

# AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT OF THE Mesorah Heritage Foundation

פרשת ויקהל שקלים כ"ט אדר א תשפ"ד  
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WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY  
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

## INITIATIVE BREEDS SUCCESS

Rav Nosson Tzvi Speaks – from Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel

וַיָּבֵאוּ כָּל אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׂאוֹ לִבּוֹ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר נָדְבָה רוּחוֹ אֹתוֹ הֵבִיאוּ אֶת תְּרוּמַת ה' לְמִלְאֵכֶת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְלִכְל עֲבֹדָתוֹ וּלְבִגְדֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ.

*Every man whose heart inspired him came; and everyone whose spirit motivated him brought the portion of Hashem for the work of the Ohel Moed, for all its labor and for the sacred vestments (Shemos 35:21).*

Regarding the words “*Vayavo'u kol ish asher nesa'o libo* — *Every man whose heart inspired him came*,” the *Ramban* writes that this is referring to the wise

ones who performed the labor, for we do not find the concept of *nesius halev* (an inspired heart) attributed to the donors; rather, *nedivus* (generosity) is usually the word used to describe them. The reason [these laborers are described as those] whose heart inspired him was to draw them to the labor, for none among them had studied these crafts from an artisan or was trained to perform these skilled labors. Yet, they discovered the inherent capacity to do it: *Vayigbah libo bedarchei Hashem*, *His heart was elevated in the ways of Hashem* (*Divrei HaYamim* II 17:6), to come before Moshe and tell him, “I will do all that my master speaks.”

The two qualities of *nesius halev* and *nedivus* were both expressed in the building of the *Mishkan*. *Nesius halev* was manifested by those who engaged in building the *Mishkan* and fashioning its vessels, while *nedivus* was displayed by those who donated their wealth to the *Mishkan*.

Examining these two qualities, we discern a vast disparity between them. *Nedivus*, generosity, is limited, as even the most benevolent person cannot donate what he does not possess. In contrast, the quality of *nesius halev*, an inspired heart, is unlimited, and anyone who wished to build the *Mishkan* and craft its vessels was welcome to volunteer.



Rav Yerucham Levovitz

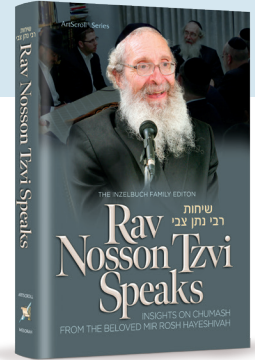
ed, and anyone who wished to build the *Mishkan* and craft its vessels was welcome to volunteer.

The *Bnei Yisrael* had just emerged from 210 years of oppressive slave labor and persecution, and none of them were trained in the relevant skills or possessed the knowledge and proficiency to perform these delicate labors. Nevertheless, many among *Klal Yisrael* eagerly volunteered to perform the labor required to build the *Mishkan*, and they succeeded. What prompted these individuals to approach Moshe Rabbeinu and present themselves as qualified for the task?

The answer is a fundamental lesson that is relevant to each and every *Yid* every day of life: *Vayigbah libo bedarchei Hashem* – Their hearts were elevated in the ways of Hashem! Even if someone lacked artistic skill, having never lifted a silversmith's tools or an embroidery needle and having never been trained to carve wood or hew stone, if his heart was inspired, he could discover the latent talent that would enable him to engage in these sacred labors and succeed.

Rav Yerucham Levovitz noted that most of the world's wealthiest entrepreneurs did not inherit their fortunes or accumulate them by scrimping and saving pennies. Rather, they became rich by taking initiative — innovating and

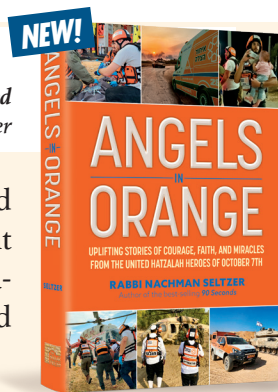
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MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

# NEVER HOME ON SHABBOS

*Angels in Orange – Uplifting Stories of Courage, Faith and Miracles from the United Hatzalah Heroes of October 7<sup>th</sup> by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer*



As many people know, on October 7<sup>th</sup>, the enemy was able to infiltrate almost every *moshav* and *kibbutz* that they tried to enter, only failing when they arrived at the settlements that kept *Shabbos* and whose gates were locked shut.

Without question, more than we keep *Shabbos* — *Shabbos* keeps us.

More than we protect *Shabbos* — *Shabbos* protects us.

In one *kibbutz*, there was a family who had started keeping *Shabbos*. It was the mother who was mainly interested in becoming more religious, while the father was more or less going along with his wife. Since they lived in a *kibbutz* that was not religious at all, none of their neighbors kept *Shabbos*, which meant that the atmosphere on the *kibbutz* wasn't very conducive to keeping *Shabbos* properly. For this reason, the family began leaving their home and spending *Shabbos* in other communities.

Prior to *Simchas Torah* of 2023, the parents decided that they weren't up to going away for *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov* that week, since the mother was expecting a baby soon. Instead of traveling to another community for *Shabbos*, they would host a religious family at their home instead.

