

Knesset Israel

Your Beverlywood Shul

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Parshat Terumah

By Rabbi Avraham Schefres

וַיֹּאמֶר יְיָ אֶל מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל אֶלְיָשָׁר בְּנוֹתָי בְּתוֹכָם, "They shall make me a sanctuary so that I can dwell among them" (*Shemot* 25:8). The *parsha* of *Terumah* talks about the building of the *Mishkan*, Tabernacle, which was the portable Temple that accompanied *Bnei Yisrael* through the desert. The rest of the book of *Shemot* and the entire book of *Vayikrah* is almost exclusively about the construction of the *Mishkan*, its vessels, and the order of the sacrifices offered there. Why so many *parshiot* to cover the *Mishkan*?

Receiving the Torah is not the final goal Hashem hopes to achieve in our world. The final achievement of Hashem has to do with why the world was created. There are different reasons given for Hashem creating the world. The Netziv (Naftali Zvi Yehuda Berlin, 1816 - 1893), for one, writes in his *hakdamah* (introduction) to *Sefer Shemot* and in his commentary to *Sefer Bamidbar* (*Ha'amek Davar* to *Bamidbar* 14:21) that the goal of creation is that Hashem's glory fill the entire earth, meaning that all human beings recognize Him. Another reason that seems to be in line with the Netziv's explanation is that Hashem "longed to make for Himself a dwelling place in the lower worlds" (*Midrash Tanchuma*, *Naso* 16). If the ultimate goal is Hashem's splendor being recognized by the entire world, then having an address for Hashem can enhance the possibility of the goal being reached. When would we know that this goal is achieved? "When Hashem will be King over the whole world, on that day will He be One and His Name one." (*Zechariah* 14:9) - *Yemot Hamashiach*, the days of *Mashiach*. Building the *Mishkan* is imperative for spreading the knowledge of Hashem to all of humanity. The physical building makes Hashem more tangible and thus the goal more attainable. Since this is the purpose of creation, the number of *parshiot* allotted for the creation of 'Hashem's home,' the *Mishkan*, is necessary.

In ordering the construction of the *Mishkan*, Hashem, in His infinite wisdom, was able to accomplish much more than a beautiful structure. The task of building itself united *Bnei Yisrael* as a community, which was beyond their response of *naase venishmah*. By engaging in the practicalities of building a home for Hashem, *Bnei Yisrael* came together - each contributing their time and/or possessions. Collective action in building the *Mishkan* enabled them to build a sustainable nation; by engaging in common task and goal they became one people.

The *Mishkan* was also a continuance of the revelation at *Har Sinai*. *Har Sinai*, with the utterance of the Ten Commandments, begins our conversation with Hashem while the *Mishkan* marks the continuation of that conversation. Hashem is interested in constant communication and wants us to be close to Him - as a family. In fact, the contents of the *Mishkan* resemble parts of a home. Even the *Misbeach*, Altar, represents the willingness of family to sacrifice for each other. In addition, Hashem is conveying, through the *Mishkan*, the heart of our commitment to

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each other. He orders the ark, which housed the Torah, as the first item to be built. Our bond with Hashem is the Torah. This communication and family affiliation with Hashem, based on Torah, is mirrored by the building and existence of the *Mishkan*.

Today, until the building of the third *Beit Hamikdash*, we have synagogues. They represent the *Mishkan*, a home for Hashem, where we can hone in on our communication and relationship with Him. Every synagogue is unique and the commonality is that each values growth as a means of glorifying Hashem in the world. We, at Knesset Israel, enjoy a family atmosphere in which every member of the family is valued for their unique contribution to our house of Hashem. Members, most often, are honored by being part of the services and learning. We encourage you to join our services on a regular basis, meet our wonderful Rabbi Weiner, and benefit from the beautiful support we have for each other as we continue to build a most comfortable home for Hashem to frequent. See you in shul.

Shabbat Times

Erev Shabbat Feb 12, 2016 / 3 Adar, 5776

Candle Lighting.....4:27 pm to 5:16 pm
Mincha.....5:20 pm

Shabbat Day Feb 13, 2016 / 4 Adar, 5776

Shacharit.....9:00 am
Kiddush.....11:30 am
Mincha.....5:10 pm
Havdalah / Shabbat Ends.....6:18 pm

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday Rabbi Schefres! (Feb 16)

This is a leap year and thus we have Adar Alef (first Adar) and Adar Bet (second Adar). We celebrate Purim in the second Adar. Meanwhile, Adar Alef is upon us and there is an inyan (ting or 'a zach') about being a little joyous during the time of Adar Alef as well. Mishenichnas Adar Marbim Besimcha – so here is a little levity for Adar Alef.

