

(שמות כה-ט) **ועשו** לי מקדש ושכנתי בתוכם ככל אשר אני מראה אותך את תבנית המשכן ואת תבנית כל־כליו **וכן תעשו**

The root word **עשה**, usually translated to mean to do or make, features prominently in the Parshiot detailing the construction of the Tabernacle and the associated items such as the priestly vestments, the oil and incense used in the Tabernacle. Rashi explains that the repeated use of the word instructs us that in the future, when a successor to the Tabernacle and associated items are constructed, they should follow the same blueprint and design related by Moses and used in the construction of the Tabernacle.

Ramban disagrees and says it refers to the attitude that should be adopted when constructing all the vessels:

ככל אשר אני מראה אותך את תבנית המשכן הזה אשר אמרתי שאשכון בו בתוכם **ואת תבנית כל כליו וכפל וכן תעשו** כולכם בזריזות וחריצות

The goal of the instruction **וכן תעשו**, is to instruct the people to act with alacrity when it comes to building the Tabernacle. They should approach each item, big or small, first or last, with the same zeal and sense of mission and purpose. Let us take a deeper look at Ramban's comment by looking at the verses at the conclusion of Creation:

(בראשית ב-ג) ויכלו השמים והארץ וכל־צבאם ויכל אלהים ביום השביעי מלאכתו אשר **עשה** וישבת ביום השביעי מכל־מלאכתו אשר **עשה** ויברך אלהים את־יום השביעי ויקדש אתו כי בו שבת מכל־מלאכתו אשר־ברא אלהים **לעשות**

Why was it necessary to repeat the root word **עשה** in these verses? Because creation was not a one-time act. It required and continues to require the constant attention of Gd to maintain all that He created on a continual basis, **המחדש בטובו בכל יום תמיד**, מעשה בראשית. Gd views creation and maintenance as the same. The former necessitated the latter and Gd consistently displays the same dedication to the maintenance of creation as He did to the initial creation.

The people were enthused to build the Tabernacle. They stepped up and volunteered their material and physical talents, so much so that the requirements for construction were donated unexpectedly quickly. For each item that was built, the Torah repeated **ויעשו כן**, the people performed the task. The upshot was that they did not waver in their zeal, careful attention to detail and speed of execution. According to Rashi and Ramban, the same sense of dedication and purpose was required regardless of whether the people were building the first Tabernacle or the

Temple in Jerusalem many years later. Gd wanted to ensure that the people not lose their sense of purpose no matter how many times they would have to build something for the Temple.

This idea explains the order of commands presented to Moses. Parashat Teruma focuses on constructing the Tabernacle while Parashat Tetzave focuses on the garments and consecration as priests of Aaron and his children. Before telling us about Aaron's vestments, the Torah tells us that the oil used to light the Menorah nightly had to be extremely pure.

(שמות כז-כא) ואתה תצוה את־בני ישראל ויקחו אליך שמן זית זך כתית למאור להעלות נר תמיד באהל מועד מחוץ לפרכת אשר על־העדת יערך אתו אהרן ובניו מערב עד־בקר לפני יהוה חקת עולם לדרתם מאת בני ישראל

Why was it necessary to insert this at this juncture? Let us examine the above in light of the command given to Aaron after the dedication of the Tabernacle.

(במדבר ח א-ג) וידבר יהוה אל־משה לאמר דבר אל־אהרן ואמרת אליו בהעלתך את־הנרת אל־מול פני המנורה יאירו שבעת הנרות ויעש כן אהרן אל־מול פני המנורה העלה נרתיה כאשר צוה יהוה את־משה

In Parashat Naso, the Torah tells of the sacrifices brought by the elders of the 12 tribes. After detailing the sacrifices brought by each tribe, the Torah tells us that Aaron was commanded to light the Menorah nightly. Rashi asks why was the command to Aaron juxtaposed to the sacrifices brought by the elders at the dedication of the Tabernacle? He explains that Aaron was depressed that he and his tribe were excluded from the dedication ceremony of the Tabernacle. Gd consoled Aaron, telling him that his portion was greater than theirs in that he will light the Menorah every night. What message was given to Aaron and how did it console him?

Based on ideas I heard from my father, Rabbi Moshe Rapps זצ"ל, I would say that Aaron saw the excitement experienced by the elders when they brought their sacrifices at the dedication of the Tabernacle. Aaron felt that he and his tribe missed out on that experience. Gd consoled Aaron that his portion is greater than theirs in that he repeats his role nightly. When it comes to performing a regularly occurring commandment versus one that is periodic, Judaism prefers the regularly occurring commandment, תדיר ושאינו תדיר תדיר קודם. What about the excitement of something new? Judaism prefers consistency over periodicity. That is why Rashi says ויעש כן אהרן להגיד שֶׁבָּחוּ שֶׁל אֶהְרֹן שֶׁלֹא שָׁנָה. Aaron was praised because he never varied. Why was that so praiseworthy? Because the act of lighting the Menorah

was a consistent nightly act. Aaron performed it faithfully every night with the same exuberance and dedication he showed the first time he lit the Menorah. As the Torah says **ויעש כן אהרן**.

The Torah introduced the lighting of the Menorah in Parashat Tetzaveh because, like the vessels of the Tabernacle that required the same dedication and consistency in perpetuity, so did the preparation of the oil and lighting of the Menorah. It therefore belonged in the details regarding the Tabernacle and is situated immediately before the details of the priests, who are obligated to perform the Mitzvah nightly with the same fervor and feeling as the first time they kindled the lights.

We now understand why the last verses prior to Moses descending Mount Sinai with the Tablets deal with the Sabbath. The people were about to undertake the building of the Tabernacle. They were excited and exuberant. That exuberance could lead them to focus on the immediate and ignore and violate the consistent, the Sabbath. Gd told Moses that the Sabbath was non-negotiable. The inviolability of the Sabbath, which occurs regularly every seven days reinforces the message about the importance of consistency, **תדיר**. He was instructed to inform the people that the Sabbath takes precedence, even when it comes to building the Tabernacle.

Chazal tell us that more than the Jews kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath kept the Jews. We have been without the Temple for over two thousand years. Yet the Jewish People are still alive and as connected and committed as they were when the Temple stood. We can survive the absence of the Temple, but when the Sabbath is violated, it invariably leads to assimilation. Without the Sabbath we would have disappeared years ago. That is why Gd instructed Moses to tell the people

(שמות לא טז-יז) **ושמרו בני ישראל את־השבת לעשות** לדרתם ברית עולם ביני ובין בני ישראל אות הוא לעולם כי־ששת ימים **עשה** יהוה את־השמים ואת־הארץ וביום השביעי שבת וינפש

The Jewish People were requested, even required, to treat the Sabbath with the same exuberance each week, to never grow bored or tired of it. The consistency and permanence of the covenant with Gd depends on the Jewish People maintaining their excitement for and adherence to keeping and safeguarding the Sabbath.

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