On the morning of October 7<sup>th</sup>, they started hearing gunshots in the *kibbutz* and the sounds of people yelling at one another in Arabic. It was clear that something

terrible was going on. Like most people who lived in that part of the country, they knew what they were supposed to do in the wake of an attack, and they quickly ran into their safe room, hoping and praying that they would make it through the day alive.

As the hours passed and the sounds of shooting still had not abated, they kept expecting the enemy to come crashing through their door. But no one came. No one even tried to see if anyone was there.

they grasped the full extent of the miracle they had experienced, when they realized how many people had been killed while they had been spared by the hand of Hashem. But even then, they still didn't know the extent of the miracle.

Over the next few days, maps and other intelligence were discovered on the bodies of the terrorists who had been dispatched from Gaza to kill as many people as they could. On one terrorist, a map was found that included every single house in that family's community — along with information about the family who lived there, such as how many people lived in the house and other relevant information that the terrorist would need to know.

The information came from Arabs who had been working on the *kibbutz* and had been spying on the residents so they could pass on the information to Hamas.

Next to the line on the map that included information about this particular family it stated, "They are never home on *Shabbos*."

And so, even though they were home that *Shabbos*, *Shabbos* protected them, just as *Shabbos* has protected the Jewish people since the beginning of time. 🇮🇱



It was as if the terrorists couldn't see their home, as if they were surrounded by a special protective cloud — a cloud called "*Shabbos*."

Eventually, after many hours, IDF soldiers arrived and a fierce battle ensued. When it was over, the family was finally able to leave their home.

They were incredulous when

## THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

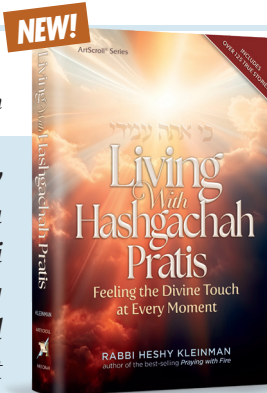
### MARCH / אדר א'-אדר ב'

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9 כט	10 ל	11 א	12 ב	13 ג	14 ד	15 ה
Bava Metzia 10	Bava Metzia 11	Bava Metzia 12	Bava Metzia 13	Bava Metzia 14	Bava Metzia 15	Bava Metzia 16

## THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

### MARCH / אדר א'-אדר ב'

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9 כט	10 ל	11 א	12 ב	13 ג	14 ד	15 ה
Nedarim 6:2-3	Nedarim 6:4-5	Nedarim 6:6-7	Nedarim 6:8-9	Nedarim 6:10-7:1	Nedarim 7:2-3	Nedarim 7:4-5



Rav Avigdor Miller related two incidents about his personal journey and how his apparent misfortunes eventually turned into blessing, both for himself and *Klal Yisrael*, who benefited greatly from his immense wisdom and Torah knowledge:

*Hashgachah Pratis*: “I was thrown out of the Hebrew school, the old-time Talmud Torah, when I was a little boy. All the other boys weren’t thrown out and all of them graduated at bar mitzvah. Nothing spiritually special came of them. But because I was thrown out, I found a private rebbi who wanted to teach me, and he made a ‘mentch’ out of me. Finally, he sent me to a real yeshivah.”

Hashem links events in completely unpredictable and sometimes unthinkable ways. Because no human can possibly perceive the intricacies and connections that occur behind the scenes, these events can come only from Hashem, directing behind the scenes, weaving it all together in a tapestry whose beauty will eventually become apparent.

Often, however, we cannot connect a devastating or discouraging turn of events to some truly good fortune that will occur — sometimes immediately thereafter. Nevertheless, we should be able to trace the blessings we enjoy to events that have occurred over our lifetime.

Hashem presents events in a way that seems part of nature. Cause leads to effect, which becomes the cause of another effect. He hides His tracks as He manages our lives, so that if we want to see His Presence in the world, we need to exert effort to find It.



Rav Avigdor Miller

*Hashgachah Pratis*: When Rav Miller was twenty-four, he wanted a job teaching in a yeshivah. The rebbi who had taught him as a young boy had become the head of the Talmud Torah, and Rav Miller was confident that if he applied to this rebbi, who thought well of him, the rebbi would give him a job.

As Rav Miller waited for his interview, he noticed a former fellow student from his yeshivah, also waiting to interview for the job. Rav Miller didn’t worry about the other applicant, because he had spent his time playing ball in yeshivah while Rav Miller learned Tanach.

However, the other man got the job. Because of this disappointing [at the time] turn of events, Rav Miller ultimately went to Europe to learn Torah in Slabodka.

“Hakadosh Baruch Hu rescued me again and again,” he said when he remembered this “disappointment.”

The more we become cognizant of the way Hashem runs our lives, the more we can minimize our initial disappointments or fears and set our sights on the goodness that emerges, even if we cannot fathom at the moment what it might be.

