Parashat Vaykhel-Pekudei
March 21, 2020 - 24 Adar 5780
Rabbi Jen Gubitz

יָקוֹל
Exodus 35:1, Vaykhel
Moses then convoked the whole Israelite community and said to them: These are the things that ADONAI has commanded you to do:

Rashi
יָקוֹל
AND MOSES ASSEMBLED [ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL] — on the morrow after the Day of Atonement when he came down from the mountain. It (the word יָקוֹל) is used in the verbal form that expresses the idea of causing a thing to be done, because one does not actually assemble people with one’s hands, but they are assembled by his command.

Exodus 32:1, Ki Tissa
אָנוּ יַעֲשֵׂה עֲלֵיכֶם לְאִשְׁרֵי אָדָם | בַּלַּיְבֵל כִּי לֹא גַעְנוּ אֵלֶּה מִצְרַיִם מֵאֶרֶץ הַעֲלָנוּ אֲשֶׁר הָאִישׁ מֵשֶׁה | וִיהֵן כִּי לְפָנֵינוּ.

When the people saw that Moses was late in coming down from the mountain, the people gathered against Aaron, and they said to him: "Come on! Make us gods that will go before us, because this man Moses, who brought us up from the land of Egypt we don’t know what has become of him.'

Lord Jonathan Sacks, 3 Types of Community, 5773
"The greatness of the Tabernacle was that it was a collective achievement – one in which not everyone did the same thing. Each gave a different thing. Each contribution was valued – and therefore each participant felt valued. Vayakhel – Moses’ ability to forge out of the dissolution of the people a new and genuine kehillah – was one of his greatest achievements.

Artwork by Christina Mattison Ebert (Found on MyJewishLearning.Com)
<table>
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<th>Story of Creation</th>
<th>Building of the Tabernacle</th>
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<td><strong>Gen. 1:7,16, 25</strong>&lt;br&gt;And God made (וַיַּעַשׂ) the firmament,</td>
<td><strong>Ex. 25:8,10,23, 31</strong>&lt;br&gt;And let them make Me a sanctuary</td>
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| **Ex. 20:11**<br>כִּי שָׁפָר-תִּם שָׁפָר יַהֲוֶה אֶת-הָאָרֶץ, | **Ex. 24:16**<br>וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם, אֶת-הָאָרֶץ אֶת-יְהוָה עָשָׂה יָמִים שֵׁשֶׁת, כִּי בָּם אֲשֶׁר כָּל וְאֶת הַיָּם אֶת | **Ex. 39:43**<br>וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה אֶת-כְּבוֹדָם, אֵלֶּה-
| **Gen. 1:31**<br>וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים וַיְכַל | **Ex. 39:32; 40:33**<br>וַיְכַל | **Ex. 39:43**<br>וַיְכַל | **Gen. 1:31**<br>וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר-כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה | **Ex. 39:43**<br>וַיְכַל | **Gen. 2:3**<br>וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה | **Ex. 39:43**<br>וַיְבָרֶךְ | **Gen. 2:1-2**<br>וַיְכֻלּוּ | **Ex. 39:43**<br>וַיְכַל | **Gen. 2:1-2**<br>וַיְכֻלּוּ | **Ex. 39:43**<br>וַיְכַל |

---Adapted from Lord Jonathan Sacks

The key words – make, see, complete, bless, sanctify, work, behold – are the same in both narratives. The effect is to suggest that making the mishkan was, for the Israelites, what creating the universe was for G-d.
Exodus 35:22

Now Bezalel, son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, had made all that the eternal had commanded Moses.

Rashi:

**AND BEZALEL**

**THE SON OF URI** etc. MADE ALL THAT THE LORD COMMANDED MOSES —

It is not stated here: צֻוָּה (Bezaleel made all that he had been commanded), but “[Bezaleel made] all that Adonai commanded Moses” — even regarding such things which his teacher (Moses) did not tell him, his own opinion was in agreement with what had been told to Moses on Sinai (Jerusalem Talmud Peah 1:1; Bereishit Rabbah 1:14). [For Moses bade Bezaleel to make the vessels first and the Tabernacle afterwards but Bezaleel said to him: “Surely, it is the way of the world (the usual way) first to build a house and then to place the household utensils in it!” He (Moses) replied to him: “So, indeed, did I hear from the mouth of the Holy One, blessed be He”. Moses further said to him: (בצלאל), you must have been sitting in the shadow of God (אל בצל), for certainly did thus God command me!” And consequently Bezaleel made the Tabernacle first and afterwards he made the vessels (furnishings) (cf. Berakhot 55a).

Berakhot 55a

And a good leader, as it is written: “And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying: See, I have called by name Bezalel, son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah” (Exodus 31:1–2).

[With regard to Bezalel’s appointment, Rabbi Yitzḥak said: One may only appoint a leader over a community if he consults with the community and they agree to the appointment, as it is stated: “And Moses said unto the children of Israel: See, Adonai has called by name Bezalel, son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah” (Exodus 35:30). God said to Moses: Moses, is Bezalel a suitable appointment in your eyes? Moses said to Him: Master of the universe, if he is a suitable appointment in Your eyes, then all the more so in my eyes. The Holy One, Blessed be God, said to him: Nevertheless, go and tell Israel and ask their opinion. Moses went and said to Israel: Is Bezalel suitable in your eyes? They said to him: If he is suitable in the eyes of the Holy One, Blessed be God, and in your eyes, all the more so he is suitable in our eyes.]

Rabbi Shmuel bar Naḥmani said that Rabbi Yonatan said: Bezalel was called by that name on account of his wisdom. When the Holy One, Blessed be He, said to Moses: Go say to Bezalel, “Make a tabernacle, an ark, and vessels” (see Exodus 31:7–11), Moses went and reversed the order and told Bezalel: “Make an ark, and vessels, and a tabernacle” (see Exodus 25–26). He said to Moses: Moses, our teacher, the standard practice throughout the world is that a person builds a house and only afterward places the vessels in the house, and you say to me: Make an ark, and vessels, and a tabernacle. If I do so in the order you have commanded, the vessels that
I make, where shall I put them? Perhaps God told you the following: “Make a tabernacle, ark, and vessels” (see Exodus 36).

Exodus 31:7-11

7) the Tent of Meeting, the Ark for the Pact and the cover upon it, and all the furnishings of the Tent; 8) the table and its utensils, the pure lampstand and all its fittings, and the altar of incense; 9) the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the laver and its stand; 10) the service vestments, the sacral vestments of Aaron the priest and the vestments of his sons, for their service as priests; 11) as well as the anointing oil and the aromatic incense for the sanctuary. Just as I have commanded you, they shall do.

Exodus 25/26: Description of Sacred Objects in Tabernacle followed by Rules for building the tabernacle itself.

(Berachot 55a continued) Moses said to Bezalel: Perhaps you were in God’s shadow [betzel El], and you knew precisely what the Eternal said. You intuited God’s commands just as God stated them, as if you were there.

Rav Yehuda said that Rav said: Bezalel knew how to join the letters with which heaven and earth were created. From where do we derive this? It is written here in praise of Bezalel: “And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship” (Exodus 31:3); and it is written there with regard to creation of heaven and earth: “The Lord, by wisdom, founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens” (Proverbs 3:19), and it is written: “By His knowledge the depths were broken up and the skies drop down the dew” (Proverbs 3:20). We see that wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, the qualities with which the heavens and earth were created, are all found in Bezalel.

(Learn more about this discussion at www.hadar.org/torah-resource/detail-oriented)