



Carnegie Shul Chatter

March 16, 2023



Light candles 7:10 pm

Shabbat Services 9:30am

Shabbat Services

Join us in the sanctuary, providing you have been vaccinated for Covid 19, or attend virtually. Watch your email for a Zoom link or contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2495848/jewish/Vayakhel-Pekudei-Torah-Reading.htm

Maybe Not So Smart?

According to Rabbi Imrahoff's commentary on this week's haftorah, King Shlomo (Solomon) is quoted as being the smartest man to ever live. He is also said to have had 700 wives and 300 concubines. He was a king at age 12. His wealth increased by \$250 million a year. He owned 40,000 horses. He knew all 70 languages spoken in the world at the time he lived. What a guy!

And yet it is written in the Book of Kings, "And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the Lord commanded. Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out

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of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.

So how wise was the wisest man ever if his heart turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel? Doesn't the Shema say that you should, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might?"

How could a wise man not heed these words? All of the money, horses and women in the world are of no value if you have lost your faith in God and He has become angry with you.

So how smart was Solomon really?



Vayakhel-Pekudei in a Nutshell

Exodus 35:1–40:38

From Chabad.org

The name of the first Parshah, "Vayakhel," means "And he gathered" and it is found in Exodus 35:1. The name of the Parshah, "Pekudei," means "Amounts of" and is found in Exodus 38:21.

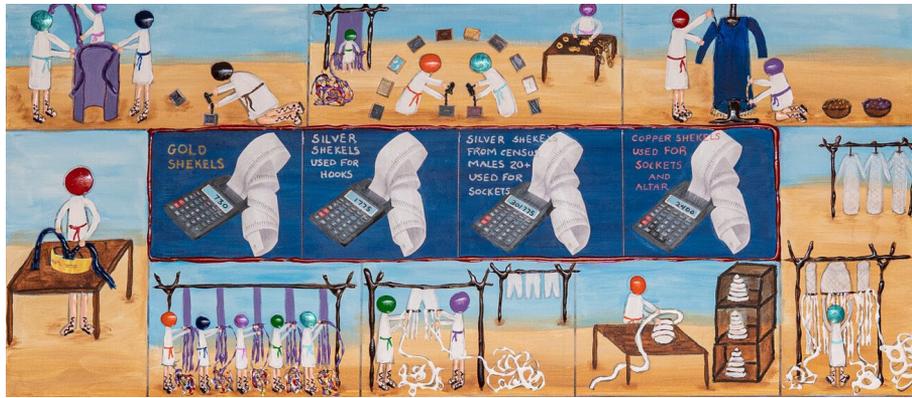
Moses assembles the people of Israel and reiterates to them the commandment to observe the Shabbat. He then conveys G-d's instructions regarding the making of the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The people donate the required materials in abundance, bringing gold, silver and copper; blue-, purple- and red-dyed wool; goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs and precious stones. Moses has to tell them to stop giving.

A team of wise-hearted artisans make the Mishkan and its furnishings (as detailed in the previous Torah readings of Terumah, Tetzaveh and Ki Tisa): three layers of roof coverings; 48 gold-plated wall panels, and 100 silver foundation sockets; the parochet (veil) that separates



between the Sanctuary's two chambers, and the masach (screen) that fronts it; the ark, and its cover with the cherubim; the table and its showbread; the seven-branched menorah with its specially prepared oil; the golden altar and the incense burned on it; the anointing oil; the outdoor altar for burnt offerings and all its implements; the hangings, posts and foundation sockets for the courtyard; and the basin and its pedestal, made out of copper mirrors.

An accounting is made of the gold, silver and copper donated by the people for the making of the Mishkan. Betzalel, Aholiav and their assistants make the eight priestly garments—the apron, breastplate, cloak, crown, hat, tunic, sash and breeches—according to the specifications communicated to Moses in the Parshah of Tetzaveh.



The Mishkan is completed and all its components are brought to Moses, who erects it and anoints it with the holy anointing oil, and initiates Aaron and his four sons into the priesthood. A cloud appears over the Mishkan, signifying the Divine Presence that has come to dwell within it.

Haftorah in a Nutshell

I Kings 7:51-8:21.

This week's haftorah describes the dedication of Solomon's Temple, following the theme of this week's Torah reading: the dedication of the desert Tabernacle.

The construction of the Holy Temple was completed. King Solomon assembled the leaders and elders of the tribes to Jerusalem, and amidst great fanfare the Levites transported the Ark from its temporary location in the City of David and installed it in the Holy of Holies chamber in the Holy Temple. Immediately, G-d's presence appeared in the Temple, in the form of a smoky cloud.

King Solomon then blessed G-d. He recalled the history of the sanctuary, how his father, King David, had wanted to build it—but was told by G-d that it would be his son who would accomplish this feat. "And the L-rd has established His word that He spoke, and I have risen up in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the L-rd spoke, and have built a house for the name of the L-rd, the G-d of Israel. And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein (is) the covenant of the Lord, which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

Haftorah Commentary

By Rabbi Reuben Ebrahimoff

The Connection of the Haftorah to the Parsha: Parshat Vayakhel deals with the construction of the Mishkan and the Haftorah, with the construction of the Beit HaMikdash.

