

Parshas Terumah,

This week's Parsha Terumah begins with the design of the Mishkan's utensils, which ultimately served in the Beis Hamikdash. The development of the Mishkan's parts outlines many details. One might wonder why the details are necessary, especially since they were built at one time. Why were the details required to remain for all time?

The answer is that the process is a lesson in service as a Jew and for Hashem. When embarking on a project, one has a vision of the outcome. Then, to begin the first step in execution, one begins planning the details to attain that goal. Now, when building something complex and multilayered, there would naturally be many layers and details to arrive at an outcome.

Much in the same way a Jew is a soul with a purpose on this earth, and when their Neshama arrives in a body, it begins the first step toward being a servant of Hashem. Every day is a layer of detail to the outcome, of doing more and more mitzvos. So even if it was a utensil built at one time, the details matter. The details are the whole created by the sum of its parts. If any detail is missed, the outcome can be catastrophic. For example, when one looks at the complex movement of a clock, some gears and springs must work together for the clock to tell time. Individually, every spring and gear is a singularly valuable piece, and if it is removed or damaged, it cascades that the clock is off time. Each detail, such as a spring or gear, may only play a role in being part of a clock, but its true potential

is realized only when it is part of the system.

The Mepharshim explain that the coverings of the Mishkan are meant to represent this. They cover and unite all the tools into one purpose. Each utensil, the Shulchan, Mizbeach, Aron, all on their own are valuable, but the whole is as great as the sum of its parts. The Mishkan is incomplete if any of the parts are not there.

Much in the same way, the Jewish people are all parts of the greater whole in terms of bringing Mashiach.

May the whole be as great as the sum of its parts and we welcome Mashiach now.
Good Shabbos