

א שטיקל תורה A LITTLE SLICE OF TORAH

פון פרשת דער וואָך FROM THE WEEKLY PORTION

March 16, 2024



פֿרוּך אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלֶּךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוֵּנוּ לַעֲסוֹק בְּדַבְּרֵי תוֹרָה:

"Tachometer Torah"



...read down to the red line

Parashat-haShavu'a Stats

Weekly Portion: P'qudei

Consists of: Exodus 38:21-40:38

Sequence—

in annual Torah cycle: 23rd of 54

in Exodus: 11th of 11

- A Salient Selection from the Portion -

Exodus 38:21-39:1

Context: *Exodus, second of the Five Books of the Torah, is an account of how God liberated the Israelites from Egypt and entered into a Covenant with us at Mount Sinai, and a record of the legislations they undertook for the conduct of the society they were to establish in the Promised Land.*

Content: *This week's portion concludes the Book of Exodus with a description of God taking up Residence in the recently completed Mishkan. But that narrative is opened with an audit of the materials contributed by the Israelites for this great project.*

38:21] - These are **the accountings** [of the materials contributed for] The *Mishkan*— the *Mishkan* of Testimony— **which audit was carried out at the order of Moses** as the task of the Levites under the direction of Itamar, son of Aaron the High Priest.

38:22] - Now B'tzalEil son of Uri son of Chur, from the Tribe of Judah had made all which The Eternal One instructed Moses, [38:23] - and with him OholiAv son of AchiSamach, from the Tribe of Dan, implementing all the designs in manufacturing and in and weaving [wool dyed] sky-blue and purple and crimson, and in linen. ¶ **same paragraph continues**

38:24] - **All the gold** used in the production of all the holy things: all the gold donated **was 29 kikar** [of 3,000 sh'qalim = 75 pounds] **plus 730 sh'qalim**, by the Sanctuary *sheqel*.

אלה פְּקוּדֵי הַמִּשְׁכָּן מִשְׁכַּן הָעֵדֻת
אֲשֶׁר פָּקַד עַל פִּי מֹשֶׁה עֲבַדְת
הַלְוִיִּם בֶּיַד אִיתָמָר בֶּן אֶהֱרֹן הַכֹּהֵן

וּבְצִלְאֵל בֶּן אוּרִי בֶן חוּר לְמִטָּה
יְהוּדָה עָשָׂה אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה
אֶת מֹשֶׁה וְאֶתוֹ אֶהֱלִיאָב בֶּן
אַחִיסַמֶּךְ לְמִטָּה דָן חָרָשׁ וְחֹשֶׁב
וְרָקִים בִּתְכֵלֶת וּבְאַרְגָּמָן וּבְתוֹלַעַת
הַשָּׁנִי וּבַשֵּׁשׁ

כָּל הַזָּהָב הָעָשׂוּי לַמִּלְאכָה בְּכָל
מִלְאכַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ וַיְהִי זָהָב הַתְּנוּפָה
תִּשְׁעַ וְעֶשְׂרִים כֶּכָר וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת
וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שֶׁקֶל בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ

- more over

38:25] - As for the silver from **the census of the community**, it was 100 *kikar* plus an additional 1,775 *sh'qalim* by the Sanctuary *sheqel*, [38:26] - a “split” a head from the half-*sheqel* (by the Sanctuary *sheqel*) collected from each of the 603,550 men over age twenty enrolled in the census, [38:27] - of which the hundred *kikar* were used to make the [one hundred] sacred post-sockets (one *kikar* for each socket), [38:28] - while the 1,775 *sh'qalim* were used to make the mounting hooks cast for their caps.

38:29] - **And the bronze from the contributions** came to 70 *kikar* plus 2,400 *sh'qalim*, [38:30] - with which they made the support posts for the doorway of the Tent of Meeting; the brass sacrificial altar, as well as the grid surmounting it; and all the accessories of the Altar, [38:31] - as well as the ferrules for the posts supporting the courtyard ‘round about and the gateway, as well as all the pegs securing the *Mishkan* and the courtyard ‘round about. ¶ **same paragraph continues**

39:1] - While from the [wool dyed in] sky-blue and purple and crimson they made the service vestments for the working priests, as well as the sacred vestments for the High Priest Aaron, all in accord with what The Eternal One had instructed Moses.

