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 Bothersing 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 Bothersing 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 whatIdo@ohr.israel.net

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

PEKUDEI

Ramban
38:22 Betzalel’s Genius
40:2 Timetable of the Yemei Miluim

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

Sforno
40:18 Essence of the Mishkan

Ba’al HaTurim
39:27 Storage of the Garments

Aderes Eliyahu
39:33 The World of the Mishkan

Answers to this Week’s Questions

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

VAYAKHEL
1. 36:35, 37:6,19 - Paroches, Kaporesh and Kaftor
2. 35:2 - To emphasize that the building of the Mishkan doesn’t supersede the laws of Shabbos.
3. 35:11 - The lower curtains that were visible in the structure, the covering of goat skins, the coverings of ram and tachash skins, respectively.
4. 35:19 - They covered the Aron, Shulchan, Menorah, and the Mizbechos during transport.
5. 35:26 - It was spun directly from off of the backs of the goats.
6. 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.
7. 35:30, 35:34 - Betzalel ben Uri from the tribe of Yehuda; Oholiav ben Achisamach from the tribe of Dan.
8. 36:35 - Charuvim. (See Rashi 26:31).
9. 37:1 - Because he dedicated himself to its building more than anyone else.

PEKUDEI
1. 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.
2. 38:21 - The levim.
3. 38:22 - The name means “in the shadow of G-d.”
4. 38:26 - 603,550. Every man that was counted from twenty years of age and up (excluding the levim).
5. 39:1 - Linen. (See Rashi 31:10).
6. 39:3 - The gold was beaten into thin plates from which threads were cut. (See Rashi 28:6).
7. 39:24,25 - Woven pomegranates and golden bells.
8. 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)
10. 40:31 - On the eighth day of the consecration of the Mishkan.