



A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

by
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& his kids

PARASHAT
VAYAKHEL

פרשת ויקהל

Exodus 35:1-38:20

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

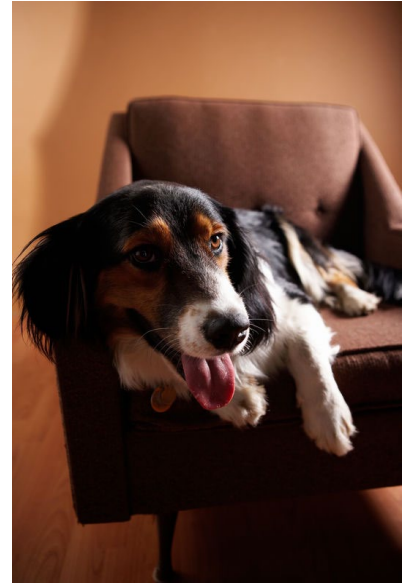
- 35:1 The Sabbath: A Very Special Day
- 35:4 Moses Passes the Offering Plate for the Tabernacle
- 35:10 Everyone Gets to Help to Build the Tabernacle
- 35:30 Bezalel and Aholiab Are the Foremen for the Construction Project
- 36:1 The Israelites Are Eager to Help
- 36:8 The Work of Building the Tabernacle Begins: Making the Curtains
- 36:19 Making the Cover
- 36:20 Making the Planks (Walls) of the Tabernacle and Their Components
- 36:35 Making the Partitions For the Interior
- 36:37 Making the Screen for the Entrance to the Tabernacle
- 37:1 Making the Ark of the Covenant
- 37:6 Making the Cover (Mercy Seat) for the Ark
- 37:10 Making the Table of Showbread
- 37:17 Making the Menorah
- 37:25 Making the Altar of Incense
- 38:1 Making the Elevation Offering Altar
- 38:8 Making the Bronze Laver
- 38:9 Making the Linen Fence Around the Outer Courtyard
- 38:18 The Screen of the Gate of the Courtyard

Exploring This Week's Parashah

1 Exodus 35:1-3, The Sabbath (Shabbat) Day: No Work To Be Done

The Sabbath is very important to YHVH. He set us an example by resting on the seventh day after he worked at creating the earth. He wants us to follow his example and rest at the end of each week.

Throughout the Torah, YHVH keeps revealing to the Israelites different aspects of the Sabbath. In this passage, he stresses the holiness of the day, the necessity to work for six days, and then to rest on the seventh day Sabbath. Additionally, he doesn't want his people to build fires on the Sabbath. This command can be interpreted several different ways. Some believe that this means that we are not to light any fires including not turning on an oven or a light, starting a furnace or heater, or even driving a car on the Sabbath. Others believe that these are fires used in one's work or business, since immediately after this verse YHVH begins to instruct his people on building the tabernacle. Perhaps the Israelites might have thought that building the tabernacle was kind of like a ministry making it therefore okay to build it on the Sabbath?



Whatever the case, one thing is certain: Man is not to do his usual work, or any work at all, on the Shabbat. Let's review some other Scriptures in the Torah that speak about this special day.



▲ (a) Where is the first place the word Sabbath is mentioned in Scripture, and what does YHVH say about it? (Read Genesis 2:1-3.) What were the Israelites supposed to do, and not to do on this day? (Read Exodus 16:23-30.)

▲ (b) The Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments. Which number is it? What is the first thing YHVH commanded his people regarding the Sabbath? (See Exodus 20:8.)

▲ (c) To whom does the Sabbath day belong? Who is forbidden from working on this day? (Read Exodus 20:10.)

▲ (d) When we observe the Sabbath day, whose example are we following, and what are we commemorating? (Look at Exodus 20:11.)

▲ (e) What was the penalty for those who broke the Sabbath by working on this day? (Read Exodus 31:15.)

▲ (f) For how long did YHVH expect his people to keep the Sabbath? (Read Exodus 31:16.)