וְכֶסֶף פְּקוּדֵי הָעֵדָה מֵאֵת כָּכָר
וְאֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת וַחֲמִשָּׁה וּשְׁבַע
שָׁקֶל בְּשָׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ בָּקַע לְגִלְגֻּלַּת
מִחֲצִית הַשָּׁקֶל בְּשָׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ לְכָל
הָעֵבֶר עַל הַפְּקָדִים מִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים
שָׁנָה וּמַעְלָה לָשֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף
וּשְׁלֹשֶׁת אֲלָפִים וַחֲמִשָּׁה מֵאוֹת
וַחֲמִשִּׁים וַיְהִי מֵאֵת כָּכָר הַכֶּסֶף
לַצָּקֶת אֶת אֲדֹנֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶת אֲדֹנֵי
הַפָּרֶכֶת מֵאֵת אֲדֹנִים לְמֵאֵת הַכָּכָר
כָּכָר לְאֶדָן וְאֶת הָאֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע
הַמֵּאוֹת וַחֲמִשָּׁה וּשְׁבַע עֶשְׂרֵי וָיוֹם
לַעֲמוּדִים וְצִפָּה רָאשֵׁיהֶם וַחֲשֵׁק
אֹתָם

וַנְּחַשֵּׁת הַתְּנוּפָה שְׁבַע עֶשְׂרִים כָּכָר
וְאֲלָפִים וְאַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁקֶל וַיַּעַשׂ
בָּהּ אֶת אֲדֹנֵי פֶתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְאֶת
מִזְבֵּחַ הַנְּחֹשֶׁת וְאֶת מִכְבַּר הַנְּחֹשֶׁת
אֲשֶׁר לוֹ וְאֶת כָּל כְּלֵי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת
אֲדֹנֵי הַחֹצֵר סָבִיב וְאֶת אֲדֹנֵי שַׁעַר
הַחֹצֵר וְאֶת כָּל יִתְדֵת הַמִּשְׁכָּן וְאֶת
כָּל יִתְדֵת הַחֹצֵר סָבִיב ט

וּמִן הַתְּכֵלֶת וְהָאַרְגָּמָן וְתוֹלַעַת
הַשָּׁנִי עָשׂוּ בְּגָדֵי שָׂרָד לְשָׂרֵת בִּקְדָּשׁ
וַיַּעַשׂוּ אֶת בְּגָדֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר לְאַהֲרֹן
כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת מֹשֶׁה

Quantification #1) how much does a *sheqel* weigh?

Sumerian and Old Babylonian -

1 𒊕𒍪 *shey* “barleycorn”
[= 65 milligrams]

1 𒊕𒍪𒍪 *shiklu* “weight”
= 180 *shey*

1 *shiklu* = (180 x 65) mg
= 11,700 mg
= 11.7 grams

- continued



stone commercial weights

Egyptian ►
deben “ring” of 12 grams

◀ Babylonian
shiqu “weight” of 11.7 grams



Canaanite/Israelite -

$$1 \text{ sheqel} = 11.3 \text{ grams}$$

$$1 \text{ pound} = 453.6 \text{ grams}$$

$$\therefore 1 \text{ sheqel} = 1/40 \text{ pound}$$

stone commercial weights
Israel, 8th century BCE



marked “1 Sh”
11.3 grams

marked “8 Sh”
90.7 grams

Quantification #2) how many *sh'qalim* in a *kikar*?

