

**Tell a story**  
**Parsha Vayakhel**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2024-03-09**

This week's Parsha the Jews focus a lot of their attention on building the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was a holy space for spending time with G-d. G-d would have a Presence there with the People. It was a communal area for both. The Jewish people worked all week up until the seventh day and then they came to a stop. G-d commanded Moses to tell them to stop and rest. The purpose of resting was to keep Shabbat. Moses gathered the Jewish people together to share gifts that people wanted to give to G-d made from silver, gold, linen, oil, spices, and stones, and any way to make the Sanctuary in the Tabernacle a holy place.

The reason why there was such a high focus for this Tabernacle in this Parsha is because they confused the timeline of how long Moses was going to be gone up in Mount Sinai with G-d. They thought he had died. Many of the Jews created a golden calf, thinking it was going to be their new god and they did this using gold material. In the end, yes G-d did forgive them thanks to Moses still being alive and begging G-d to forgive them. G-d selected two men who came from different lineages, they imbued with divine inspirations.

They had the artistic ability to perform highly skilled work this included weaving, woodworking, and craftworking of gold, silver, and copper vessels as well. Back then even freed slaves had not developed such refined skills without this kind of Divine inspiration. These two men's names were Betzalel and Oholiav.

What we learn from this Parsha is that the Tabernacle was only used for a short period. The Jewish people were constantly on the move until they reached the Holy Land. If G-d's presence is around us, then Judaism and the Torah are within us as well.