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Shabbat Vayak'hel

March 13, 2010

27 Adar 5770

News

World Jewish-Adventist Advisory

On 15 and 16 March we will held the World Jewish Advisory in Florida with representatives from North America Division, Trans-European Division, South America Division, Inter-America Division, We will miss three Divisions where Jews are living: South Pacific Division (Australia and New-Zealand), Euro-Africa Division (France, Belgium etc.) and Euro-Asia Division (Ukraine and Russia). I hope that we will have good news from these territories and representatives who will share with us what happen there at the next World Advisory in 2012.

Purim Celebration

Last week I published here the news we received from Florida, today I am publishing the news received from David Barzola in Argentina.

"Purim is a festival where God reminds us unconditional loyalty to Israel. Beyond the mistakes of their children, the Lord is always faithful to his people and help in difficult times. On the feast of Purim we celebrate the miracle of life, granted only by mercy.

After the traditional reading of the book of Esther, we talk about the end of time. We are warned about a globally Purim. But just as in the past, the Lord is also manifest. '...The painful moments that God's people lived in times of Ester characterized not only those times.' "... in the same way will be fought the last great conflict in the controversy between truth and error. And do not leave us in doubt about the outcome. Today, as in the days of Esther and Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people.' [P K] 445."



Passover 2010

Passover is coming very soon, the first Seder will be celebrated on Monday March 29. The Feast will be from March 30 to April 6. Passover is the feast of our freedom and many of our congregations will mark the event. Alan Reinach from South California sent us this invitation: Passover is that time of year again! Please join us for our Passover Seder. You know the food is the best, the fellowship is great, and the spiritual food inspiring! What more could you ask for? We also kept the cost the same as last year.

We are especially urged to invite your Jewish friends. This will be a thoroughly enjoyable time for all, and they will be made to feel comfortable

Sunday March 28 at 4:00 P.M. in West Building Pacific Union Conference Office, located

2686 TOWNSGATE ROAD

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CALIFORNIA

COST: \$25.00 per adult; \$12.50 per child, ages 4-12, under 4 are free. Late registration fee: \$5.00 per person, if registration after March 19th. for more information and registration send an email to McDuffie Loritha "parl@puconline.org".



Overview

Two Parashot

From time to time Israel read two parashot on the same week. It is the case this week. These two parashot are Vayak'hel Exodus 35:1-38:20 and Pekudei Exodus 38:21-40:38. By these two parashot we close the reading of the book Exodus.

Vayak'hel

Exodus 35:1-38:20

Moshe Rabbeinu exhorts Bnei Yisrael (children of Israel) to keep Shabbat, and requests donations for the materials for making the Mishkan (sanctuary). He collects gold, silver, precious stones, skins and yarn, as well as incense and olive oil for the menorah (candelabra) and for anointing. The princes of each tribe bring the precious stones for the Kohen Gadol (High Priest)'s breastplate and ephod. G-d appoints Betzalel and Oholiav as the master craftsmen. Bnei Yisrael contribute so much that Moshe begins to refuse donations. Special curtains with two different covers were designed for the Mishkan's roof and door. Gold-covered boards in silver bases were connected, forming the Mishkan's walls. Betzalel made the Holy Ark (which contained the Tablets) from wood covered with gold. On the Ark's cover were two figures facing each other. The menorah and the table with the showbreads were also of gold. Two altars were made a small incense altar of wood overlaid with gold, and a larger altar for sacrifices made of wood covered with copper.

Pekudei

Exodus 38:21-40:38

The Book of Shemot (Exodus) concludes with this Parasha. After finishing all the different parts, vessels and garments used in the Mishkan, Moshe gives a complete accounting and enumeration of all the contributions and of the various clothing and vessels which had been fashioned. Bnei Yisrael bring everything to Moshe.

He inspects the handiwork and notes that everything was made according to G-d's specifications. Moshe blesses the people. G-d speaks to Moshe and tells him that the Mishkan should be set up on the first day of the first month, Nissan. He also tells Moshe the order of assembly for the Mishkan and its vessels. Moshe does everything in the prescribed manner. When the Mishkan is finally complete with every vessel in its place, a cloud descends upon it, indicating that G-d's glory was resting there. Whenever the cloud moved away from the Mishkan, Bnei Yisrael would follow it. At night the cloud was replaced by a pillar of fire.

Purpose of the Sanctuary

The end of the Torah portion describes the erection of the Mishkan: **"And it was in the first month, in the second year, on the first of the month, that the Mishkan was erected. Moshe erected the Mishkan, and he fastened its sockets and set its boards and inserted its bars and erected its pillars. He spread the tent over the Mishkan and set the covering of the tent over it, as God commanded Moshe." (Exodus 40:17-19).**

Rabbi Zvi Belovski said that The Mishkan was intended to be a location where the Divine Presence rested and was more palpable than in any other place in the world. The very name Mishkan means "dwelling place," and, indeed, in introducing the concept of the Mishkan, the Torah proclaims: **Make a sanctuary for Me, and I shall dwell within them. (Exodus 25:8). "I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their G-d," "and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory" (Exodus 29:45, 43).**

In the building of the sanctuary as a dwelling place for G-d, Moses was directed to make all things according to the pattern of things in the heavens. G-d called him into the mount, and revealed to him the heavenly things, and in their similitude the tabernacle, with all that pertained to it, was fashioned.