Exodus 38:25-26 - The silver accounted for— 100 *kikar*, plus an additional 1,775 *sh'qalim*— came from the half-sheqel collected from each of the 603,550 men over age twenty registered in the census.

$$1) \quad 100 \text{ כֶּכָר} + 1,775 \text{ שֶׁקֶל} = (603,550 / 2) \text{ שֶׁקֶל}$$

$$2) \quad 100 \text{ כֶּכָר} + 1,775 \text{ שֶׁקֶל} = 301,775 \text{ שֶׁקֶל}$$

$$3) \quad 100 \text{ כֶּכָר} = 300,000 \text{ שֶׁקֶל}$$

$$4) \quad 1 \text{ כֶּכָר} = 3,000 \text{ שֶׁקֶל}$$

$$3000 / 40 = 75 \text{ pounds}$$

Quantification #3) what's the cash value of the audited donations?

metal	troy ounce	per sheqel	per kikar	total donations and value	
gold	\$1,950	\$585	\$1,755,000	7,544 lb.	\$51,322,050
silver	\$22.50	\$6.75	\$67,500	2,193 lb.	\$6,761,980
brass	\$1.84/lb	\$.046	\$165	5,250 lb.	\$9,660
* bronze	\$2.35/lb	\$.058	\$165	“ “	\$12,338
copper	\$3.10/lb	\$.078	\$233	“ “	\$16,275
Total contribution (metals alone):				14,987 lb. ≈ 7.5 tons	\$58,093,690 \$58,109,965

- more over

Quantification 4) what's the mean donation?

requested metal	silver	gold	brass	all
donor base	603,550	603,550	603,550	603,550
donated				
- kikar	100	29	70	200
- sh'qalim	1,775	730	2,400	1,905
total sh'qalim	301,775	87,730	212,400	601,905
sh'qalim apiece	.500	.145	.352	.997

Benchmark: 100%

mandated obligatory offering
Exodus 30:15 - "the rich may not
give more, nor the poor less,
than the half-shekel of silver."

<p>Qualifier: A) <u>Exodus 25:2</u> -</p> <p>מֵאֵת כָּל אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִדְבְּנוּ לָבוֹ</p> <p>From any individual whose heart so prompts them</p> <p>תִּקְחוּ אֶת-תְּרוֹמָתִי are you to accept My offerings.</p>	<p>Response: B) <u>Exodus 35: 21-</u></p> <p>וַיָּבֹאוּ כָּל אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁאָו לָבוֹ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר נָדְבָה רוּחוֹ אֹתוֹ</p> <p>but all those whose heart so prompted them, and all whose spirits moved them to do so, came back,</p> <p>הֵבִיאוּ אֶת-תְּרוֹמַת יְהוָה לְמַלְאכַת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּלְכָל-עֲבֹדָתוֹ וּלְבִגְדֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ</p> <p>bringing the offerings of The Eternal One for the manufacture of the Tent of Meeting and for all its accessory components and for the sacred vestments.</p>	<p>Extent: C) <u>Exodus 36:6-7</u> -</p> <p>וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה וַיַּעֲבִירוּ קוֹל בְּמַחֲנֶה לֵאמֹר אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה אֶל יַעֲשׂוּ מְלָאכָה לְתַרוּמַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ</p> <p>Then Moses instructed that heralds were to be sent throughout the camp, proclaiming: "Let no man or woman bring any more material as sacred offerings!"</p> <p>וַיִּכְלָא הָעָם מִהֵבִיא וְהַמְּלָאכָה הֵיטָה דִּים לְכָל הַמְּלָאכָה לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתָהּ וְהוֹתֵר</p> <p>So the people left off bringing it, for the material submitted was sufficient for the tasks to be done with them, and then some.</p>
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D) II Kings 11:15 -

וַיִּצְוֵהוּ יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן אֶת-שָׂרֵי הַמַּאֲוֹת **פְּקֻדֵי** הַחֵיָל

Then the High Priest Y'hoYada' gave instructions to the company commanders **charged with responsibility for the army**...

written **פְּקֻדֵי** - "deficient" חסר

vowel קבוץ qubutz

written **פְּקֻדֵי** - "plene/full" מלא

vowel שורוק shuruq

אלה **פְּקֻדֵי** - מלא ויין

E) Jacob ben-Asher (1269-1343), *Ba'al haTurim* on Exodus 38:21 - "These are **the accountings**" - [the "u" vowel in **p'qudei** is written] "full," using a **vav** [which letter has the numerical value of six],

שפקד לכל ו' מאות אלף שלא יחשדוהו
שלקח מן הכסף

to emphasize that **Moses had accounted for the offerings from all six hundred thousand** [of the men registered in the census], in order that none should have reason to suspect that he had appropriated any of their silver for himself.

