

Vayakhel

“and he assembled”

ויקהל



Then Moshe assembled all the congregation of the Children of Yisra'el together, and said to them, “These are the words which the LORD has commanded you to do.”

Exodus 35:1

First Pray

Father God,

We thank You for giving us all that we need to worship You. Please help us understand that You alone can redeem us. You alone provide the Way from destruction to new life with You. Please give us a desire to honor You and seek to serve You with the gifts You have given us.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

Exodus 35:1-38:20

At creation God made a distinction between the darkness and the light. Do you know that God is love and God is light? God created us so that He could bless us with His love and in return we could reflect His glory, or light.

God required that the first man and woman reflect His light and demonstrate their love for Him by choosing to obey Him. When we choose to obey God, we demonstrate our love for Him and He empowers us to be a blessing to others. This choice reflects the light of God because He created man in order to bless Him.

God is good all the time, and He never does evil! The first man and woman God created could only reflect the light of God if they chose to be like Him, doing no evil. Anytime we do what God commands us **not** to do or we do not do what He commands us to

do, we are doing evil, making us unable to reflect His light!

God's greatest desire is to bless us; therefore, everything He created was for this purpose. God created everything that was needed for man to have abundant life and the freedom to worship Him! God gave man the ability to choose whether he would worship Him by obeying Him. If the first man and woman had chosen to reflect the glory of God by doing no evil, they and their children would have been blessed by God, living forever freely worshiping Him.

Unfortunately, the first man and woman chose to know and do evil by disobeying the one restriction God gave them, eating from the tree God commanded them **not** to eat. From that time forward every human has known evil by doing evil. This knowledge has resulted in physical death for all humanity, just as God said it would. It has put man in bondage, being unable to reflect God's light or worship Him freely. However, all these things did not stop God's great love for us! Nothing can stop the love of God because God is Love! Instead, God put His plan for redemption in place, and at that time He accepted the blood, or death, of innocent animals to **cover** the evil of man. This gave man the ability to worship God until he was redeemed by Him. Finally, God accepted the Blood of His Only Begotten Son to **redeem** man, allowing him to once again reflect His light. Because this Blood removes the evil of man, anyone who has faith in its power can freely worship God.

Exodus 35:4-38:20

Do you know that when we serve God according to His instructions we are worshiping Him? This week's Parasha takes place after God redeemed the Children of Yisra'el (Israel) from physical bondage in Egypt by the blood of a lamb for the purpose of worshiping, or serving, Him. When God led the Children of Yisra'el out of Egypt, He commanded them to ask the Egyptians to give them their silver, gold and cloth. By doing this the Israelites plundered the Egyptians, and God provided everything that was needed to build His Tabernacle and all the articles to be used in order to worship and serve Him.

God's judgment of evil must occur before man can be redeemed and set free to worship Him. There is nothing man can do to restore what was lost when he chose not to reflect God's light by disobeying Him. It is only by God's grace that man can be restored to his Kingdom purpose. It is only by God's grace that man can receive all which is required to worship Him. It was through God's grace that He redeemed the Children of Yisra'el from bondage and provided everything they needed to worship and serve Him.

No one can worship God until He redeems them. After God redeems, He provides everything that is required to serve Him. When we understand this truth, it allows us to worship God with a willing, or submissive, heart. After one receives God's grace of redemption, the first act of worship involves making an offering to God from what He has provided. This act of worship demonstrates our understanding that all we are and all we have come from God's grace as an expression of His great love for us.

Read Exodus 35:4-29 and count how many times an offering was brought by all those whose hearts were stirred, or who had a willing heart. I counted six times. How many did you count? In Scripture the number six is related to grace. God created man on the sixth day, and it is only by God's grace that man can be saved through faith and restored to God..

Now, read Exodus 35:30- 36:3, and you will learn that when the Children of Yisra'el brought offerings to God with a willing heart, He blessed certain men among them with His Spirit. He blessed them in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship. He put in their hearts the ability to teach others the skills needed to do the work of the LORD.

