

24 Adar 1, 5782
February 25, 2022

Parashat Vayakhel

Over the last few Parashiyot, the Torah describes in great detail every commandment Hashem gave to Moshe in regard to the building of the Mishkan. Every vessel, beam, curtain, and precious stone. Every piece of gold, silver and copper. Every article of clothing the Kohanim would wear. It would seem strange, therefore, that the Torah would once again go through the entire process describing how the Jews fulfilled everything that was commanded to Moshe. But that's exactly what the next two Parashiyot go through. Wouldn't it suffice to just say "And the Jewish nation did exactly how they were told, as commanded by Hashem to Moshe"?

Furthermore, it seems interesting that the Torah gives us so many commandments in so much detail for something that would be constructed just one time in history. Yes, many parts of the Mishkan and many vessels would be reused or reconstructed in the Bet Hamikdash, but much of it, especially the beams and curtains would not be used once the Bet Hamikdash was built..

Perhaps there is a much deeper lesson we could learn, echoed by many commentaries throughout these Parashiyot. When the Torah rewrites everything, it repeatedly uses the words "anyone who is wise at heart" or "anyone who donates from his heart" or "any woman who is wise at heart in the art of weaving" and similar language. The commentaries explain that the Jewish people were liberated only a short while ago from Egypt. Where would they learn the detailed art of working with precious metals and stones? How would they know how to weave all different kinds of materials and leathers into intricate patterns and pictures? All they knew how to do was rough cement work and heavy constructions!

However, each person found within himself whatever talent that drew them to their field of work. Some realized they had a talent for art. Some had a talent for carving. Everyone realized they had natural talents that they can use to give of themselves to help build a Home for Hashem.

The Torah reiterates everything to tell us that they didn't merely listen to Moshe and fulfill Hashem's commandment. Rather, each and every person realized they had a unique talent and that through it, they would be able to serve Hashem.

Every person is born with unique innate abilities. Be it a talent in art, singing, speaking, music, dancing, gymnastics, or sewing. It may be a talent in social work or perhaps mathematics or chess. The list is endless. It is our responsibility to discover our own talents and use them to help others and serve Hashem in as best a way we can.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Elnadav