Exodus 12:37 -

וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִרַעְמֶסֶס
כִּשְׁשׁ מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף רַגְלֵי הַגִּבֹּרִים

The number of Israelites who departed from Ra'amses was some **six hundred thousand** men.

ששים ריבוא

...**sixty** myriads [of ten thousand]...

איש אמונות זה משה שנעשה גזבר על מלאכת המשכן

F) Midrash Exodus Rabbah 51:1 - Moses was a trustworthy man, which is why he was made treasurer for the production of the *Mishkan*.

שנו רבותינו אין ממנין שררה על הצבור בממון פחות משנים

Our sages of the Mishnah have taught that one does not allow the resources of the community to be accounted for **by less than two people**.

והרי אתה מוצא שהיה משה גזבר לעצמו

Now, on the one hand you find that Moses appointed himself as treasurer—

וכאן אתה אומר אין ממנין פחות מב'

yet now you say that no less than two must do the counting!

אלא אע"פ שהיה משה גזבר לעצמו הוא קורא לאחרים ומחשב על ידיהם
שנאמר אלה **פְּקֻדֵי** המשכן

Rather, even though Moses was treasurer himself, **he summoned others, and had the computations done by them**— even as it is said in Scripture "These are **the accountings** of The *Mishkan*."

אשר פקד משה אין כתיב כאן אלא אשר פקד ע"פ משה ביד איתמר

It is not written here "which Moses carried out," but rather "which was carried out **at the order of Moses under the direction of Itamar**."

אלה **פְּקֻדֵי** וגו' - אומרו אלה לפסול כל מנינים שבעולם

- more over

G) Chayim ibn-Attar (1696-1742), *Or haChayim* on Exodus 39:1 - “These are the accountings for [the materials contributed for] The *Mishkan*” etc. – by use of the demonstrative pronoun אלה *eileh* “these,” this text invalidates any other accounting on earth.

כי כל מה שימנה אדם מקנינים המדומים אין מנינו מנין ושמנו מורה עליו מה אתה מונה

For any other thing which a person seeks to determine the value of, is merely illusory, as is the counting thereof; it is merely the name of that item that he is counting,

אבל מנין זה עומד לעולם והטעם להיות מנין המשכן המופלא אשר שכן שם אלהי עולם ה'

But this audit endures forever, the reason being that it is an accounting of the *Mishkan*, which is distinguished by virtue of being the Abode of the Eternal God, The Eternal One.

וכן הוא אומר לעינין המשכן ואלה פקודי המשכן וגו'

H) Tanna d'Bei EliYahu Rabbah 17:4 - It is thus that God declares in Scripture “These are the accountings of The *Mishkan*, the *Mishkan* of Testimony,”

באהבה שהוא אוהב אותם ובשמחה שהוא שמח בהם הוא עצמו משבח את שמו הגדול לפניהם

[bearing witness that] **out of His love for them and the joy that He takes in them**, He, Himself, exalts His Own great Name in their presence.

שנאמר צאינה וראינה בנות ציון וגו'

Even so is it written: “**Come forth and see**, O daughters of Zion, [the glory of King Solomon wearing the crown of glory his mother bestowed upon him” - Song of Songs 3:11].

בנים מצויינים במלך שלמה במלך מלכי המלכים הקב"ה שהשלום שלו

The children were thereby given the distinction of being summoned to bear witness to the glorious presence of King Solomon[, a monarch of flesh-and-blood. But how much more so is it a distinction to be summoned to dwell in proximity to] the King over the kings—The Holy And Blessed One, to Whom peace belongs!