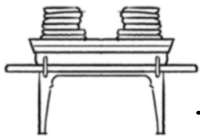
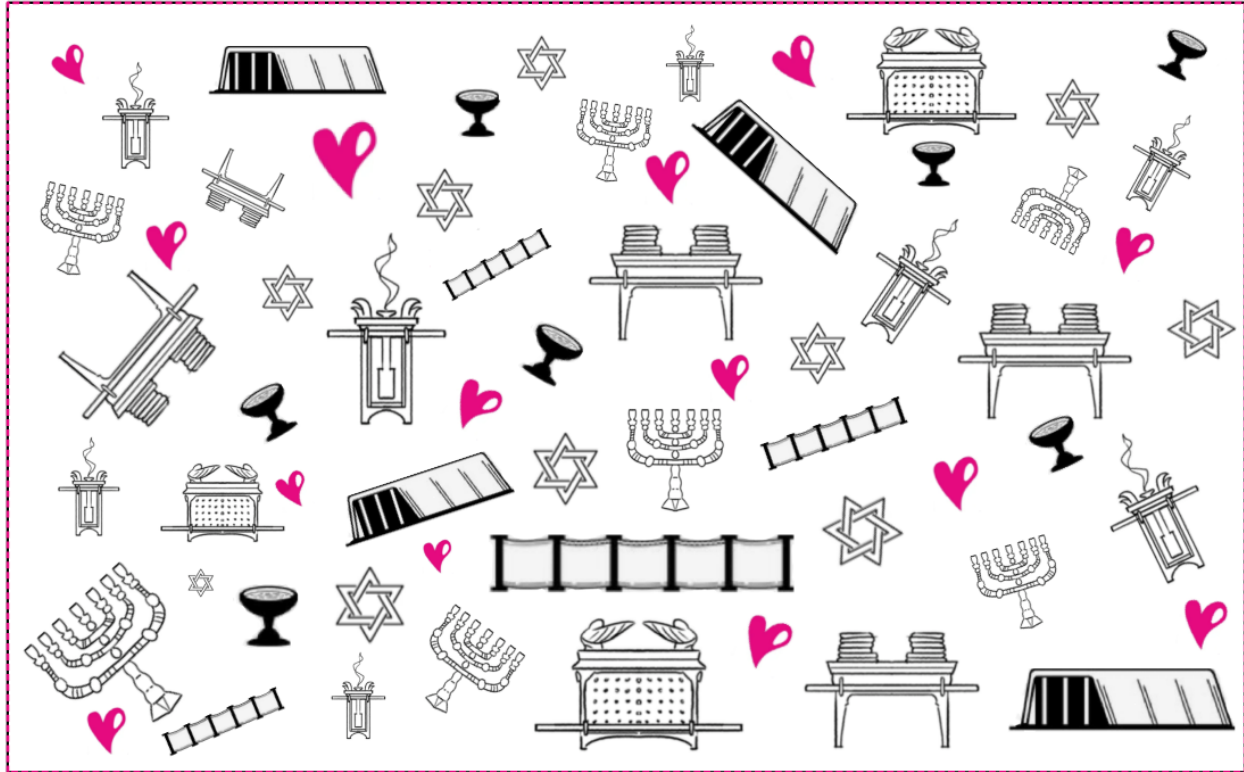
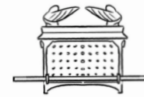
In Exodus 36:4-7 we learn that the people continued to bring free will offerings. It was reported to Moshe by the craftsmen who were doing the work of the sanctuary that the people had already brought more than enough for the work to be completed. When people offer what God has given them with a submissive heart, He blesses their gifts to accomplish His work.

Moshe then gave the command throughout the camp that neither man nor woman do any more work or bring any more offerings for the work of the Sanctuary. He restrained the people from bringing more because with God's blessing the offerings were sufficient for all the work to be done. This teaches us that when one gives back to God from what He has provided with a submissive heart, He blesses our offerings to accomplish His will. Once God's will is accomplished, nothing else is needed or required. It is very important to guard our hearts, making sure we do not attempt to worship God to impress man. When we do this, we are exalting ourselves instead of our Creator and Redeemer.

As we read Exodus 36:8-38:20 we learn that God blessed the free will offerings of the people, allowing them to complete the curtains, boards and veils for the Sanctuary of God just as He commanded them. They completed the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Showbread, the Golden Lampstand and the Altar of Incense to be placed inside the Sanctuary of God. They built the Altar of Burnt Offerings and the Bronze Laver to be placed outside the Tabernacle and within the Court of the Tabernacle that they completed. All these things were completed by the power of God given to each person doing the work, exactly as God commanded. It is very important to understand that it is not possible to serve God in our own power, or strength.



