

Pasrshas Vayakhel Pikudei

This week's Parshas concludes the book of Shemos. It is also Shabbos Mevorchim, and Parshas HaChodesh. The juxtaposition of the commandment of keeping Shabbos with the laws and the description of the building of the Mishkan connects the two in that we know the laws of Shabbos from the work the Jews needed to stop while building the Mishkan. Our Chassidic master tell us though there is a spiritual meaning, which is that the same service one has to perform during the week, to get to Shabbos, is the same service one must complete in their mission on earth as a Neshama that serves Hashem. And just as one who doesn't toil during the week won't eat on Shabbos, so too, a person must toil on their time on earth in order to reap the benefits in the world to come. Furthermore, the Alter Rebbe explains that the same way the Mishkan took physical objects and consecrated them for holiness, we can do the same thing on our journey through this life. As well, this listing was done the day after Yom Kippur, when it may have made sense for there to be a "break" from the trauma of the sin of golden calf, yet, the work didn't stop, they needed to press on and press forward, much like we must do in our own lives.

Two other points to highlight, it is clear from the details of the parsha, the need for accountability and transparency, especially with communal funds. The Torah tells us where everything was allocated; this applies even today. And the second point is that volunteers and people hired for jobs is essential for there to be accountability. In this case, Betzalel and Alayihav were the general contractors, and Rashi points out

that Betzalel was a dedicated worker. So too, Hashem set up designated jobs because we cannot rely on people's benevolence for work to get done. Dedication and designation are how things move forward.

One final point, the Jews must have been skilled, and Hashem provided them (after leaving Egypt with the spoils of Egypt) with the necessary tools and materials to complete the job. This means that in our lives, we may not seem to have the tools immediately in our purview, but they are there. With these, we can cultivate a life around us of success.

Good Shabbos.