

The Torah Sparks

SHABBOS COMPANION

PARSHAH OVERVIEW

The Parshah discusses the accountings of the Mishkan; all the materials are audited. The priestly garments are made. The Mishkan is brought to Moshe Rabbeinu, and Hashem instructs him to erect it. The Mishkan is erected on the first month (Nissan) of the second year, on the first day of the month.

QUICK VORT

We learn a powerful idea from the Ohr Hachayim on this week's Parshah. As mentioned in "Thoughts in Chassidus," Ohr Hachayim teaches us that there was a miracle in the Mishkan, and ALL the gold that was contributed was used!

We can apply this same message to us in our own lives. There is not a single part of us that is not important. Our Avodas Hashem is meant to be all inclusive of every aspect of our lives. Nothing is extra. Nothing is a waste.

"All the gold" represents on some level ALL of the important parts of our lives.

We are meant to channel our entire existence to the service of the Divine.

We all have unique talents, strengths, AND even weaknesses. Let us take ALL of this and apply it to our unique mission on this world.

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THE STORY OF ISRAEL IN MODERN TIMES WILL SPEAK NOT JUST TO JEWS, BUT TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT AS IT REACHES OUT TO G-D, AS AN EVERLASTING SYMBOL OF THE VICTORY OF LIFE OVER DEATH, HOPE OVER DESPAIR.
(RABBI LORD J. SACKS ZT"l)

PARSHAH STATS

92 Pesukim **1182** Words **4432** Letters **0** Mitzvos

GEMATRIA

Rabbeinu Bachaya says the gematria of המשכן is 420, represents the 420 years of Bayis Sheni.

But you only get to the gematria when you add its 5 letters.

Chasam Sofer explains that this is because Bayis Sheni was "missing 5" things that Bayis Rishon had - Ark, sacred fire, Shechina, Urim V'Tumim, and Kravim.

CHASSIDUS

The Ohr HaChayim says that the chiddush of כל הזהב (all the gold) means that ALL the gold that was provided was used in the Mishkan.

Not an ounce went to waste.

This was a miracle, because normally some of the gold would be sculpted away and lost.

In life, ensure that ALL parts of you are directed to Hashem!

DID YOU KNOW?

There were 479 years between the Mishkan and the construction of the first Bais Hamikdash. Chasam Sofer says this is represented by the word העדת, which is gematria 479!

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There are a total of 92 pesukim in Parshas Pekudei. 92 is the numerical value of the phrase כיבוד אב ואם, the mitzvah of honoring one's parents. What is the connection between them? Is there a connection? Notice that throughout the Parshah, the Torah mentions several father/son relationships...

INSPOGRAPHIC CORNER



Dvar Torah for Parshas Pekudei

Chicken Sandwiches



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The Claim to Fame of the Jewish People



I was talking to a non-Jew, and he was telling me about his job, and how he works at a Jewish facility that has a kosher kitchen. Enthusiastically, he told me that the kosher kitchen at the facility makes some “good chicken sandwiches.”

When he told me this, I remember initially feeling prideful and proud of the fact that I was Jewish because we make good chicken sandwiches. “Yeah!”, I thought to myself, “we are the chosen people, the people whom were given the secret recipe and capabilities of producing the best chicken sandwiches!”

I then figuratively kicked myself back to reality. “Yeah!”, I thought to myself, “we are the chosen people, the people whom were given the secret recipe for producing the best life possible here on planet earth.” Our claim to fame has nothing to do with our ability to make good chicken sandwiches; rather, our claim to fame has everything to do with the fact that G-d chose us to be a light unto the nations and lead our lives as examples of what good human-beings are supposed to look like.

The Ohr HaChaim (38:24) says a fascinating idea on a verse in this week’s Parsha, Parshas Pekudei. The Torah says, “כל הזהב” – “All the gold” – when discussing what was used in the Mishkan. We are being taught that “all the gold” was used. What exactly does this mean?

The Ohr HaChaim explains that usually, when working with gold to create a vessel, the end product will contain less gold than what you had to begin with. This is basic physics. In order to create vessel out of the gold, parts of it will need to be sculpted, beaten, and rounded. By definition, some of the gold will be removed.

When the Torah tells us that “All the gold” was used, we are being educated of the fact that there was a tremendous miracle taking place. All the gold was used! In the words of the Ohr HaChaim, לא נותר ממנו דבר לבטלה והכל – No gold went missing. No gold went unused. Nothing went to waste!

This is an incredible chizzuk for us in our service of Hashem. When you do the right thing, even if that means you are giving up on certain old habits/beliefs/pleasures, you are not losing anything. You are not becoming less! In fact, quite the opposite, you are becoming more!

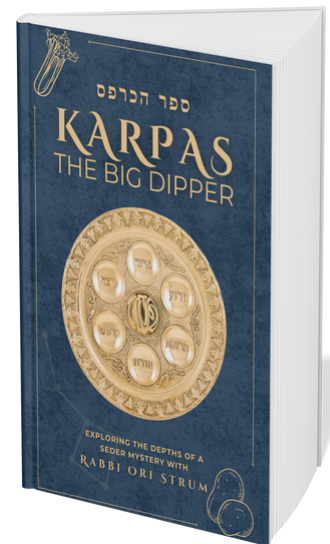
This, my friends, is our claim to fame.

The fact that we can be holy in the face of an impure society. The fact that we can say no to the things that the world says yes to. The fact that we can remain firm to our core beliefs and values. The fact that we can daven each day and learn Hashem’s Torah.

This is what makes us special. And no, it’s not the fact that we know how to make good chicken sandwiches. Although, let’s be honest, we are pretty good at that too.

*Have a holy Shabbos,
R’ Ori Strum*

Be’ezras Hashem I am delighted to share with you that my new book on Pesach is NOW AVAILABLE on Amazon. Get your copy today! (There will be free copies around Baltimore before Pesach, thanks to the generosity of the sponsors!)



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