) for the sins of the Jewish People until the nation repents.
2. 38:21 - The *Levi'im*.
3. 38:22 - The name means "in the shadow of G-d."
4. 38:26 - 603,550. Every man that was counted from twenty years of age and up (excluding the *Levi'im*).
5. 39:1 - Linen. (See Rashi 31:10).
6. 39:24,25 - Woven pomegranates and golden bells.
7. 40:17 - *Rosh Chodesh Nissan* of the second year in the *Midbar*. For seven days before this, during the consecration of Aaron and his sons, Moshe erected and dismantled the *Mishkan*. (Rashi 39:29)
8. 40:22 - On the northern side of the *Ohel Mo'ed*, outside the *Paroches*.
9. 40:24 - On the southern side of the *Ohel Mo'ed* opposite the *Shulchan*.
10. 40:31 - On the eighth day of the consecration of the *Mishkan*.

BONUS

A:

The *Mishkan* is the vehicle through which the *Shechina* rests in the midst of the Jewish People. The Torah *repeats* the details of the building of the *Mishkan* to stress how important the *Mishkan* is to Hashem and the Jewish People.

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