Rashi explains that the term “the Mishkan of the Testimony” is testimony for Israel that Hashem forgave them for the incident of the Golden Calf, for He rested His Shechina among them (in the Mishkan). We see that Rashi understands the word ““הַמִּשְׁקַנָּו של הַבְּרִית” - “the Mishkan of the Testimony””. The Taz, in his Sefer Divrei David, explains that the term ““רָצוּן” - “testimony” - denotes in a clear fashion, beyond a doubt, in the eyes of all, that Hashem had forgiven Bnei Yisrael for the incident of the Golden Calf. This was not something that was based on hearsay alone. This was accomplished through the construction of the Mishkan, for everyone saw that the Shechina rested there because the Cloud of Glory rested there.

Everyone saw that the Shechina rested there because the Cloud of Glory rested there.

This idea of the Taz can be used to explain the use of the terms ““רָצוּן כְּרָצִי - “the Ark of the Covenant”” and ““רָצוּן כְּרָצִי - “the Ark of the Testimony””. The term ““רָצוּן כְּרָצִי” is to emphasize to Klal Yisrael our intimate covenant with Hashem. However, when we refer to the Torah as being contained in the ““רָצוּן כְּרָצִי” this indicates that our having been given the Torah proves to the other nations without a doubt that Hashem’s Shechina continues to rest among us, for Hashem forgave us for the Golden Calf.

WE REVEL IN ITS STUDY

Rabbeinu Bachya explains that the Torah elaborates in its description of the details and intricate measurements of the Mishkan. We find lists of all its hooks, rings and bars, as well as the precise length, width and height of the building materials and coverings. Although at the moment we do not have a Mishkan, the study of these portions is a great mitzvah, and the reward for doing so reaches to the very heavens. This is Torah, and we must be devoted to its study. The Gemara (Menachos 110a) tells us that the study of the portions of the offerings is also quite essential for us. We are assured that anyone who pursues the study of the Torah of the offerings diligently is given credit as if he actually brought these offerings upon the Altar. This is also true regarding the study of the building of the Mishkan and the Beis HaMikdash. As we strive to understand every detail listed here, and as we delve into the simple and esoteric symbolisms that are indicated behind each detail, we show ourselves to be worthy of great reward for our efforts.
It is in reference to this study that David HaMelech writes (Tehillim 48:13,14): “Walk about Tzion and encircle it, count its towers, raise up her palaces, that you may recount it to succeeding generations.” The encircling of Tzion allegorically refers to the intense pursuit of its study, both in terms of superficial review of its laws and physical layout as well as in-depth research of the symbolic and esoteric concepts which it represents. In the merit of our interest and our involvement, we hope to have the Divine Presence return, and that we will soon see a complete fulfillment of the verse (Tehillim 48:15): “For this is the Lord, our Lord, forever and ever; He will guide us beyond death.”

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AS GOD HAD COMMANDED

The Midrash Tanchuma notes that the Torah uses the phrase “כשראג ה’ את פשעיו - “as God had commanded Moshe” - eighteen times in Parashas Pekudei. Corresponding to these eighteen phrases, the sages instituted the eighteen blessings in the weekday tefillah. However, if we count the number of references to “כשראג ה’ את פשעיו”, we find a nineteenth reference, where it says that Betzalel, the supervisor of the construction of the Mishkan, did “all that God commanded to Moshe”. Why does the Midrash not include this one in the counting? Some say that this reference appears before the completion of the Mishkan, and that is why it is not included. Others say that the nineteenth reference hints at the nineteenth blessing ("כ˘ ררפ א˘ תי - “And to the slanderer...”) - that was added later against the heretics (see Berachos 28b).

In his Oznayim LaTorah, Rav Zalman Sorotzkin asks further, why the eighteen references are found specifically in this parasha. Perhaps we can answer that in Parshas Tetzaveh, which discusses the clothing of the Kohanim, the name of Moshe does not appear. This is a result of Moshe’s request that if God would not spare the Jewish people from destruction as a result of the Golden Calf, he wanted his name expunged from the Torah. Even though the Jews were spared, the words of a tzaddik are so powerful that they take effect at least in part. Moshe’s name, therefore, was left out of one of the parashios dealing with these items required for service in the Mishkan. Thus, the place to “pay back” these missing references is where the Mishkan is completed. The Mishkan represented the special place where the Jews gathered together to worship God, to do the “avodah”. Tefillah is called the avodah of the heart and in some way takes the place of the avodah of the Mishkan. Thus it is fitting that corresponding to these eighteen references in the parasha of completion of the Mishkan, the sages instituted eighteen blessings in the tefillah.

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THE POWER OF THE EIPHOD

Meshech Chochma explains that at the moment Yosef was faced with the great test to resist the advances of the wife of Potifar, he almost succumbed to her trap. Yet, at the last moment, Yosef envisioned the face of his father, Yaakov, who said to him, “Yosef! The names of each of your brothers will be engraved upon the stones of the Eiphod vest of the Kohen Gadol. If you sin, your name will be omitted! Do you want your name to be missing from the stones of the Eiphod?” With that, Yosef gathered his strength and resisted the temptation to sin.

We see that the stones of the Eiphod served as a remembrance to avoid sin. When considering that the names of the tribes are inscribed upon these stones, and that they therefore represent the entire nation, everyone wants to be included in this symbol. Accordingly, the stones serve to remind people not to sin, for no one wants to be embarrassed by being denied representation by these special stones.

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Halachic Corner

Community service announcement - move clocks one hour ahead

Zmanim for Parshas Pekudei 5779

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<th>Klal Sha'</th>
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On the first of Adar the Sanhedrin proclaims about the payment of the Shekalim, and they begin to repair the roads and the town squares and the accumulations of water - ritual (mikvah) baths. All the needs of the city are funded from the remainder of the treasury chamber. - Mishnah Shekalim 1:1: 4:2

"All the needs of the city" refers to the digging of the wells and ditches, upkeep and repair of streets and marketplaces, and the protection of the city. This proclamation was to remind everyone to have his half shekel ready to be paid at the proper time. In addition to the proclamation of the Beis Din, there was one more reminder. The portion of Shekalim (Shemos 30:11-16) would be read in the synagogues on the Shabbos that fell on or before the first of Adar. Although shekel contributions for the Beis HaMikdash service are not applicable in the absence of the Beis HaMikdash, the synagogue reading is still observed in commemoration of the Beis HaMikdash period - שֵׁשׁ קְעָלִים. The Mishnah continues to expound upon and detail the various communal needs which were attended to and maintained at this time of year and with these funds. In 4:2 we find that "all the needs of the city are funded from the remainder of the treasury chamber".

During the time of the Beis HaMikdash, the city of Yerushalayim provided the environment surrounding the Beis HaMikdash within which the community lived and thrived, and its needs had to be funded by the consecrated funds of the shekalim treasury. Our local Jewish communal needs are also essential for our survival and our future. All who participate in the funding and support of communal needs and institutions are involved in a consecrated mission.

Questions for Thought and Study

1. What was special about the counting of the items in the Mishkan that the term "טעילים" ("these") is used? See Ohr HaChaim 38:21
2. Why doesn’t the Torah list the amounts of the "טֵעִילִים וּכְהֵן קָנוֹן וּשְׁלֵית קָנֶשׁ" ("turquoise, purple, and scarlet wool"), as it did previously with all the other materials? See Abarbanel 39:1
3. Why does the Torah explain in detail the process of creating the golden threads of the Ephod? See Ramban 39:3
4. Why does the Torah say "ואֶלְכָּלִים יַעֲבֵד מִסְרָךְ" - that all the work of the Mishkan was completed - and not say that they (Bnei Yisrael) completed their work? See Ohr HaChaim 39:32
5. Which change names? Why?

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This Week Likutei Peshatim is Sponsored

- Hebrew Theological College’s Gourmet Torah at Shallots Bistro will take place this Thursday, March 14, 12:35-1:15. Rabbi Zvi Zimmerman will speak on “Parshas Vayikra” Behinna Korbanos”. Complimentary appetizers as well as a discounted menu will be available for shiur participants. Men & women invited to attend. More info: Rabbi Joshua Zisook at 847-982-2500 or jzisook@htc.edu.

- Join us for the “not to be missed” Blitstein Institute's only fundraiser for the year. “The Annual Winter Event” will take place this Motzei Shabbos, March 9th, at 8:30 PM, at the home of Gershon and Beth Bassman, 6039 North Bernard Avenue, Chicago.

- This incredible Blitstein evening will have a world-renowned master illusionist, a presentation from Koval Distillery on how this kosher company began in Chicago, samples from Chicago women pastry and part entrepreneurs, wine tasting with Shalom, and personal Chicago winter photographic portraits. A gorgeous buffet, with new offerings catered by Shallots Bistro, will be a highlight of the evening. Looking forward to seeing you at this outstanding event.

- Reserve your complimentary tickets for the Fasman Yeshiva High School student-produced Holocaust film, “Names Not Numbers”, a movie in the making. Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 PM, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. Call 847-982-2500 x1121 or email fyhs@htc.edu to reserve your ticket. Sponsorships are available and greatly appreciated.

- Students going to Seminary or Yeshiva in Israel for the 2019/2020 academic year can earn college credits and enjoy personal guidance by joining the HTC/Blitstein Institute Israel Experience Program. Eligible families can receive government funding. After Israel, complete an accredited and prestigious bachelor’s degree at HTC and Blitstein. For information, call Rabbi Bachrach at 847-982-2500 x1128.

- Yeshivas Hakayitz 2019 enrollment is open for campers who will be entering 6th through 11th grades. Dates: July 2nd - July 29th. For application and all related camp information, please visit yhk.htc.edu. To reach Rabbi Yosef Polstein call 847-982-2500 ext. 1123, or yhk@htc.edu.


- Park Plaza Senior Living Community enriches the quality of life for our residents through daily shuirim, live music, exercise classes, lectures, outings and much more. Park Plaza also has beautifully furnished apartments for rent: daily, weekly and long term or for your simcha. For more information, visit our website at www.park-plaza.org or contact Adina at 773-465-6700 or at adina@park-plaza.org.

- TAG Chicago is here to help! Offering filtering solutions for smart phones, tablets and computers. We offer free volunteer assistance to keep your devices safe. Visit tagchicago.org, call 847-920-8245 or email Help@TAGChicago.org to book your appointment. 8150 Central Park, Skokie. Remember - “Call before you buy!” We will help guide you.

- Come daven Mincha at our Beis Medrash at the Wi-Fi Professional Building, Mincha at 1:35 PM. Workspace available for lease. Enjoy free daily coffee, modern conference facility, spacious lounge, separate gender fitness facility, and more. For more info call 847-329-7600!

- Wisdom of Torah Institute presents a lecture by Dr. Esther Shkop on “משה מעלה – Psalm 22 and Megillat Esther”, this Sunday, March 10, 10:00 AM, at WiFi Bet Midrash, 8170 McCormick in Skokie. Open to the public.

- Registration for 2019 Skokie Youth Baseball is open! Skokie Youth is a Shomer Shabbos league for children between nursery through 9th grade. You do not have to be a Skokie resident to play! The season goes from April through June. Registration closes March 24th. Questions? Email us at Info@skokieyouth.org.

- Join Keshet this Sunday, March 10, to celebrate our Double Chat anniversary of offering programs for individuals with disabilities. We will honor Sy and Nancy Taxman, and present Jewel-Osco as the Employer of the Year, and Carol Marin as our special parent speaker. Will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. 5:00 PM reception; 6:00 dinner. Register at Keshet.org or call 847-205-1234.

- Congregation Poalei Zedeck is pleased to announce that their annual Melave Malkah will be held this Motzei Shabbos, March 9, 2019, at 8:30 PM, in the Social Hall of the shul at 2801 W. Albion. Come and bring your friends for an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

- Fulfill the mitzvah of matanot l’eeyonim through The ARK. Your matanot l’eeyonim donation will go directly to local Jews in need on Purim day, in accordance with halacha. The ARK will be open 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 21 (Purim day). Donations can be made in person at either office, 6450 N. California (Chicago) or 3100 Dundee, Ste. 802 (Northbrook), or online at www.arkchicago.org/donate/purim, or via phone at 847-681-8980.

- This Shabbos marks the 5th yahrtzeit of Rabbi Daniel Rosenberg, Regional Dir., Lubavitch Chabad of IL. Special kiddush & guest speaker: Bais Menachem- Rabbi Mendy Chitrik, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, Turkey; Bnei Ruven- Rabbi Efraim Mintz, Rohr Jewish Learning Inst. Int'l; F.R.E.E.- Rabbi Laime Wilhelm, Rosh Yeshiva, Tomchei Tmimim, Morristown; Chabad of Northbrook- Rabbi Shalom Lubin, Cong. Shaya Ahavas Torah, Parsippany; Chabad Israel Center- Rabbi Shneur Ashkenazi, Central Syn., Rishon Litzion.

- Join Kehilat Chovevei Tzion on the red carpet as they honor Jen and Ben Amrami. This “not to be missed” Beit Midrash event to benefit the Kehilat Chovevei Tzion Scholarship Fund. Tickets are $65 each or get three for $165. Drawing will be at our Scholarship Dinner on Monday, March 31. Winner doesn’t need to be present. Purchase tickets at www.icja.org or call 773-973-1450.

- Win two tickets to Israel and support the ICJA Scholarship Fund! Raffle tickets are $50 each or get three for $100. Drawing will be at our Scholarship Dinner on Monday, March 31. Winner doesn’t need to be present. Purchase tickets at www.icja.org or call 773-973-1450.

- Please join ICJA on March 31 at our Scholarship Dinner honoring Jane and Eddie Best, Barbara and Dr. Steve Geller, and long-time biology teacher Dave Newman, 6 PM at ICJA, 8233 Central Park Avenue, Skokie. Make reservations and place ads at www.icja.org or call 773-973-1450.
Join Young Israel of Skokie, 8746 East Prairie Road, Wednesday, March 13th, at 7:15 PM, for the next installment of our series on “Resources in our Community”: Marilyn Siegel and Ann Luban will be speaking about JCFUS programs and service.

The Chevra Kadisha invites the community to the annual Zayan Adar Seudah on Thursday evening, March 14, 2019, at 7:00 PM, at Congregation KINS. Guest Speaker: Rabbi Ephraim Friedman. For more information, please call Danya Miller at 773-761-4298.

Who can bring a smile to a child’s life? Who can help change the world? Whose work lasts a lifetime? Who will be the 2019 Hartman Family Foundation Educator of the Year Awardee? Help Decide- User Friendly Online Nomination Form! To complete & submit, go to www.att.org/For Teachers/Hartman Family Fdn. Educator of the Year Award for paper nominated Talmidim, please call Susan Feuer/Shelley Stopek at 773-973-2828. Submission deadline: Tues., May 14, by 5 PM.

Still time to register for the Torah Bowl Challenge, a 2-day event for ATT students in grades 5-8 (separate boys & girls programs), sponsored by the Bassman Family Fnd., Sun., 3/17- Written test; Sun. 3/24 (for qualifying students) - Game Day! Once again: Guaranteed giveaway for all participants! Written test prize store for scores of 70% & above! Game Day Chinese Auction! Grand Prize: Airfare for 2 anywhere in the continental U.S.! Pick up a study guide at www.att.org or call the school 773-973-2828, www.att.org to view brochure and apply online.

Purim is in less than two weeks! Help your neighbor while fulfilling the important mitzvah of Matanos L’evyonim with the Chicago Purim Fund. Visit www.cpfund.org to donate.

The Chicago Orthodox Student Union continues its Learning Program directed by the YU Torah Mitzlon Kvell. This week, Monday, March 12, at KINS: 4:15 PM - Dinner; 8:00 PM Shabbat. SHIUR: - “College Learning Initiative at KINS”. Shiur - “Who Were the Anshei Knesset Gedola”, led by Rabbi Aaron Kraft. Meat/veggie food included! For further information, please email chicagoorthodoxstudentunion@gmail.com.

Yachad is excited to welcome participants to its 5th Biennial Hartman Family Midwest Shabbaton, March 8-10, taking place at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton in Downers Grove. We’re looking forward to learning and growing together. Keynote Address by Dr. Rona Novick and Plenary Session by Rabbi Yosef Shagalow. #BecauseEveryoneBelongs

Yachad will be having fun and friendly post-Purim parties for our Juniors, (ages 7-14), Seniors (15-23), and Rayim (24+) divisions on March 24. The community is invited to celebrate with us! More info: lipmane@ou.org; Yachad.org/Chicago; 844-4-YACHAD.

Grab your hardhat and join the crew for Purim at Congregation KINS! Please join Congregation KINS for its Annual Ben and Rose Stein Memorial Purim Dinner on Wednesday evening, March 20th. To make a reservation or for more information, please visit the KINS website at www.congkins.org or contact the shul office at 773-761-4000. Special early bird pricing through March 13th!

Congregation KINS presents a Pre-Pesach Cooking Demonstration, Tuesday evening, March 26, with Karen Nochimowski, the founder of the cooking blog MommaChef.com and Momma Chef’s Soup Kitchen at Congregation KINS. There will be a hands-on cooking demo and tasting. Signup deadline is Friday, March 22. To sign up or for more information, please visit the KINS website at www.congkins.org or contact the shul office at 773-761-4000.

The JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival is back in 2019 (March 1-17) with 43 beautiful films being shown at theaters across the city and suburbs, including Arclight and Cinemark Theaters, the Music Box Theatre and special screenings at the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Times, tickets and info about special events can be found at jccfilmfest.org.

Congrats to our Madraigos Midwest High School Boys Basketball League Team Advantage Purchasing for winning the MBL Championships. Thank you to all of our players, parents, fans, coaches and sponsors this season! Our fabulous sponsors were: Advantage Purchasing, Capital One, CHI Construction, Eye on Devon Optometric Associates, Hat Box Chicago, Integra Health Care, J & J Equities, Preferred Capital, Robinson Financial Group, and Team Caleb.

Don’t miss the event of the year! Please join Madraigos Midwest for their 10th Anniversary Dinner on March 27th, 2019, at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling, showing recognition to our founders: Mr. Shua Ray and Mr Nachy Shabat. Special Rabbinic Visionary Award to: Rabbi Chaim Twerks. To register or place an ad please go to https://madraigosmidwest.org/dinner.

We look forward to greeting everyone this Sunday, March 10, 2:00 PM (a few seats still left), and Monday, March 11, 7 PM, as HSBY proudly presents another spectacular production: “A Rumor in St. Petersburg”, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets go to hsby.org/erevshira or call the school 773-338-9222 ext. 11.

Join us at the 1st Project Extreme Texas Hold ‘Em Event! Thursday, March 28, at the Rocky Patel Lounge, Norridge, IL. Luxury prizes, exciting raffles and catering provided by Milt’s BBQ. Hosted by David Allswang and Yoni Bellows. Visit www.projectextreme.org for more information.

This Motzei Shabbos, March 9th! The Illinois Center for Jewish Studies is proud to present “Techeiles Blues: Let My People Jive!” Enjoy rockin’ Chicago-style electric and traditional Blues hosted by David Allswang and Yoni Bellows. Visit www.projectextreme.org for more information.

Don’t let your questions go unanswered! The NILI Taharat Hamishpacha Hotline provides women a confidential and 100% anonymous outlet to ask questions about mivkah and more. Three ways to submit questions to qualified, local, kallah teachers: Call or text: 847-636-9723 or email hotline@nilitorah.org, or web form www.hotline.nilitorah.org. Under the halachic auspices of HaRay Gedalia Dov Schwartz.

"חכמים במעש" - A morning of intense and inspirational pre-Purim learning for men. Over a dozen speakers and Shu’ar Klali with Rabbi Aaron Leibtag. In addition, special learning for high school boys! Sunday, March 17th, at Or Torah. 8:00 AM Shacharit, 8:45 AM break, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM shiurim. Presented by the YU Torah Mitzlon Kvell. For more information, please contact office@torahchicago.org or 773-973-6557.

Get ready for Purim with NILI! Join us for a special Pre-Purim Shu’ar, “זֶרֶם טוֹבָה: The Megillah is the Story of Everyone”, with Mrs. Marisa Loebmann. Tuesday, March 12th, 8:00 PM, at the home of Elyse Rosenzwieg, 4255 Suffield, Skokie.
5. Answers:

1. Ohr HaChaim gives four explanations. First, this was to exclude any other countings (such as money), as these holy items were to be permanent, unlike other transitory items of the world. Secondly, counting usually does not bring blessing to an item. This counting, since it was holy, brought blessing as each item added increased holiness. Thirdly, this counting was for repentance for the sin of the Golden Calf (where the term מטבב is used as well). Lastly, this indicated that all the items were accounted for due to Moshe’s complete and total honesty.

2. The cloth materials were not so valuable as the gold and silver. The gold and silver were only money, as these holy items were to be permanent, unlike other transitory items of the world.

3. Ohr HaChaim gives four explanations. First, this was to exclude any other countings (such as money), as these holy items were to be permanent, unlike other transitory items of the world. Secondly, counting usually does not bring blessing to an item. This counting, since it was holy, brought blessing as each item added increased holiness. Thirdly, this counting was for repentance for the sin of the Golden Calf (where the term מטבב is used as well). Lastly, this indicated that all the items were accounted for due to Moshe’s complete and total honesty.

4. The process of creating threads from gold had never been accomplished before. Due to the ingenuity of the creation, it was listed in the Torah.

5. One explanation is that even though the work for the Mishkan was completed, Bnei Yisrael did not complete this work, and would have continued working. Another explanation is that much of the work was done miraculously by Hashem (e.g. the Menorah), so Bnei Yisrael did not complete the work, as it was completed by Hashem.

6. The "וֹסֵכָּה הַמִּשְׁקַח" (the brass Altar) was called the "מִשְׁקַח הַמַּעֲשֶׂה (the Altar of the Olah sacrifice)" in Pasuk 40:6 once the daily Olah ("הַמִּשְׁקַח הַמִּשְׁקַח") was brought on it every day.

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