

The Torah Sparks

SHABBOS COMPANION

PARSHAH OVERVIEW

Moshe assembles the Jewish people, conveying various commandments (such as Shabbos) and instructions (such as the contributions for the Mishkan and its construction). The craftsmen (Betzalel and Oholiav) for the Mishkan are selected. The contributions are completed and instruction for the Mishkan begins!

QUICK VORT

This week's Parshah is called ויקהל (Vayakhel) which means "and he gathered." Moshe Rabbeinu, the Jewish leader, gather the Jewish nation to discuss various commandments and instructions.

This took place, Rashi tells us, the day after Yom Kippur, the day when Moshe Rabbeinu had come down the mountain with the Second Tablets (Luchos), signifying Hashem's forgiveness and renewed love for the people.

The day after a great event is often the saddest time in a person's life. The excitement wears off and the person is stuck facing "regular life."

The Torah teaches us that when Moshe Rabbeinu "came down from the Mt." he immediately (the very next day, our Parshah) gathered Klal Yisroel together to discuss Hashem's commandments.

We are taught the importance of keeping the inspiration alive, even after the great event has "ended."

PARSHAH STATS

122 Pesukim **1558** Words **6181** Letters **1** Mitzvos

GEMATRIA

The numerical value of the word ויקהל, the very name of the parshah, is 151.

This happens to be the same as the numerical value of מיקוה, a mikveh!

When Jews come together as one, we can be likened to the purity and oneness of a Mikveh.

Just as a Mikveh is a single body of water that purifies, so too Klal Yisroel with אחדות becomes so holy and pure!

CHASSIDUS

The Nachal Kedumim (Chida) writes that the letters הוּקַם from the phrase הוּקַם הַמִּשְׁכָּן - *the Mishkan was erected* - can be rearranged to spell מִקְוֵה, or Mikveh!

After all, the Mishkan - a place of Divine presence - as well as Batei Midrashim that we have, are places of tremendous purity and holiness. They are like a מִקְוֵה!

Let us be people that connect to the purity of the Mikveh and create the space in our lives to all the Divine presence to dwell!

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 122 pesukim in this week's Parshah, which so happens to be the same as the word חסדים, kindnesses. What does our Parshah have to do with kindness? Something to think about!

....
Moshe gathered the Jews and discussed the laws of Shabbos. The words אלה הדברים (these are the matters) are a reference to the 39 shabbos prohibitions. Yet, strangely, the Torah says לעשות אתם, to do them. The Ohr HaChaim asks, if he told them the prohibitions, why does it say a verbiage of "to do them"?

INSPOGRAPHIC CORNER



JUDAISM IS ABOUT THE MIRACLE OF UNITY THAT CREATES DIVERSITY.

RABBI LORD J. SACKS ZT"L

Dvar Torah for Parshas Vayakhel

Always Under Construction



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Our Work is Not Yet Complete



I was recently walking by an area that was under construction and I noticed a yellow and black caution sign nearby the work zone, which read as follows: ***Please excuse our appearance while we're under construction.***

I immediately took a picture of the sign, so I wouldn't forget about it, knowing with full certainty that I was going to passionately write about this terribly ugly signage. Now, the sign itself wasn't ugly per se, rather, the message it portrayed is what was ugly and should be frowned upon.

To say it bluntly, I couldn't disagree more with the verbiage of this sign. When something is under construction, that is not a reason to feel the need to announce to the public an apology to "please excuse our appearance." When it comes to life, if you are "under construction," working on yourself, then guess what? That is the most beautiful appearance in the world at the present moment.

If you are working on yourself, on your thoughts, on your Shmiras einayim, on your davening, on your Shmiras halashon, on your time management, or whatever it is... THAT is not a reason to feel sorry about how it is you look to others. On the contrary, working on yourself and being "under construction" is so beautiful, healthy, and holy.

Hashem put us down here on this world to work on ourselves and become elevated through that process of being under construction. So why hide it? Why push it under the rug? Why shrug it off? Face it and embrace it. Have someone or multiple "someone's" in your life that you can share your struggles with.

I struggle with concentration during Shemoneh Esrei. There, I said it.

I have a hard time with time management. Ahh, that felt good.

I struggle with self-doubt and low self-esteem. I feel so much better.

When we don't run away, but rather learn to embrace our humanity and our personal set of challenges, then we can be confident and proud that we are "under construction," and we won't feel like we need to be excused. There's no need to apologize to the world for being human. No need to apologize about how your kids are doing kid things. They are kids for heavens sake. They are supposed to make messes, be loud, and disrupt. Under construction is amazing!

The Torah – yet again – throughout these Parshios depict the various components and construction elements of the Mishkan. The Torah spends dozens upon dozens of pesukim and multiple Parshios discussing the Mishkan. And by the way, an interesting fact about the Mishkan is that it was taken down and set up, taken down and set up, and so on and so forth. This happened many times throughout the Jewish people's journey through the desert. The Mishkan – a holy abode that housed the Divine – was constantly "under construction." And so are we.

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