

RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts for Kids
Parashah # 21: Ki Tissa: "When you take"
Shemot / Exodus 30:11-34:35
By: Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Summary:

This week's portion deals with the census of the Children of Israel. The making of the Laver and the anointing oil as well as the incense. In Chapter 31 we learn of Bazalel and Oholiab the designers and craftsman behind the Tabernacle.

Exodus 31:1-6 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;

Have you ever met someone and said, "He acts just like his Dad.", or "So and So reminds me of their Grandpa." Well, it's true, though we may be generations removed we not only pick up genetic traits from our ancestors, but I believe personality traits as well.

You see Bazalel meaning "Under God's shadow" was of the tribe of Yehudah (Judah) and the Talmud says he was 13 years old when he was asked to work on the Mishkan (Sanhedrin 69b). And from Scriptural documentation of Yehudah the Patriarch, he was a natural born leader, a passionate man and at times a hot head. This describes artisans to a "T". Even though G-d gave specific instructions on how the Tabernacle was to be constructed, he still left its décor up to somewhat of artistic liberty. Could you imagine what the zealous 13 year old artist could come up with!? OY! That is why he had a partner, Oholiab meaning "A Tent", was from the tribe of Dan meaning "Judgment". You almost get the impression Oholiab was there to supervise and to harness and hone Bezalel's zealous passionate artistry, so the Tent (Mishkan/Tabernacle) would be esthetically balanced and pleasing (31:6).

This teaches us we are not Lone Rangers in our Faith, we need each other and we need accountability. Checks and balances, for if we, left to ourselves and

unchecked tend to go to various extremes. This is why God has given us parents, spouses, best friends and Rabbi's to help us stay focused, balanced and reach our full potential for His Glory.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr