

KOIL MEVASSER

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Wisdom of the Heart*By Rabbi Marc D. Angel*
Www.jewishideas.org

Carl Sandburg once observed: "We know that when a nation goes down and never comes back, when a society or civilization perishes, one condition may always be found. They forgot where they came from. They lost sight of what brought them along. The hard beginnings were forgotten and the struggles farther along." ("Remembrance Rock," 1948, pp.18-19)

Sandburg was pointing to a significant feature of a living civilization: it remembers its beginnings, it sees itself as an organic part of the past. The ancestors have an ongoing vote, albeit not veto power. When this connection with the past is lost, the civilization unravels and declines.

In contemporary life, these words of Sandburg have increasing significance. We live in the "me generation", when ego gratification seems more important than upholding tradition. Advertisers constantly emphasize that products are "new", "improved", with an "updated formula". Nothing is more passe than the past,

than the old. Even in matters of literature, art, and religion-- society seems bent on discovering new forms and chasing after new fads, while sneering at *old-fashioned* traditional styles. People aren't interested in where they came from, but in where they are now and where they may be tomorrow. The more these tendencies set into a society, the clearer it is that the society is in decline. It becomes like a tree that rejects its own roots, not realizing that its life and future depend on those roots.

The Talmud (Berakhot 55a) states that God only gives wisdom to one who has wisdom. Shouldn't God be giving wisdom to those who lack it, rather than to those who already have it? We may understand this Talmudic passage in light of this morning's Torah reading.

In describing the building of the Mishkan, the wilderness sanctuary of the ancient Israelites, the Torah states that God called upon those who were "wise of heart" to do the work. This refers to a special

*Prayer Schedule***SHABBAT****PARASHAT VAYAKHEL**

Friday, February 25th
Minhah & Arbit 5:15 pm
Candle Lighting 5:27 pm

Saturday, February 26th
Shaharit 8:30 am

**The Mishkan: Reaching G-d through Prayer with R. Tessone during morning services*

Shabbat Lunch and Learn
**Leadership in the Torah: Who are Today's Leaders—after services*

Tehillim before Minhah
Minhah & Arbit 5:00 pm

Dvar Torah with R. Tessone
during Seudah Shlishet

Motzei Shabbat 6:31 pm

WEEKDAYS

Sunday, February 27th
Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday to Friday
Shaharit 6:30 am

TALMUD TORAH CLASSES

Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 pm

EREV SHABBAT**PARASHAT PEKUDEI**

Friday, March 4th
Minhah & Arbit 5:20 pm
Candle Lighting 5:33 pm

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kind of wisdom, not merely a high I.Q. God appointed those who had an aesthetic sense, who were receptive and imaginative, whose hearts were in tune with the history and destiny of their people. God gave wisdom--and gives wisdom--to those who are receptive to receiving wisdom in this special way. Those who lack "wise hearts" are simply not receptive to this wisdom.

This quality of having a "wise heart" is vital to the wellbeing of every society, and certainly of every sacred endeavor. It is a repudiation of ego-tism and an affirmation of loyalty to the greater glory of God. It is a sensitivity to the historical context of the people, and a commitment for organic development. It is a rejection of the quick-fix attitude that cares more for self-gratification than for the greater good of the society.

Let us pray that we be worthy of having a wise heart, so that we and our children, and our children's children, will all be faithful to God and true to the Torah and Jewish traditions.

This article is courtesy of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals. Visit them at jewishideas.org

Summary of Parashat Vayakhel

Kohen - First Aliya

Moshe gathers the People to instruct them concerning the building of the Mishkan. He begins with a warning to keep Shabbat (even while being involved in the holy tasks of the Mishkan). The different types of materials are named. It is clear that donations are encouraged, but completely voluntary. Then each part of the Mishkan and its furnishings are mentioned in detail. After the people hear what Moshe says, they leave to start work.

Levi - Second Aliya

Many people are moved to give generously in response to Moshe's appeal. In addition to donations, men, and more so women, donate their talents in weaving, dyeing, woodwork, metalwork, etc. Repeated reference is made to the hearts of the people being in what they do. This is a genuine positive response to G-d's and Moshe's call to build the Mishkan. The leaders of the Tribes supply the precious stones for the shoulder-pieces and breastplate of the Kohen Gadol, and spices and oil for the Incense and the Anointing oil.

Shlishi - Third Aliya

Moshe tells the people that G-d has designated Bezalel (from Yehuda) and Ohaliav (from Dan) as the chief artisans of the Mishkan. They have been Divinely inspired with intelligence, insight, and the skills necessary for the intricate tasks ahead. They and those working with them

supervise the collection of materials and inform Moshe that they have more than enough material. Moshe "gives out the word" that the people should cease their donations. Bezalel's great grandmother is Miriam.

R'vi'i - Fourth Aliya

When G-d first commanded Moshe about the Mishkan, He described the making of the Aron, Shulchan, and Menora. Then, the roofing layers - the Mishkan, the Ohel, and the Orot. Only then were the wall boards and foundation sockets brought into the picture. In the carrying out of the commands, a more "practical" plan is followed: the structure and then the furnishings. In this portion, the three layers of ceiling are presented. Note that the first layer is a beautiful, multicolored weave and the fasteners were gold. Over that comes the more practical, weather-resistant Ohel of goat hair. This layer is not seen from inside the Mishkan. The Tachash and Red-dyed sheep skin covering are on top.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya

Next the Torah describes the construction of the wall-planks of the Mishkan from acacia wood. There are 48 planks - 20 each on the north and south, and 8 on the west wall. Each plank is covered with gold. and inserted into two foundation sockets. The Parochet curtain separates the Kodesh area with the menorah, incense altar, and shulchan (table for



bread) from the Kodesh Ha'Kodashim, the Holy of Holies. After the structure is completed, the Aron and the Shulchan are made.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya

Next comes the Golden Menora. With the exception of the oil cups, everything else - the branches, decorative orbs, cups, flowers - was hammered from one piece of gold. Then, the Golden Altar (also known as the Incense Altar or Inner Altar) is described. After this altar, or Mizbei'ach, is made, the Anointing Oil and Incense are compounded.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya

The External Altar (also known as the Copper Altar or Earth Altar, because it was filled with earth when the camp was not travelling) is described. Almost all korbanot, or offerings, were brought on this Mizbei'ach. It was considerably larger than the Golden Altar. The final vessel described is the Washing Basin and its Stand. It was made of copper. Tradition tells us that the copper came from the mirrors of the Israelite women. Finally, the courtyard surrounding the mishkan and its enclosure is described.

Shabbat Shalom

In Memoriam

It is customary to light a memorial candle in the evening and to donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones.

Sunday / 23 Adar I

Eliyahu ben Salim Kattan
Bernard Yonatan ben Mishael
Elisha ben Nassim Nawy

Tuesday / 25 Adar I

Rivka bat Sarah Hannah

Wednesday / 26 Adar I

Moshe ben Shlomo Noah*
Yaghoub Partiyeli

Thursday / 27 Adar I

Kitty Bar
Eliyahu Hayim ben Meir Yehuda*

Shabbat / 29 Adar I

Tefara bat Ezra

*To update, please call the office
at 310.474.0559.*

Refuah Shlemah

Yonatan ben Alizah ▪ Mazal Tov bat Sulha Mitana ▪ Matilda Louisa ▪ Yaheskel ben Regina ▪ Ayala bat Naomi ▪ Khayah Noa bat Sara ▪ Haim ben Mordechai ▪ Pnina bat Esther ▪ Yosi ben Esther ▪ Victor ben Latif ▪ Ramah Regina bat Farha ▪ Aziza bat Sara Judith bat Malka ▪ Ofek ben Yochai ▪ Efrayim Zev ben Fayga ▪ Sulha Matana bat Mozelle ▪ Gershon ben David ▪ Farangis Miriam bat Touran ▪ David ben Leah ▪ Avraham Haim ben Miryam ▪ Yaakov ben Freda

Learn to Chant The Haftarah

Wouldn't you like to chant the final portion from the Torah on Shabbat—the portion known as the Haftarah? Reserve a Haftarah reading by calling Sarah in our office at 310.474. 0559. The Haftarah portion can be dedicated in honor of a family event such as a memorial, a bar/bat mitzvah, or a baby-naming. Then, schedule time with Haz-zan Saeed Jalali & learn the authentic Baghdadi ta'amim, Iraqi melodies for singing from the Torah & Tanakh.

Community News

THANK YOU

Rabbi Hagay and Orly Batzri

for planning and leading
last weekend's events and
the visit of Rabbi Ashlag

Rabbi Ashlag inspired and com-
forted our community with his
knowledge, spirit and blessings

WELCOME

Rabbi Moshe Tessone
Kahal Joseph Congregation
Scholar-in-Residence

Program of Events

**The Mishkan: Reaching G-d
through Prayer* with R. Tessone
during Shabbat morning services

Shabbat Lunch and Learn

**Leadership in the Torah: Who are
Today's Leaders*—after services

**Dvar Torah* with R. Tessone
during Seudah Shlisheet

Women's Tehillim Reading on Mondays

Join Rabbanit Orly Batzri on Monday mornings at 11:30 to read Tehillim, pray and hear a Dvar Torah. A number of individuals in our community are combating illness and need our immediate prayers to support them in their recovery. If you are able to participate contact Orly at orlybatzri@gmail.com. Bring a friend and do a big mitzvah. Ten women minimum are needed.

CONDOLENCES

to our dear member and friend
Joe Samuels and his family

on the loss of his brother
Eliyahu Sasson Samuel, z"l

who passed away last week in
Israel. Shiva is private.

*May Hashem comfort the family
together with all the mourners of Tzion*

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For information contact Dafna at
dafna@kahaljoseph.org or
Joe Samuels at sabajo@aol.com

SHABBAT MITZVOT

We offer for donation the following Mitzvot.

1. *Petichat Hechal* opening of the ark;
2. *Carrying of the Sefer Torah & Sefer Haftara*;
3. *Hakamat Sefer* lifting of the Torah;
4. *Mashlim** The seventh aliya to the Torah who recites Kaddish;
5. *Maftir** The last aliya to the Torah which includes the Haftara (read by the clergy unless member reading is preapproved). We suggest a minimum donation of \$126 or multiples of \$18 or \$26. You will receive confirmation before Shabbat to confirm if you will receive the aliya. Members may reserve in advance by calling the office. Non-members reserving aliya should contact the office for availability at 310.474.0559. We appreciate your support.

Purim



Baking for Community Gift Baskets



Sunday, March 13th

Starting at **10:00 am**

Do a Mitzvah—or Two!

Give a few hours and have some fun baking treats for Kahal Joseph's beautiful Purim gift baskets. We personally deliver these cheery baskets to many appreciative members of our community. Donations in support of the Purim Baskets mitzvah project are welcomed. Please send your check to:

**Kahal Joseph Congregation—Purim Baskets
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A. CA 90025.**

For more information
call the office at
310.474.0559 or e-mail
ydabby@sbcglobal.net.



Purim Sameah! ♦♦♦ Happy Purim!