So to Israel, whom He desired to make His dwelling place, He revealed His glorious ideal of character. The pattern was shown them in the mount when the law was given from Sinai.

But this ideal they were, in themselves, powerless to attain. The revelation at Sinai could only impress them with their need and helplessness. Another

lesson the tabernacle, through its service of sacrifice, was to teach—the lesson of pardon of sin, and power through the future Messiah for obedience unto life. Through Mashiach was to be fulfilled the purpose of which the tabernacle was a symbol—that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains in wrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the Holiest. In all, G-d desired His people to read His purpose for the human soul. It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the shaliach Shaul, speaking by the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit): “Don’t you know that you people are G-d’s temple and that G-d’s Spirit lives in you? So if anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you yourselves are that temple.” 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. [FLB]

Do Things in Their Proper Order

Moshe teaches Betzalel the order of construction of the Mishkan (Portable Sanctuary) starting with the Ark. Betzalel respectfully maintains that first one builds the home, then one makes the furnishings. Moshe replies that Betzalel is correct and the Almighty Himself had thus commanded Moshe, though Moshe conveyed instructions regarding the Ark first because of its primary importance. The Torah praises Betzalel for his intuitive understanding of the Almighty’s will with the verse: “And Betzalel, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Yehudah did all that the Almighty commanded Moshe” (Exodus 38:22).

Rabbi Yeruchem Levovitz comments that we see from here the importance of doing things in their proper order. One always needs to clarify his priorities and to have the organizational skills to do things in their proper order.

This is an important tool for accomplishing anything in life. One needs to know what he must do and then he must have an order of priorities. We will never have enough time to do everything we would like to do. By being aware of the order of importance of what you have to do, you will ensure that you will

effectively accomplish the most possible within the limitations of the time allotted to you.

Each day make a list of the various tasks you need to complete. Then decide on a proper order in which to do them. If you don’t prioritize and don’t set aside the time you won’t accomplish what’s most important in life—Sharing Mashiach Good News with others, spending time with your family, growing as a human being and spiritually, helping others or even preparing for the Seder. No one on his death bed ever wished he spent more time at the office.

Do Your Best, G-d Will Do The Rest

In Parshat Pekudei, the Torah tells us, “And they brought the Mishkan to Moshe, the tent and all its vessels, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, its sockets...” The Torah tells us that Moshe put up the Mishkan all by himself! Considering how heavy the Mishkan was, Moshe’s assembling it all by himself was a great miracle. Our sages explain that G-d wanted to reward Moshe with the special merit of erecting the Mishkan. Moshe said to G-d, “How can I erect the Mishkan all by myself?” G-d replied, “Just put your hands to it and it will stand up by itself.” This teaches us a profound lesson. At times, we are faced with certain mitzvot which G-d demands of us, yet, we may be skeptical and wonder, “How can I possibly accomplish this?”

This Parasha teaches us that all G-d wants and expects from us is that we try our best. G-d will do the rest!” we have the same promise on the spiritual level, when G-d ask us to be blameless, he promises us his help “May the G-d of shalom make you completely holy — may your entire spirit, soul and body be kept blameless for the coming of our L-rd Yeshua the Messiah. The one calling you is faithful, and he will do it. (1Th. 5:23-24). this truth is also true concerning our everyday life and temptations. Shaliach Shaul says “No temptation has seized you beyond what people normally experience, and G-d can be trusted not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. On the contrary, along with the temptation he will also provide the way out, so that you will be able to endure.” (1Cor. 10:13). What a great G-d we have! he is providing everything and when he asks a difficult task as to Moses he helps us.

BUILDING A PALACE

A king instructed the best architects in his land to build for him a beautiful palace. The king was totally involved in the architectural plans and all stages of preparing and building the palace. One day the queen approached him and said, “You are so happy and involved with your palace that you totally forgot that I exist!”

Immediately the king took his mind off the palace and spent the next 24 hours attending to his queen.

The same was with the building of the Mishkan. Shabbat, which is called “the queen”, complained that “Jews will be so immersed in building the Mishkan that they will totally forget about me.” Thus, before telling the Jewish people about building the Mishkan, Moshe, began with the mitzvah of Shabbat. For the observance of Shabbat is one of the greatest and most important mitzvot which G-d gave to the people of Israel.”

