

# Parsha QA



## Parshas Vayakhel/Pekudei

For the week ending 23 Adar 5758  
20 & 21 March 1998

### Parsha Questions

#### VAYAKHEL

1. What three different words in this week's Parsha are spelled with the same four letters?
2. Why is the prohibition against doing work on Shabbos written prior to the instruction for building the *Mishkan*?
3. In verse 35:11, what is the *Mishkan*, the tent of the *Mishkan* and the covering of the *Mishkan*?
4. What function did the *bigdei hasrad* serve?
5. What was unusual about the way the women spun the goat's hair?
6. Why were the Princes the last to contribute to the building of the *Mishkan*? How does the Torah show dissatisfaction with their actions?
7. Who does the Torah identify as the primary builders of the *Mishkan*? From which tribes were they?
8. What image was woven into the *Paroches*?
9. Why does the Torah attribute the building of the *Aron* to Betzalel?
10. Of what materials was the *Mizbach HaOlah* (Burnt-Offering Altar) composed?

#### PEKUDEI

1. Why is the word *Mishkan* stated twice in verse 38:21?
2. Who was appointed to carry the vessels of the *Mishkan* in the *Midbar*?
3. What is the meaning of the name Betzalel?
4. How many people contributed a half-shekel to the *Mishkan*? Who contributed?
5. Which material used in the *bigdei kehuna* was not used in the coverings of the sacred vessels?
6. How were the gold threads made?
7. What was on the hem of the *me'il*?
8. Which date was the first time that the *Mishkan* was erected and not dismantled?
9. Where was the *Menorah* placed in the *Mishkan*?
10. On which day did both Moshe and Aharon serve as *Kohanim*?

*Rashi never just comments; something in the text always impels him to do so. Rashi's comments are answers to unspoken questions and difficulties arising from a thoughtful reading of the Torah. Therefore, anyone who wants a true understanding of Rashi's classic Torah commentary must always ask*

### "What's Bothering Rashi?"

*"And Betzalel made the ark of acacia wood..." (37:1)*

Rashi: "Because he gave himself over to the work more wholeheartedly than the other wise people, it is called after his name."

Why does Rashi draw such a conclusion? The Torah simply tells us that Betzalel made these objects. **What's bothering Rashi?**

**Answer:** Betzalel certainly didn't make these things alone. Oholiav and all the wise men helped. (See 36:1). But because he took full responsibility and gave himself over completely, it is as if he made them alone.

*Based on Dr. Avigdor Bonchek's new book "What's Bothering Rashi?" Feldheim Publishers*

What do  
you do  
with parsha  
Q&A?

Zmsmm wrote:  
Every week I print out the Torah Weekly and the Parsha questions and I read them on Shabbos. I am a mother with 5 children ka"h who bring home *Divei Torah* so I appreciate that I also can have something to say at the table! This week I printed out the parsha questions first thing on Sunday and learned them with a friend to get a good start to the week. Thank you for this service!

What do YOU do with Parsha Q&A? Fax, E-mail, post, even Fedex your responses — we'll share them with all the Q&A readers!

E-Mail should be addressed to [whatdo@ohr.israel.net](mailto:whatdo@ohr.israel.net)

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Dedication opportunities are available for Parsha Q&A — Please contact us for details.

Parshas Vayakhel/Pekudei — 23 Adar 5758, 20 & 21 March 1998

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## I Did Not Know That!

“Each person who waved a waving of gold ... and all who donated a silver or copper donation.... (35:22-24)”

Why were donations of gold called “wavings?” Because when people gave gold, they waved it due to its great value.

Ramban

### Recommended Reading List

#### VAYAKHEL

#### Ramban

35:1	Date of the Assembly
35:21	Generosity and Inspiration
35:22	Female Leadership
38:8	Mirrors of Virtue

#### Ibn Ezra

35:27	Gifts of the Princes
35:34	Learning and Teaching
38:8	Mirrors of Devotion

#### Sefer Hachinuch

114	Recess from Judgment
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#### PEKUDEI

#### Ramban

38:22	Betzalel's Genius
40:2	Timetable of the <i>Yemei Miluim</i>

#### Ibn Ezra

38:11	Sunshine and Rain
40:35	Covering the Aron

#### Sforno

40:18	Essence of the <i>Mishkan</i>
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#### Ba'al HaTurim

39:27	Storage of the Garments
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#### Aderes Eliyahu

39:33	The World of the <i>Mishkan</i>
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## Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

#### VAYAKHEL

- 36:35, 37:6,19 - *Paroches, Kapores* and *Kaftor*
- 35:2 - To emphasize that the building of the *Mishkan* doesn't supersede the laws of Shabbos.
- 35:11 - The lower curtains that were visible in the structure, the covering of goat skins, the coverings of ram and *tachash* skins, respectively.
- 35:19 - They covered the *Aron, Shulchan, Menorah,* and the *Mizbechos* during transport.
- 35:26 - It was spun directly from off of the backs of the goats.
- 35:27 - The princes reasoned that they would first let the people contribute materials needed for the *Mishkan* and then they would contribute what was lacking. The Torah shows its dissatisfaction by deleting a letter from their title.
- 35:30, 35:34 - Betzalel ben Uri from the tribe of Yehuda; Oholiav ben Achisamach from the tribe of Dan.
- 36:35 - *Charuvim*. (See Rashi 26:31).
- 37:1 - Because he dedicated himself to its building more than anyone else.
- 38:1-2 - Wood overlaid with copper.

#### PEKUDEI

- 38:21 - To allude to the *Beis Hamikdash* that would twice be taken as a “*mashkon*” (pledge) for the sins of the Jewish People until the nation repents.
- 38:21 - The *levi'im*.
- 38:22 - The name means “in the shadow of G-d.”
- 38:26 - 603,550. Every man that was counted from twenty years of age and up (excluding the *levi'im*).
- 39:1 - Linen. (See Rashi 31:10).
- 39:3 - The gold was beaten into thin plates from which threads were cut. (See Rashi 28:6).
- 39:24,25 - Woven pomegranates and golden bells.
- 40:17 - *Rosh Chodesh Nissan* of the second year in the *Midbar*. For seven days before this, during the consecration of Aharon and his sons, Moshe erected and dismantled the *Mishkan*. (Rashi 39:29)
- 40:24 - On the southern side of the *Ohel Mo'ed* opposite the *Shulchan*.
- 40:31 - On the eighth day of the consecration of the *Mishkan*.