2 Exodus 35:5, A Willing Heart

YHVH asked for Israelites who had a willing heart to help build the tabernacle.

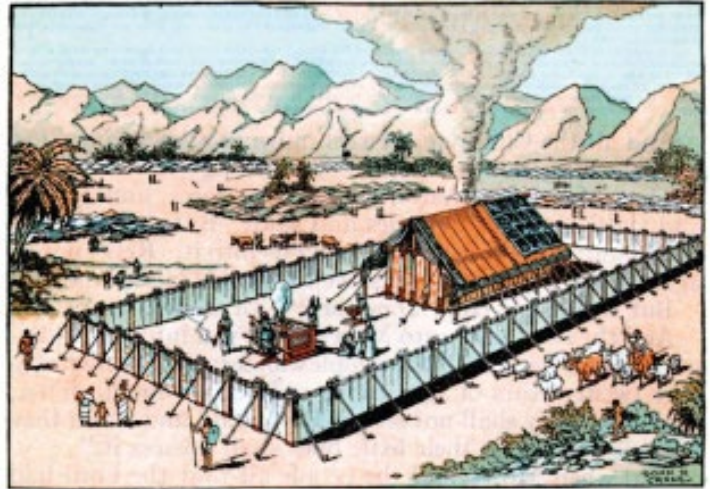
▲ (g) What does it mean to have a willing heart?

▲ (h) When your parents ask you to do something, or you have the opportunity to help someone, do you always have a willing heart?

YHVH wanted **only** those Israelites who had a willing heart to help build the tabernacle. This

means that those who did not have a servant's heart and a desire to please YHVH were not invited to help construct the Tabernacle.

- ▲ (i) Do you think that YHVH blessed the people who had a willing heart and who helped in building the tabernacle? Were those who did not have a willing heart blessed?



3 Exodus 35:30-35, Gifted and Talented People

YHVH chose two very gifted and talented people to oversee the tabernacle construction project. They were Bezalel and Aholiab.