YOUR NAME

Though comedian Jack Benny had a stage persona as a tightwad he was, in real life, gracious. He was proud of the fact that a school in his home town of Waukegan, Illinois named a school after him and every time he would go back to his hometown he would stop in the school and speak to the children. As time went by, he continued to visit, even after he retired from show business. One day Benny found himself addressing a group of twelve-year-old children. After his little talk, he asked the kids if they had any questions. One boy did. “Mr. Benny,” asked the youngster. “Why did your parents name you after our school?”

SHABBAT' SPICE

The Talmudic sage, Rabbi Yehoshua ben Chananiyah, was once asked by the Roman Caesar, “Why is it that your Shabbat meals have a very special taste?”

Rabbi Yehoshua answered, “We have a very unique spice called Shabbat, which makes our Shabbat food so wonderful!”

“Can you give me some of that spice?” asked the Caesar.

“That wouldn’t help,” Rabbi Yehoshua answered. “The spice works only for those who keep Shabbat!”

YOSEF WHO HONORS SHABBAT

Once there was a man who earned the title, “Yosef Mokir Shabbat” (Yosef who honors the Shabbat). He was called so because no matter how meager his earnings, he would always honor the Shabbat with all types of delicacies, notably when it came to buying the finest fish for Shabbat.

Where he lived, there also lived a gentile who was very wealthy. One day he was told that all his wealth will end up with Yosef Mokir Shabbat. In order to avoid something like this from happening, he went and sold all his property and purchased a precious stone, which he sowed into his hat.

One day as he was crossing a bridge, a powerful wind blew off his hat and cast it into the river, where a fish swallowed up the diamond. This very same fish was later hauled up by a fisherman and brought to the market just before Shabbat.

“Who will purchase it now?” they asked anxiously, as Shabbat was soon approaching and most people had already bought and cooked their Shabbat meals. “Go and take it to Yosef Mokir Shabbat,” they were told by fellow shopkeepers. So they took it to him and he purchased it. Upon opening the fish, his wife found the valuable jewel and they sold it after Shabbat for an enormous sum. (Shabbat 119a)

EDITOR

A newsletter published by the
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Haftara

1 Kings 7:13 - 51

PARASHA: God asks Israel to continue to build the sanctuary, Moses choose Betzalel for all artistic work because he was skilled. **“Then Moses said to the Israelites: See, the LORD has called by name Betzalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; he has filled him with divine spirit, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze...”** (Exodus 35:30-3).

HAFTARAH: About four hundred year later Solomon choose Hiram from Tyre for artistic work because he was a skilled man: **“King Solomon sent for Hiram and brought him down from Tyre. He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father had been a Tyrian, a coppersmith. He was endowed with skill, ability, and talent for executing all work in bronze. He came to King Solomon and executed all his work.”** (1Kings 7:13-14)

All the text of the parasha is about Hiram and how he made all the beautiful furniture of the sanctuary.

The great lesson of this haftara is that when we want to do or to build something for the L-rd we have to do our best, to select the best material for Him.

Before dying, David gave to Solomon all instruction about the temple and commanded his son to build the House of the L-rd. He prepared everything and gave a lot of treasure for that house. Solomon followed the instruction given by David and when everything was finished he put all the treasure David gave him in the temple. **“When all the work that King Solomon had done in the House of the L-RD was completed, Solomon brought in the sacred donations of his father David — the silver, the gold, and the vessels — and deposited them in the treasury of the House of the L-RD”** (1Kings 7:51). Doing this donation, David followed the command of Moses who said to Israel to make donation for the sanctuary. What a great lesson for each one of us. Most of the time when the L-rd asks from us offerings and donations for his work, we keep the best part for us and give only our surplus to Him.

Besorat Yeshua

Mark 15:42-16-6

We are still in this very painful time, The Mashiach has been rejected and handed to the Roman solders. They crucified him like a thief, to make an example. It was almost Passover, the time of the sacrifice of the Passover lamb, The Messiah, son of Joseph has been slew for our sins (talmud, Sukkah 52a).

Because this special day was the day of the preparation of the Shabbat Yeshua could not stay on the cross **“When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath”** (Mark 15:42).

A Jew, member of the Sanhedrin, who believed that Yeshua was the Mashiach, wanted to give to Yeshua a decent sepulture **“Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus”** (Mark 15:43). Only Pilate can give this permission. Pilate knew that some believers could invent stories about the Nazareen, then he wanted first to be sure that Yeshua died before delivering his body for the burial: **Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph”**. (Mark 15:44-45). Some people pretend that Yeshua was not dead when he was taken down from the cross and was healed by his disciples, that is not what the Bible says. He was really dead. All the preparation for his burial were done, and was buried in the tomb. However the great miracle of the resurrection occurred on the first day. **‘very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb’** (Mark 16:2). An angel appeared to them and affirmed: **“But he said to them, Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.”** (Mark 16:6)