The storyline of this week's Haftorah according to the Sephardim: King Solomon spent 7

years building the Beit HaMikdash. Now King Solomon is ready to furnish the temple with its utensils. Shlomo engages Chiram from Tyre whose mother was a widow and his father a master coppersmith from the tribe of Naftali, to produce all the copper articles that were required in the Beit HaMikdash. Chiram's father had established continuity by transferring his wisdom over to his son. Both the Mishkan and the Beit HaMikdash, were constructed by the two tribes of Yehudah and Dan: the spiritually strongest and weakest tribes, respectively. This was done deliberately to show ACHDUT, unity,



within the Jewish nation. The Haftorah narrates the description of the two pillars in the hall. Chiram casted the two pillars from copper, named Yachin and Boaz. Yachin was on the right and Boaz on the left. They were 18 cubits (18"-24") high and 12 cubits in circumference. Atop the Pillars were decorations. The "Crowns" were 5 cubits high and had Lulavim, Rimonim and Shoshanim. Shlomo placed the pillars by the entrance to the Kodesh area. The Sea-Mikveh or water basin was 10 Cubits across with a round top and square bottom. Holding up the basin on each of the 4 sides, were 3 bulls facing outwards. Some say they represented the 12 Mazalot, astrological signs, of the zodiac. It took 16,500 gallons to fill up the Mikveh.

The storyline of this week's Haftorah for the Ashkenazim: Chiram, hired by King Solomon

as an artist, formed the Temple treasures from brass and copper. Chiram made small basins for removing the ashes from the altar, the rakes for raking the ashes, and the bowls to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifices on the side of the altar. Chiram completed every task that King Solomon asked him to do in the House of Hashem. Yachin and Boaz, the two giant columns, were at the entranceway of the Temple. There were two columns with two crowns at the top of the columns. As a part of the crown of the columns, two rows



of pomegranate designs were placed: 400 in all. The Mikveh was a very large basin with 12 cattle arranged in four rows of three at the base. It was used for the Kohen to immerse himself in before performing the priestly work in the Temple. The utensils were made in the plains

of the Jordan, actually to the east of the Jordan in the tribe of Gad's territory. Chiram had a factory there, casting them in dense clay molds. The location of this factory was between the city of Sukkoth and Zarothan. So many utensils were manufactured, that King Solomon stopped counting them. The weight of the copper was never determined. Solomon made all the utensils that were for the House of Hashem- the Golden Altar and the Shulchan, the Table (that supported the Lechem Hapanim, 12 loaves of Show Bread) were fashioned of gold. The Menorah: There were 5 menorahs on the right side of the temple and 5 on the left side. A total of ten menorahs were in front of the dividing wall of the inner Sanctuary of the Temple. Each of the seven lamps on the menorah was decorated with a flower pattern on it. All the work of King Solomon Temple was now completed. Then King Solomon brought the Holy things of his father King David. There were silver and gold. He put them in the treasury of the Temple.

King Shlomo's Biography:

- ◆ The meaning of his name is "peace" or "prosperity."
- ◆ Had seven names, Shlomo, Yediyah, Kohelet, Agur, Yakeh, Lemuel, and Ithiel. His father was King David.
- ◆ Was crowned as king at the age of 12! Shlomo ruled for 40 years and passed away at the age of 52. As King, he led the building of the Beit HaMikdash, starting at 16 years of age, which lasted for 7 years.
- ◆ He was extremely wealthy; By some estimations his wealth increased by \$250 million dollars a year. Shlomo was famous for his stables that housed 40,000 horses and 12,000 horsemen. King Shlomo had 700 wives and 300 concubines.
- ◆ Is quoted as the smartest man to ever live. Shlomo was able to give 3,000 explanations to every Pasuk in the Torah. He knew all 70 languages spoken in the world at that time as well as possessing the ability to communicate with all the living creatures in the animal kingdom. Once the Queen of Sheba traveled 7 years by caravan just to meet him and quiz him with regards to his wisdom. After their first meeting, the Queen of Sheba remarked that the King was much wiser than his reputation had suggested.
- ◆ Founded 3 cities: Megiddo, Hazor and Gezer in the north of Israel.
- ◆ Instituted, among others, the two mitzvot of Eiruv and Nitelat Yadayim (the ritual washing of hands) and the third blessing in Birkat Hamazon, Bonei Yerushalayim. The Eiruv is a string surrounding an outer perimeter of an area thus designating it as a permissible place to carry things on Shabbat.
- ◆ Authored 3 books: 1) Kohelet, Ecclesiastes 2) Mishlay, Proverbs, which concludes with the song Aishet Chayil sung on Erev Shabbat. 3) Shir Hashirim, Song of Songs.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Albert Mallinger

Leonard Roth

G. Bernard Roth

Anna M. Levine

Joseph Harris

Sara Lederstein

Jean H. Leptzig

Jacob B. Klee

May their memories be for a blessing.

B'NAI B'RITH IN WESTERN PA

Presented by: Eric Lidji, Director

Rauh Jewish History Programs & Archives

Thursday, March 16, 2023

at 7:00 pm

The International Order of B'nai B'rith was one of the most important Jewish organizations in the world for much of the 19th and 20th centuries, but it was especially important for small towns in Western Pennsylvania. B'nai B'rith promoted unity within small towns Jewish communities. It also helped these isolated Jewish communities connect to the larger Jewish world. B'nai B'rith started at least 92 lodges throughout Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, plus dozens of B'nai B'rith Women chapters and BBYO chapters. We'll look at the history of B'nai B'rith in Western Pennsylvania using photographs and documents from numerous small towns throughout the region.



Eric Lidji is the director of the Rauh Jewish Archives at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. He curates its website "The Jewish Encyclopedia of Western Pennsylvania" and hosts its local history podcast "The Cornerstone." He is the author of many books and articles on the Jewish history of Western Pennsylvania.

To Attend:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdu6vrjgvEtertWXb2tlqw-JK-pJbdylyX>