We need to train ourselves to be like a reader who knows that the story has a happy ending. All the trials and travails in the plot do not mar the reader’s enjoyment of the story. They merely spur him to anticipate the heroic deeds and wondrous turns of fortune that will reveal that ending. 📖

## NEVER ACCEPT TALES continued from page 1

developing new concepts and ideas that generated massive revenue. Only a person who believes in himself can succeed, whereas one who lacks initiative and confidence is unlikely to ever become wealthy.

This is the lesson derived from the *pasuk*: *Vayavo'u kol ish asher nesa'ò libo, Every man whose heart inspired him came.* Those with the quality of *nesius halev* were

inspired to perform the intricate labors required for the *Mishkan* and its vessels, regardless of their lack of training.

The foundation of any achievement, whether material or spiritual, is *nesius halev* — the lofty feeling that one is capable and worthy of success. Each and every one of us should commit to attaining more, to climbing higher and higher with no limit, as this is what will guarantee our success and *siyata diShmaya*. 📖

*This week's  
Yerushalmi Yomi  
schedule:*

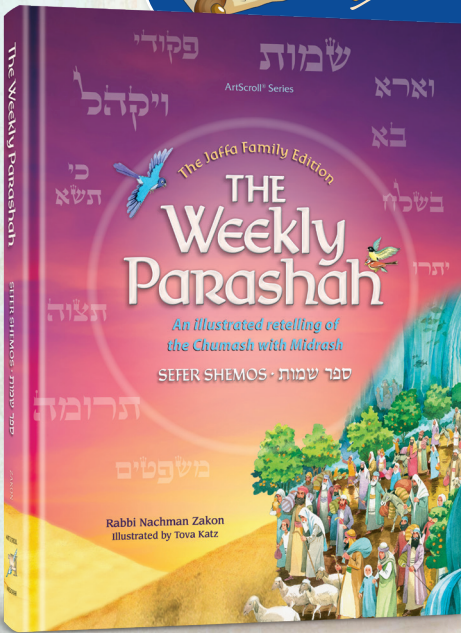
**MARCH /  
אדר א' אדר ב'**

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9 כט	10 ל	11 א	12 ב	13 ג	14 ד	15 ה
Terumos 67	Terumos 68	Terumos 69	Terumos 70	Terumos 71	Terumos 72	Terumos 73



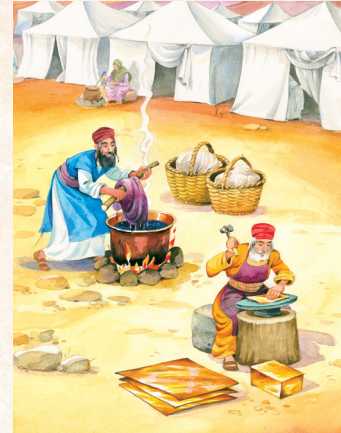
# Parashah for Children

## פרשת ויקהל



### Only 13!

**S**ometimes children are much wiser than their age. It's a gift Hashem gives them. Betzalel was such a child. He was only thirteen years old when the Mishkan was built. Hashem had already chosen Betzalel to be in charge of building the Mishkan, from the time when Adam, the first man, was created. Hashem gave Moshe Rabbeinu the plans for the Mishkan and for the clothing of the Kohanim. It was Betzalel's job to see to it that they were made correctly.



### Why Betzalel?

**W**hat is one of the greatest mitzvos a person can do? To give up his life for Hashem, or to do something for Hashem even though he may be killed for doing it.

Betzalel's grandfather, Chur, was killed trying to stop the Jews from making the Eigel HaZahav. Chur's mother, Miriam, was one of the Jewish nurses in Egypt. She risked her life when she refused to obey Pharaoh's order to kill the baby boys as soon as they were born.

Betzalel was Chur's grandson and Miriam's great-grandson. As a reward for their brave deeds, Betzalel was put in charge of building the Mishkan.

### The Assistant

**B**etzalel's assistant was Ohaliav, from Shevet Dan. Dan was one of the least honored of the shevatim. Dan wasn't the shevet of Jewish royalty, like Yehudah (which was Betzalel's shevet). Dan's mother, Bilhah, wasn't one of Yaakov's main wives, Rachel or Leah. The Danites were also weaker than some of the other shevatim.

Hashem wanted to teach an important lesson, so he appointed a man from Shevet Dan to build the Mishkan together with a man from Shevet Yehudah. This was to show the Jews that in Hashem's eyes all the shevatim are equally important.

**WIN A \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD!**

## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Vayakhel:

**Why, in this week's parashah, does the Torah seem to repeat pesukim that were taught in Parashas Terumah?**

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to [shabbosquestion@artscroll.com](mailto:shabbosquestion@artscroll.com) by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.



**The winner of the Parashas Terumah question is: YOSEF SHALOM HUPPERT, Toms River, NJ**

The question was: Gold is very expensive. Why cover the inside of the Aron with gold if no one sees it anyway?  
The answer is: Covering the inside with gold teaches us that we have to be "gold" inside as well as outside. Someone who just acts like a Torah scholar, trying to impress people, but in his heart he is not really sincere, is not a true Torah scholar.

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