



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Recharging Our Spiritual Battery

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Scholar

Parshas Vayakhel is quite unique in that it seems to provide absolutely no new information. It is essentially a review of the laws governing assembly of the Mishkan and the specifics of the clothing of the Kohanim. This is curious because we learned all these details already in the previous Parshas. Why then does the Torah see fit to repeat them now?

In fact, the two sets of instructions do differ. Previously, Moshe was commanded in the intricacies of these laws. In our Torah reading, Moshe transmits that instruction to the Jewish people. Why would that be sufficient basis for the Torah to repeat the commands in all their minutiae? Why not merely record that Moshe repeated the directives to the Jewish nation?

Rav Shamshon Raphael Hirsch explains that the mandate to Moshe had occurred prior to the sin of the Golden Calf while the instruction to the Jewish people took place afterwards. While Hashem had promised to grace the Jewish people with His presence, dwelling amongst them in the Mishkan, one might assume that — now that they had sinned so egregiously — they no longer deserved the Mishkan and the opportunity to be blessed with His presence. To refute this notion, the Torah repeats the exact details to be conveyed to the Jewish people, indicating that they were still worthy of a Mishkan in their midst. Despite their grievous sin, Hashem still enriched them with His presence because they had repented.

The Torah is imparting a profound lesson to us: We should not think that because we have sinned it is impossible to achieve G-d's grace. Our Parsha teaches us that, no matter how far we have fallen, we can always return to Hashem and revive our lost connection with Him.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

Everyone whose heart motivated him brought bracelets... every wise hearted woman spun with her hands... the leaders brought the Shoham stones... (35: 22 - 27)

The most valuable donations were these expensive Shoham stones. Why are they listed at the end of the list of donations?

Parsha Riddle

What is the connection between cholent and our Parsha?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

How does this week's Parsha impact the way the Kohen Gadol dressed on Yom Kippur?

Answer: Since the Jewish people sinned with gold, the Kohen Gadol was not allowed to wear gold into the Kodesh Hakadoshim. Therefore, he needed to change every time he went in and came out of the Kodesh Hakadoshim.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Vayakhel, the Torah relates (35:22): "The men came with the women; everyone whose heart motivated him brought bracelets, nose-rings, rings, body ornaments – all sorts of gold ornaments – every man who raised up an offering of gold to HaShem." We have previously noted Sforno's explanation that the men needed to accompany the women in order for the officers to accept the latter's donations, since the halachah prohibits accepting donations larger than a de minimis amount from married women (without verifying their husbands' consent – Bava Kama 119a). A similar approach is taken by the Panim Yafos: since the Torah mentions jewelry, it therefore records that the men came along with the women, since a wife cannot sell her jewelry without the permission of her husband, and neither can a husband (unilaterally) sell his wife's jewelry. He adds that the Torah subsequently reports that "Every wise-hearted woman spun with her hands" (35:25) - these contributions of service did not require spousal consent, since according to Biblical law, a wife retains the right to her labor, and the subsequent Rabbinic rule granting it to her husband had not yet been enacted.

Similarly, Meshech Chochmah comments on the original instruction in parashas Terumah (25:2) "Let them take for Me a portion, from every man" that contributions (of goods) would be accepted from all men, but not from all women, i.e., not from married women, due to the aforementioned halachah.

The Or Hachaim, on the other hand, understands the phrase "every man" to mean precisely the opposite, that contributions to the Tabernacle were to be taken from everyone, even those, such as women, from whom charitable donations are not normally accepted. He offers two reasons for this dispensation with regard to women:

- Charity is accepted from women in a context of atonement for sin, and the Tabernacle atoned for the sin of the Golden Calf.
- The Talmud declares that even a "large" donation is considered "small" when made by the wealthy. According to our Sages, the Jews in the desert were fabulously wealthy, due to the plunder of the Egyptians at the sea and to a bounty of jewels and precious stones that descended along with the manna.

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I introduce Shabbos.
2. I end Shabbos.
3. Don't make me on Shabbos.
4. I am not cool!

#2 WHO AM I?

1. We lost a letter.
2. Our laxity caused our vigilance.
3. Our reasoning delayed us.
4. You read about us on Chanuka.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Moshe's shining face (I was bright, I wore a mask, I am from the small "Aleph," I was misunderstood as horns.

#2 The Golden Calf (I am not your leg, I became a drink, I was not born, I was raised by the Yosef riser.)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

Win a Great Prize!

Mazel Tov to Dovid Pepper on winning the NERF Laser-Ops Set!!



Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

Answer as many as you can. Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!

THE NEXT RAFFLE WILL BE May 7.

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Sunday, March 10 at YISE – Opening remarks: 9:30am – Last session ends: 1:30pm

No cost – To view the full schedule and to register visit gwckollel.org/Generations (Participation for the entire program is not required.)