Chinese Jews

Yitzhak and Moshe were eating in a Chinese restaurant.

"Yitzhak," asked Moshe, "Are there any Jews in China?"

"I don't know," Yitzhak replied. "Why don't you ask the waiter? I'd be surprised if there were no Jews in China. Our people are scattered everywhere."

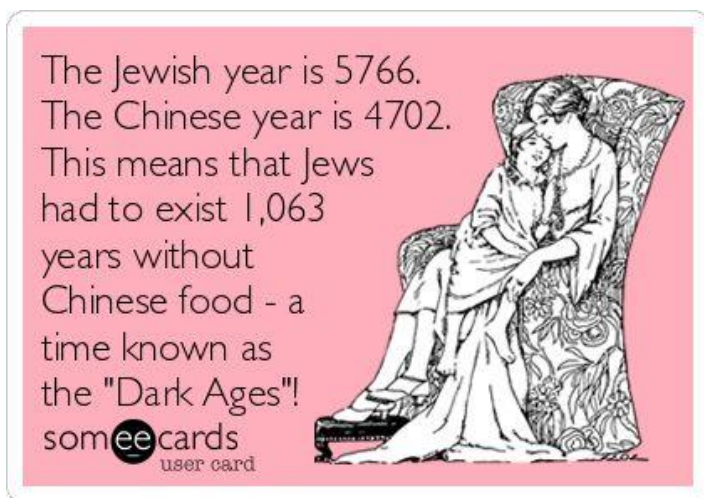
When the waiter came by, Moshe asked, "Are there any Chinese Jews?"

"I don't know sir, let me ask," the waiter replied, and went back to the kitchen.

The waiter returned a few minutes later and said, "No, sir. No Chinese Jews."

"Are you sure?" Moshe asked.

"I ask everyone," the waiter replied. "We have orange Jews, prune Jews, tomato Jews and grape Jews, but no one ever hear of Chinese Jews!"



Question: Why don't people mug Jews on Yom Kippur?
Answer: Dey fast.

First day of school

A proud young mother sees off her son to school on the first day.

"Be a good boy, my boobaleh! Be careful and think of mummy, sweetest! Come right home on the bus, honey! Mummy loves you very much, baby!

At the end of the day, she's waiting for the bus and sweeps him into her arms. "And what did my love learn on his first day at school?"

"I learned that my name is David."

Question: What's the name of a face lotion developed for Jewish women?

Answer: Oil of Oy Vay



The best slalom skier in the world

As you may know, in a slalom race the skier must pass through about 20 gates as quickly as possible. Surprisingly, one year Israel had Avraham, the fastest slalom-skier in the world, and had great expectations for a Winter Olympics gold medal.

The day of the final came, and the crowd waited in anticipation. The French champion sped down the course in 58 seconds. The Swiss was clocked at 58.7 seconds, the German at 61.8 seconds, and the Italian at 61.1 seconds.

Then came the turn of Avraham. The crowd waited, and waited... and then Avraham crossed the line in... three minutes!

"What happened to you?" asked the team coach when Avraham finally got back.

Avraham replied, "Which one of you fixed a mezuzah to each gate?"

A clean tallis

Jacob needs his tallis cleaned, so he takes it to the best dry-cleaner in Pico-Robertson. They tell him to come back in a week. When he returns, they give him the tallis and an invoice for £50.

"Fifty pounds to clean just one small tallis?" Jacob says.

"No," replies the dry cleaner, "Five pounds to clean the tallis, forty-five pounds to take out all those knots!"

The tourist

A Swiss tourist in Tel Aviv is looking for directions and pulls up at a bus stop where two Israelis are waiting.

"Entschuldigung Sie Bitte, koennen Sie Deutsch sprechen?" he says.

The two Israelis just stare at him.

"Excusey-moi, parlez vous Francais?"

The two continue to stare.

"Parlare Italiano?"

No response.

"Hablan ustedes Espanol?"

Still nothing.

The Swiss tourist drives off, extremely disgusted and frustrated. The first Israeli turns to his friend and says, "You know, maybe we should learn a foreign language..."

"Why?" says his friend, "that bloke knew four languages and that didn't do him any good!"