

## Vayakhel “And he assembled”

Torah Reading: Exodus 35:1 - 38:20

Haftarah Reading: 1 Kings 7:40-50

### Commentary

This week's notes are structured around a statement from Shemot Rabbah 58.4. This is a midrash which is basically rabbinical thoughts and stories based on the text. It is not scripture but gives us insight into what the rabbis saw in the text.

The quote from the midrash is “With these three things [wisdom, understanding, and knowledge] the world was created and with these three things the Tabernacle was made...”

### Study Notes

#### Outline

- Building with Wisdom
- Building with Understanding
- Building with Knowledge

#### Wisdom

- First, great wisdom was used in providing for the materials with which to construct the Mishkan.
- Second, the same wisdom was demonstrated in the choice of workers.

#### The Collection

- Moshe made a plea for people to voluntarily give what they could. They gave so much that Moshe had to turn some down!

#### Types of Giving in the Torah

- First, “Levite’s Tithe” in Leviticus 27:30-33. This was to provide the Levites with food and resources to live because they were the only tribe without an inheritance of land.
- Second, “Fellowship Tithe” or “Festival Tithe” in Deut. 12:6-7. This provided the funds for a “national potluck dinner”. It was basically given to one’s self.
- Third, is the “Poor Man’s Tithe” in Deut. 14:28-29. This was offered every three years to fund the national social welfare system. In addition farmers were to leave the corners of their fields uncut and not gather the harvest that fell back to the ground.
- What are your thoughts on these types of giving? How do they relate to you?

- Voluntary  
Voluntary giving for special projects. Shemot 35:5.
- II Cor. 8-9.

- Mat. 6:24-34 - Don't worry about your needs. God will meet them.

#### The Whole Body

- "Moshe then convoked the whole Israelite community..." - Shemot 35:1.
- God gave His word to the whole community not just Moshe.
- Too often in today's individualistic and independently minded world, even believers forget the importance of community.

#### Understanding

- In wisdom God foresaw the whole project, whereas by understanding, He took into account the needs of the whole community.
- The need to give.
- The need to use gifts. Shemot 35:30-36:8.
- The need to rest.

#### Knowledge

- God knew every detail and acted accordingly.
- His knowledge of the people (Bezalel and Oholiav) Shemot 31.
- Could God's thoughts have been "I understand your limitations and how they relate to my perfections. Yet I have truly gifted the right people and I have multiplied your giving to make the project happen. In the end, Israel, I will be pleased and you will be happy. I am a wise God who knows how to accomplish the impossible among you. I am an understanding God who knows how to meet all of your needs in the process. And, I am a God of knowledge, with a perfect grasp of the facts of the situation. I will perform it-and I will perform it through you, My people".
- Do you agree or disagree with any part of that?
- How does it relate to your life?
- Philippians 2:13