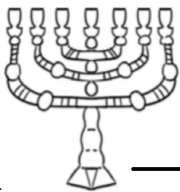
Directions: Count the number of times the Tabernacle and each of its furnishings appear in the box below. Write the correct number in the corresponding oval.



1. _____



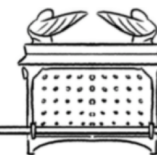
3. _____



2. _____



4. _____



5. _____

Correctly label each image.





Focus Passage of Scripture

Exodus 35:1-4

In Exodus 35:1 we learn that prior to God giving His instruction for the work of the Tabernacle to be done, He commanded Moshe to gather all the congregation of the Children of Yisra'el together. He instructed Moshe to give one very important commandment to His redeemed people. This commandment from God gave a restriction and set a border, or boundary, for His people to stay within. It is similar to the commandment God gave at creation **not** to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because it carries the same penalty if it is ignored. When God's redeemed people obey this commandment, they are able to reflect His glory and experience stable, abundant lives! When God's people obediently submit to His perfect order by obeying this commandment, He gives them right understanding, or a proper perspective! He also supplies them with the strength required to glorify Him as they put the truth of His Word into action through their weekly activities of daily living. Obediently submitting to God's perfect order empowers His people, making it difficult for them to be moved away from the truth of His Word!

In Exodus 35:2 we learn what this boundary set by God is called and when it occurs.

**“Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you,
a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.” Exodus 35:2**

These words from God are very clear and easy to understand. Do you know that man was not created for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath was created for man? God created the seventh day for us to rest in Him! Failure to obey this commandment from God demonstrates rebellion against Him. Rebellion against God is evil and leads to disease, destruction and eternal death.

For six days God worked as He created everything that was created. But on the seventh day He rested from all of His work which He created and made. Even though God created man last, everything He created was with man first in His mind. Therefore, God set a boundary in place for man to stop working on the seventh day for the purpose of spending time with Him. When the people who have been redeemed by God obey His commandment to rest in Him on the weekly Sabbath they are demonstrating to both Him and the world that they love God and desire to worship Him. This makes God very happy!



When God created the weekly Sabbath, or Shabbat, He blessed it! He did not do this for any other day of the week. Since God blessed the weekly Sabbath, it brings spiritual blessing to all who set it apart for His purpose. When we stop our weekly routine on Shabbat, for the purpose of spending time with God, He reveals more of Himself to us! It is a time each week when we can reflect on the previous six days and give thanks to God for loving us and being our strength. We can also give thanks to Him, knowing that no matter what the next six days have in store nothing can separate us from His love! This blessing from God provides us with protection against all forms of evil.



God also sanctified the Sabbath day when He created it! He did not do this for any other day of the week. This means that He set the seventh day of the week apart from all the other days for His purpose, to establish His time schedule. When God sanctifies something by setting it apart for a particular purpose, it should never be used for anything else. Whatever God sets apart, or sanctifies, for His purpose will always exist for His purpose. Although it can be defiled, it cannot be changed. In other words His purpose for setting the Sabbath apart will never change. It remains the same from its beginning throughout all history to the present day, and it will remain the same forever. Because this is true about the seventh day, one can say that Shabbat has a Kingdom purpose, or a connection to eternity.

In Exodus 35:3 we learn that in addition to **not** working on the Shabbat God commands His redeemed people **not** to start a fire in their homes or the places they live on Shabbat.

“You shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations on the Sabbath day.” Exodus 35:3

Fire consumes or destroys. Perhaps God commanded His redeemed people **not** to start a fire on Shabbat to remind them that the Shabbat is meant to restore man to God, allowing Him to agree with God and reflect His light. God will use fire to judge the world before He creates the New Heaven and New Earth. Shabbat is our gift from God each week to reassure us that all those who are redeemed by Him will not experience His judgment, or wrath, but will be restored to His purpose for us at the time of creation.

Directions: Place a “T” for true or an “F” for false in the blank before each statement below.

1. _____ God commanded His people to rest on Sunday, the first day of each week.
2. _____ If God’s people rest in Him on Shabbat, He reveals more of Himself to them.
3. _____ Man was made for Shabbat.
4. _____ When we choose to disobey God, we are rebelling against Him
5. _____ God blessed everyday of the week.
6. _____ God sanctified the seventh day of the week by setting it apart for His Kingdom purposes.



Haftarah

1 Kings 7:13-26, 40-50

Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule
of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right
and called its name Yakin,
and he set up the pillar on the left
and called its name Boaz.

1 Kings 7:21



In the fourth year of King Shlomo's (Solomon) reign over Yisra'el (Israel), in the month of Ziv which is the second month of the year, the construction for the Temple of God in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) began. It had been 480 years since God redeemed the children of Yisra'el from the land of Egypt, and although King David longed to build the Temple of God, he was not able because there was war on every side of Yisra'el during his reign. The foundation for the Temple was completed in the month of Bul, which is the eight month of the year. Seven years later, the Temple of God was finished along with its courts, and dedicated to the worship of God on the Temple Mount in Yerushalayim. God's Holy Presence dwelt in the Most Holy Place of the Temple above the Mercy Seat, which covered the Ark of the Covenant just as it had in the Tabernacle.

God had given Shlomo's father, King David, success against the enemies of Yisra'el, and she was enjoying a time a peace on every border. King Hiram of Tyre, which was on the northern border of Yisra'el, had always loved and supported King David. King Hiram was a friend to Yisra'el. He sent his servants to King Shlomo when he heard that he had been anointed king over Yisra'el. He was happy to cooperate with King Shlomo and eager to help him achieve God's will for His Temple to be built. King Hiram agreed to cut down cedar and cypress trees from Lebanon to be used in building the Temple. He rejoiced and praised God for anointing such a wise man like Shlomo to rule over the great people of Yisra'el.

Once the Temple was completed, King Shlomo sent for a man from Tyre, named Hiram, to come and do all of the bronze work needed for the Temple of God. Hiram was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a gentile from Tyre. Hiram was filled with wisdom, understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work.

King Shlomo commissioned Hiram to cast two huge elaborately adorned pillars of bronze, each approximately 6 feet wide and 27 feet tall! Shlomo set the pillars on either side of the entrance to the vestibule of the Temple. The pillar on the right he named Yakin, and the pillar he set on the left he named Boaz. The Hebrew name Yakin means “He will establish”, and the Hebrew name Boaz means “In Him is strength.”

The names King Shlomo gave these two enormous pillars can remind us that it is only by God’s grace that one can be redeemed and set free to worship Him. The pillar named Yakin reminds us that God will establish anyone who trusts in His provision for redemption. The one who is redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb of God will be sanctified, or set apart, for life in the coming Kingdom of God where he will reflect the light of God forever.

The pillar named Boaz can remind us that man has no strength or ability to save himself from the coming judgment of God, nor can he accomplish anything worthy of serving, or worshiping, God in his own power. Only in God can one find strength and ability. Understanding that all we are and all we have come from God equips us to worship Him with a willing heart.

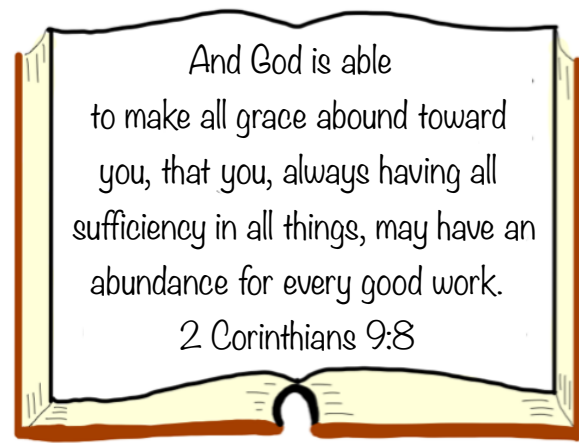
Hiram also made the Sea of cast bronze which was completely round. It was 7 and 1/2 feet high and 15 feet wide. It stood on twelve bronze oxen with their back parts pointed inward, with three looking in each direction, north, west, south and east. The Sea, or Molten Sea, held two thousand baths of water! Its enormous size was upheld by twelve oxen. Three faced each of the four directions of the earth, reminding us of God’s abundant ability to cleanse us so that we can serve Him with strength and power throughout the world! Remember, the number twelve in Scripture relates to the people of God and the number four relates to the world.

