

JEWISH RESPONSES TO FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY

A Comparison of two Building Projects--From Ki Tissa to Vaykhel

KI TISSA -- EXODUS 32:1-6

1And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him: 'Up, make us a god who shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we know not what is become of him.'

2And Aaron said unto them: 'Break off the golden rings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.'

3And all the people broke off the golden rings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. 4And he received it at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it a molten calf; and they said: 'This is thy god, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.' 5And when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said: 'To-morrow shall be a feast to the LORD.' 6And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt-offerings, and brought peace-offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to make merry.

VAYAKHEL-- EXODUS 35:4-10, 30-35

4And Moses spoke unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: 'This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying: 5Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD, whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it,

the LORD'S offering: gold, and silver, and brass; 6and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair; 7and rams' skins dyed red, and sealskins, and acacia-wood; 8and oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense; 9and onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate. 10And let every wise-hearted man among you come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded...

30And Moses said unto the children of Israel: 'See, the LORD hath called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 31And He hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship. 32And to devise skilful works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 33and in cutting of stones for setting, and in carving of wood, to work in all manner of skilful workmanship. 34And He hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35Them hath He filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of workmanship, of the craftsman, and of the skilful workman, and of the weaver in colours, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any workmanship, and of those that devise skilful works.

BUILDING PROJECTS WORKSHEET

Questions?	Ki Tissa Ex 32:1-6	Vayakhel Ex 35:4-10
What did they build?		
Why did they build it?		
Who built it?		
What was it made from?		
How was it made?		

ANSWER KEY

Questions?	Ki Tissa Ex 32:1-6	Vayakhel Ex 35:4-10
What did they build?	An idol	A Sanctuary
Why did they build it?	Fear Lack of Leadership	Because God commanded Because they wanted a Sanctuary for God.
Who built it?	Aaron	Bezalel, Oholiab and lots of other skilled artisans
What was it made from?	Gold, from dubious origin	"Gifts of the heart" All manner of precious materials
How was it made?	A mold Fixed in place	Handmade, unique Made to be portable