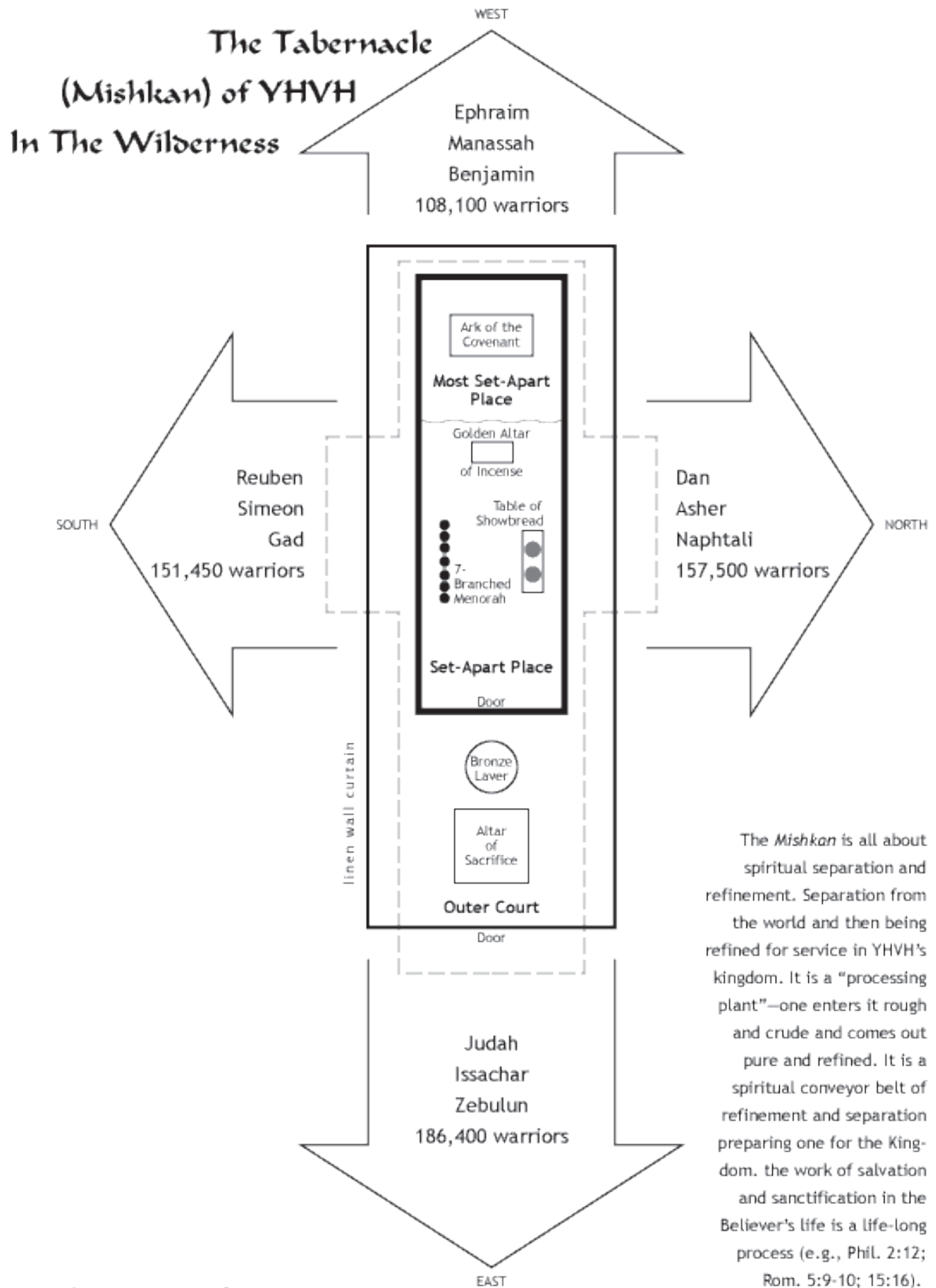
- ▲ (j) What unique skills and giftings did they possess that made them uniquely suited for being the foremen of this building project? (Read Exodus 35:31-35.)
- ▲ (k) Do you possess any giftedness or talents? Are there some things that you are very good at that people around you keep commenting about? Do you have something that you really like to do? Perhaps you have a special YHVH-given talent or gift that with the proper training you could use someday in ministry to be a blessing to a lot of people.
- ▲ (l) Think about it. Do you think that when Bezalel and Aholiab were children that they ever thought that they would be overseeing building a house for YHVH? Yet, they become good at their talents and one day YHVH chose them for a very special work. Why couldn't YHVH use you like this?

4 Exodus 36:8, Constructing the Tabernacle and Its Furnishings

A lot went into constructing the tabernacle. There were many parts and pieces to it, which, like pieces of a puzzle, when all put together formed a beautiful building. The tabernacle was a three-dimensional, working model of YHVH's plan of salvation for mankind. Everything in it pointed to Yeshua, to his life, ministry, death on the cross, to his resurrection and ministry in heaven as man's heavenly High Priest.

- ▲ (m) Look at the diagram at the end of this lesson. See if you can discover the two outlines of the cross in the tabernacle and around the outside of the tabernacle?
- ▲ (n) Read the brief teaching on the tabernacle diagram page and look up the Bible verses listed there.
- ▲ (o) For a full understanding of the tabernacle and how it points to Yeshua and the gospel message, read Natan Lawrence's teaching article, "A Young Person's Guide to Understanding the Tabernacle of Moses in the Light of the Gospel Message."





The *Mishkan* is all about spiritual separation and refinement. Separation from the world and then being refined for service in YHVH's kingdom. It is a "processing plant"—one enters it rough and crude and comes out pure and refined. It is a spiritual conveyor belt of refinement and separation preparing one for the Kingdom. the work of salvation and sanctification in the Believer's life is a life-long process (e.g., Phil. 2:12; Rom. 5:9-10; 15:16).