Hiram successfully finished doing all the work that he was commissioned to do for the house of the LORD including the two pillars, the two bowl shaped capitals on top of the pillars, the two networks covering the two capitals, four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, ten carts and ten lavers on the carts, one Sea and twelve oxen under the Sea and all the pots, shelves and bowls. Due to their unmeasurable number, the articles were not weighed by King Shlomo. All these articles which Hiram made for King Shlomo combined with the articles of gold made for the House of the LORD completed the work needed for worship to begin. When we follow the order of God and submissively offer ourselves to serve Him, He equips us to complete His work. The work God completes through His submissive servants has unmeasurable power to bless others, allowing them to reflect the light of God. Reflecting the glory of God is His Kingdom purpose for His redeemed people.



New Testament

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

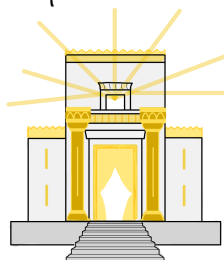


In this week's New Testament passage of Scripture we learn what the Apostle Paul wrote to the congregation who lived in Corinth. Paul had confidence that this congregation of believers was committed to generously give and involve themselves in the lives of others for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. In his letter he stated that he was aware of their intentions to bless others in Achaia by their preparations made the year before. He stated that their zeal and generosity to share what they had been given from God with others was contagious and inspired others to worship and serve God in the same manner.

Paul explained that he sent brethren to them to make sure they were once again prepared to bless others because he had been boasting about their work and he wanted to make sure he had not boasted in vain, or in error. Paul wanted to make sure they were still willing to help others in need with a submissive heart and not out of grudging obligation or the expectation of men. He reminded them that the one who gives bountifully, or abundantly, indicating they are giving with a willing heart will receive abundantly from the grace of God. Not only will he be blessed with joy, but God will extend grace allowing his offering to cause others to give thanks and worship to God. In other words God will empower His servant who gives his offering with a willing heart to accomplish all He intends it to accomplish. But the one who gives sparingly due to a lack of generosity and understanding of this truth will reap sparingly because they are giving according to their determination.

Paul reminded them that God loves a cheerful giver! When one of His servants gives generously with the correct understanding, He holds nothing back! God is able and will pour out all His grace to meet every need. It pleases God to accomplish His good work for His Kingdom through the servant who reflects His love to others. When a person freely gives in service to God, he demonstrates the understanding that all he is and all he has is a gift received from God by His grace. He is motivated to look for opportunities to give to the poor and those in need, knowing that this righteousness will produce an outcome that will endure forever.

Generosity encourages others to give thanks to God! God is pleased when His servants get involved in the life of other people, because this spreads the knowledge and power of God in the world. It demonstrates the glory of God to others. This allows us to do what God created everyone to see!



~ Recap Review Fun ~

Directions: Fill in the blank.

1. God is _____.
2. God is _____.
3. God _____ us so that He could bless us with His love.
4. God created us with the purpose of _____ His love and light.
5. To reflect God's love and light one must _____ to obey Him.
6. To demonstrate our love for God we must _____ His commandments.
7. When we obey God's commandments, we are able to _____ Him.
8. When we disobey God, we are doing _____.
9. Because God never does evil He must always _____ evil.
10. Once God judges evil, He is comforted, and extends His _____ to restore us to His perfect order.
11. No one can worship God unless they have been _____ by Him.
12. Understanding that all we are and have come from the Grace of God allows us to worship Him with a _____ heart.
13. When we worship God with a _____ heart, His grace is extended to us, allowing us to reflect His light.
14. God loves a _____ giver!
15. When God's redeemed people serve Him by _____ giving to others, He holds nothing back!
16. God will pour out all His grace to meet every need when His servants follow His perfect _____.

Word Bank

Generously Grace
Order Submissive
Created Cheerful
Redeemed Evil
Willing Love
Obey Reflecting
Serve Light
Choose Judge



