



Friday, March 9

7:00 Shacharis
6:08 Candlelighting
6:08 Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, March 10

8:45 Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship.
5:30 Laws of PESACH
6:00 Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
Shalosh Seudos is available for sponsorship.
7:17 Maariv

Sunday, March 11

8:00 Shacharis
10:00 Maariv

Monday, March 12

7:00 Shacharis
8:00 Planning for Pesach – Insights into the Haggadah
10:00 Maariv

Tuesday, March 13

7:00 Shacharis
8:00 Understanding Our Prayers (Stoll)
10:00 Maariv

Wednesday, March 14

7:00 Shacharis
8:00 The Prophets Still Speak (Stoll)
10:00 Maariv

Thursday, March 15

7:00 Shacharis
10:00 Maariv

Sponsorship

This issue is sponsored by Alan & Judi Vilensky in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Eva Gabrielle Joseph to Liza and Jeremy Joseph

Parsha: VaYakhel-Pekudei

Moshe gathered the people to speak to them about the construction of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. He also reiterated the laws of Shabbos to them and explained that although the Mishkan was important, Shabbos was even more important and could not be desecrated even for the purpose of constructing the Mishkan.

He instructed the Jewish people about the different materials and skills that would be needed for building the Mishkan. Although they had not been required to donate anything, the response was overwhelming. The men and women brought so much gold and expensive jewelry that there was a surplus of what was needed and Moshe discouraged them from bringing more. Similarly, many people offered their services to assist in the construction of the Mishkan and its vessels. This enthusiasm was necessary to atone for the misplaced enthusiasm the people had shown when they brought their jewelry at the sin of the Golden Calf.

Betzalel, who was a grandson of Chur, oversaw the construction of the Mishkan. Chur, the Talmud explains, had stood up against the nation when they had first demanded the Golden Calf. He had sharply rebuked them for failing to show the proper faith in Moshe and G-

d. At the height of the rebellion Chur was murdered. It was therefore quite appropriate that the construction of the Mishkan, which would atone for the Golden Calf, should take place under Chur's grandson's direction.

After the Mishkan was completed, Moshe was told to inaugurate the dedication. This was a seven-day ceremony in which Moshe erected the Mishkan, performed the service, and then dismantled it each day. On the eighth day, the first day of Nissan, the Mishkan was erected permanently and Ahron took over as the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest.

The Rabbis relate that Moshe was unable to lift the heavy construction by himself. He asked G-d how it was possible to request something of him that he was physically incapable of doing. G-d told Moshe that He only wanted him to put forth his best effort and that the Mishkan would erect itself. This is alluded to in the passage that "the Mishkan was erected"(Exod. 40:17)– not that Moshe erected it.

The implicit message in this is that G-d only expects man to put forth his best effort to try and create a bastion of holiness for G-d's Presence to reside. Once he tries his hardest, however, G-d Himself will complete the task for him.

Insights: VaYakhel-Pekudei

Moshe said to the entire nation of the Children of Israel, "This is what G-d instructed... (Exod. 35:4) Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch explains that the Tabernacle served as atonement for the sin of the Golden Calf. G-d wanted to show the people that although they had strayed and sinned, they were still welcome in His Home, and that He still yearned for their relationship. A broken-hearted father came to Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv with a difficult problem. One of his daughters had cast off the yoke of Torah, and he was concerned that she might negatively impact her siblings. He asked if he should he turn the girl from their home. Rav Elyashiv looked at the man in amazement. "I don't understand why you would think to send her from the home. She needs your home more than any of the other children! If anything, your other children might be able to cope for a while away from your home, but this daughter needs all the warmth and love she can get!"

Did You Know?

Certain types of materials may be koshered for Pesach, such as utensils made of metal and stone. Utensils made of plastic, china, porcelain, or earthenware may not be koshered for Pesach if they were used with hot chametz. Although throughout the year we do allow koshering of glass, the accepted custom is not to kosher glassware, Corningware, or Correlle for Pesach. Pots which were coated with Teflon cannot be koshered either. Formica top surfaces should not be koshered for Pesach, but should rather be cleaned well and covered with paper, aluminum foil, or some other material, and they can then be used. Rabbinic guidance is recommended for specific details regarding koshering vessels.

Thought for the week: The fact that "keeping busy" will keep us from going crazy shows how "crazy" we are. (A Candle by Day)

Condolences

to Tzvi and Devorah Turner upon the loss of their son