

**Torah:** Sh'mot (Exodus) 35:1 – 38:20  
**Haftarah:** Malakhim Bet (2 Kings) 11:17 – 12:17 Shabbat Shekalim  
**B'rit Hadashah:** Mattityahu (Matthew) 17:22-27

	yr. 2 35:1-36:19	yr. 3 36:20-38:20
1	35:1 – 3	36:20 – 30
2	35:4 – 10	36:31 – 38
3	35:11 – 20	37:1 – 16
4	35:21 – 29	37:17 – 24
5	35:30 – 35	37:25 – 29
6	36:1 – 7	38:1 – 8
7	36:8 – 19	38:9-20

and Moses assembled all of the community of the children of Israel and said to them, these are the words which ADONAI commanded that you do them

*va'yak'hel Moshé et-khol adaht  
b'néy Yis'raél  
va'yómer alehém éleh ha'devariym  
ashér tziváh ADONÁI la'asot otam*

וַיַּקְהֵל מֹשֶׁה אֶת-כָּל-עֵדוּת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אֱלֹהֵם הַדְּבָרִים  
אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתָם:

This portion, normally read together with 23 Pequdei, is read alone this year. It begins with Moshe gathering all the people, and issuing the commandment (*tza-vah* – צַוָּה) of Shabbat. This is immediately followed by the commencement of the building of the tabernacle. The people are instructed to voluntarily contribute the material previously described to construct the Tabernacle, and some really *gave*. They generously gave more that is needed. The appointed, skilled and Spirit-filled artisans, led by B'tzal'el and Oholi'av, build the components as HaShem has instructed Moshe.

The haftarah reading is for Shabbat Shekalim. It speaks of using finances given from the people - like the half-shekel "tax" - to maintain the Temple. It describes the offerings and preparations for Passover.

## Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

- Ex. 35:1-3** The construction of the Tabernacle includes all the Israelites. Just as the God's instructions about the Tabernacle concluded with the laws of Shabbat (Ex. 31:12-17), so the theme of Shabbat (holiness in time) precedes the construction (holiness in space). The addition of not kindling a fire in the home infers a comprehensive application wherever one resides. Only man creates fire.
- Ex. 35:4-10** Moshe initiates the voluntary contribution of materials as he was previously instructed (Ex. 25:1-9). The skilled craftsmanship (*khakam-lev* – חָכָם-לֵב) was also from the heart. Though not explicitly stated (Ex. 25:8), the purpose for the Tabernacle was already known by the people.
- Ex. 35:11-20** The components of the Tabernacle, including garments, and their purpose are listed.
- Ex. 35:21-29** Men and women of all status respond with generosity and heart, giving material and skill.
- Ex. 35:30-35** Moshe tells the people who HaShem has 'called by name' to lead the construction and why. B'tzal'el (in the shadow of God) has been filled with the Spirit of God (*ruakh Elohiym* – רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים) and is a master craftsman. Both he and Oholi'av (the tent is my father) are endowed by HaShem with the ability not only to do, but also to instruct others.
- Ex. 36:1-7** The gifts of material and skill come together. The people bring more than is needed and Moshe orders them to cease giving.
- Ex. 36:8-19** The work is performed as a repetition of the instructions in reverse order, beginning with the external curtains.

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## Theme

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**A Change of Heart:** After the sin of the Golden Calf, we now see the Hebrew word for “heart” (לב – lev), in various forms, 13 times in our reading (Ex. 35:5, 10, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 34, 36:1, 2 [x3], 8). The self-sacrifice shown by some of the people can’t be taught. It comes from the heart and soul, not the intellect. They didn’t think about it, they just did it. Not for “likes” or pats on the back, or status. It seems that often in life there is only one companion standing beside you during your time of sacrifice: HaShem. And that, really, is enough.

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## Thought Focus

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**The Pareto principle (80/20 rule)** – According to Ex. 35:20, *everyone* withdrew from Moshe’s presence. Then, only those with willing hearts (20%?) brought contributions that were accounted for. This is different from the Golden Calf, where *everyone* (80%?) contributed without any accounting to a worthless idol that was thought to be their future but was very soon destroyed.

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## Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

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- (35:1) God is the one who calls and gathers His people. Thank Him today that you are one of His chosen (if indeed you are!)! (Deu 4:20, 26:18-19, Mat 10:6, 28:19, Tit 2:14, 1Pe 2:9-10, Exo 34:8-9, Eph 1:13-14)
- (35:21) Where the heart leads, the body will follow. Where is your heart leading you? (Exo 25:2, Jer 17:9-10, Mar 7:21-22, Luk 8:12, 15, Rom 10:9, Mat 15:15-20, Mat 12:33-37)
- (36:22) Making 48 identical planks was repetitive and not glamorous, especially since they would be covered with gold. How do you see the work to which God has called you? (Jer 29:5-6, Mat 10:23, Mat 24:45-46, Luk 12:37-38, Mat 16:27-28, Mar 13:9-13)
- (37:17, 22) After the Golden Calf incident, the creation of God’s dwelling place among His people happens. How does this speak of God’s restoration in your walk with Him? (1Ki 19:9-18, Joh 21:15-22)
- (38:1) God clearly calls for sacrifice as a part of worshipping Him. What role does “sacrifice” play in your life? (Exo 20:24-26, Deu 12:5-6, Jam 1:17, Heb 10:10, Rom 12:1, Phil 4:18, Rev 8:3-4, Eph 5:1-4, Mar 12:32:33)
- (39:2) The people presented their best resources and talents. How do you view what you give to Him? (Rom 12:1, Mal 1:6-14, 1Co 11:20-22)
- (39:33) God’s powerful hand will accomplish His plan. Have you brought what He has given you and laid it before Him so He can work His miracles? (Deu 8:18, Mat 14:17-21, 1Ki 17:8-15, Isa 55:11, Num 11:21-23, Pro 10:22)