# PARSHAT VAYAKHEL 5785 • 2025

# PARSHA SUMMARY

Moshe gathers Bnei Yisrael and reminds them to keep Shabbat. Then, he shares Hashem's instructions for building the Mishkan. The people eagerly donate gold, silver, copper, colorful wool, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs, and precious stones—so much that Moshe has to tell them to stop giving!

Skilled workers build the Mishkan and its furnishings. They make three layers of roof coverings, gold-plated wall panels, and silver foundation sockets. A special curtain separates the inner chambers. They construct the aron (ark) with its golden cover and the keruvim the table for the showbread and the seven-branched menorah with pure oil. They also build the golden altar for incense, the anointing oil, and the large outdoor altar for sacrifices. The courtyard is set up with hangings, posts, and sockets, and a copper basin is made from mirrors. Everything is made exactly as Hashem commanded.

## MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

## Shabbat: A Temple in Time

In this week's parsha, Vayakhel, Bnei Yisrael are ready to build the Mishkan, the holy place for Hashem's presence. But before they start, Moshe tells them something surprising: they must stop working on Shabbat!

We know Shabbat is important, but how can it be even more important than building a home for Hashem? The answer is that Shabbat is also a holy place — not in space, but in time. When Hashem created the world, the first thing He made holy wasn't a land or a building, but Shabbat itself!

Buildings can be destroyed, but time is always with us. No matter where we are in the world, we can step into Shabbat and connect to Hashem. Today, with so many distractions – social media, deadlines, and busy schedules – Shabbat helps us refocus on what truly matters; our family, our soul, and our

Shabbat isn't just a break – it's our weekly sanctuary, our temple in time.
Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Doron Perez Executive Chairman, World Mizrachi

connection to Hashem



Answers to the questions from Kids Corner in the Purim HaMizrachi:

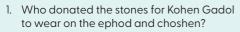
 When Shushan Purim falls on a Shabbat and all of the mitzvot are split into three days.

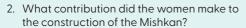
2. Iran.

3. 10 years.



# QUESTIONS ON THE PARSHA





- 3. How many branches did the menorah in the Mishkan have?
- 4. How were the keruvim situated on top of the Aron?

- 5. How was the Kadosh Hakadoshim separated from the rest of the Mishkan?
- 6. Why did Moshe announce that people should stop bringing materials?
- 7. What was offered on the Mizbeach Hazahay?
- 8. What were the pegs of the Mishkan made out of?

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## Giving from the Heart

In this week's parsha, we learn: "And everyone whose spirit moved him to give..." (Shemot 35:21). The Chatam Sofer explains that when people are asked to donate, they often look at what others are giving before deciding how much to contribute. If others give a lot, they feel pressure to do the same. If others give little, they might hold back. But the Torah teaches that the right way is to decide based on your own understanding of the need-not just what everyone else is doina.

Dilemma of the Week - More or Less? Eitan's school started a campaign to send care packages to soldiers. Everyone was excited to help, and some students brought in huge donationssnacks, socks, letters, and more. Eitan wanted to join, but he knew his family was strugaling financially, and he didn't want to ask his parents for money. He considered bringing just a small bag of candy, but when he saw others donating so much, he felt embarrassed. "Will people think I don't care?" he wondered. "Maybe it's better not to give at all than to give so little..."

## **Discussion Questions**

Why do we give? What is the purpose of donating or helping others? Is it about how much we give or about our intention? Independent Thinking: How can we practice giving based on our own judament, like the Torah teaches, instead of just following what others do?

The Value of Small Gifts: Do you think Eitan's small contribution would still be meaningful, even if it's not as big as others' donations? Why or why not?

Different Ways to Give: Are there ways to help besides giving money or things? How else can someone support soldiers or people in need?

Judging Others: Do we sometimes judge people by what they give or don't give? How can we avoid making assumptions about others?

# SOLVE IT AND SEND IT!

Which large city in Israel is represented by the most models within the park?

Send the answer to hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org to be entered into our monthly raffle!

# PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

MKAIHSN

NOAHREM

**ODWO** 

**EPICS** 

**HCINEHSAH** 

SAIONODNT

**BTOKOARN** 

NIHOKMA

RFIF



Pay attention to how vou make decisions whether in giving tzedakah, helping a

friend, or making a choice at school. Are you choosing based on what others expect, or based on what you truly believe is right?

כי תשא יטים פקודי תרומה תצוה



# WORD OF THE WEEK

# הַדָבַה – Nedava – Donation

(Shemot 35:29) כֹל נִדִיב לָבּוֹ

The Hebrew word "דְּדֶבֶה" (nedavah) means a voluntary gift or donation. The root is "ב-ד-ב" (Nun-Dalet-Bet). In Parshat Vayakhel, we find "דְּדִב לֵב" (nediv lev), meaning "generous of heart," describing those who donated willingly to the Mishkan. This same root gives us "בַּתְּבַבַּיב" (hitnadev) – to volunteer, and "בָּדִיב" (nadiv) – generous person. The concept of nedavah teaches us that the most meaningful gifts come not from obligation, but from a genuine desire to give.



# THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

# 25 Adar 5662/1902

## The Mizrachi Movement was founded

The Mizrachi movement is a religious Zionist political group that was founded in 1902. When the Zionist Congress decided to focus on secular education, Rabbi Yitzchak Jacob Reines and other religious Zionists believed that following Jewish commandments was key to preserving the Jewish people. They stayed part of the Zionist movement while keeping their religious values. On January 22, 1957, Mizrachi merged with Hapoel Hamizrachi to form the "National Religious Party - the Mizrachi-Hapoel Mizrachi."



# MEET OUR READERS!

NAME: SARAH RADBIL

AGE: 12

LOCATION: KONSTANZ, GERMANY



IF I COULD HAVE DINNER WITH SOMEONE FROM THE TANACH IT WOULD BE: King Shaul, I would ask him what it was like for him to become a king. FAVORITE PARSHA: Bereishit, because in this parsha the world was created. MY ROLE MODEL IS: My brother, I learned humility and gratitude from him. FAVORITE JEWISH FOOD: Cholent.



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# PARSHA ANSWERS

- The stones were donated by the leaders of each shevet.
- 2. The women contributed mirrors for the construction of the Mishkan.
- 3. The menorah had seven branches.
- 4. The keruvim were depicted with outstretched wings, facing each other.
- The Kadosh Hakadoshim was separated from the rest of the Mishkan by a curtain, known as the parochet.
- Their contributions exceeded the required materials for the construction. There was no longer a need for further offerings.
- 7. Incense, a fragrant aroma offering to Hashem.
- 8. Copper.

ַּשְׁמּוֹת לְנָאַרָא בֹּא אְ בְּשַׁלַּח אָיִתְרוֹ עְּלְשָׁ



PHOTO: HOWIE MISCHEL

Did You Know? The park's plants are real! There are over 20,000 tiny trees, including bonsai versions of trees found in different regions of Israel.

#### Mini Israel

Mini Israel is a miniature park near Latrun that brings Israel's most famous sites to life in small-scale models. The park is designed in the shape of a Magen David (Star of David), with each section representing a different part of the country. Visitors can see detailed replicas of places like the Kotel (Western Wall), Me'arat HaMachpela (Cave of the Patriarchs). Kever Rachel (Rachel's Tomb). and even a working model of Sha'ar Shechem (Damascus Gate). The models are carefully crafted to look just like the real locations, down to the smallest details. With over 385 landmarks, from ancient sites to modern cities. Mini Israel is a fun way to explore the country's history and heritage all in one place.

קום התהלך בארץ.....

# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 10 differences between these two parsha pictures?





This illustration was taken from the book 'בדרכה של תורה' on the Parsha. Special thanks to Ori Lerman (illustrations), Rabbi Weitz, and the Har Bracha Institution for their permission.

