

The Connectors: What Holds a Sacred Community Together?

Vayakheil- Pikudei Torah Source Sheet

March 14, 2026

Source Sheet by Robyn Fisher

Text #1-Exodus 35:1

וַיִּקְהַל מֹשֶׁה אֶת-כָּל עֵדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם
אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים
אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה
לַעֲשׂוֹת אַתֶּם

Moses gathered the entire community of the Israelites and said to them: These are the things that the Lord has commanded you to do.

Text #2-Midrash Tanchuma, Naso 16

נתאווה הקדוש ברוך הוא להיות לו דירה בתחתונים
The Holy One desired to have a dwelling place in the lower world.

Text #3-Exodus 35:2

שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲשֶׂה מְלָאכָה
וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי
יְהִיֶּה לָכֶם קֹדֶשׁ
שַׁבַּת שְׁבִתוֹן לַיהוָה

Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy day, a Sabbath of complete rest to the Lord.

Text #4-Midrash Tanchuma, Pekudei 7

After the Mishkan is completed, Moses begins to calculate the silver that had been donated in the accounting of the Mishkan's materials.

And suddenly he becomes worried. The numbers do not seem to add up.
A large amount of silver — 1,775 shekels — appears to be missing.
The people might wonder: Where did the silver go?
Had something been overlooked?
Had Moses made an error?

Text #5 – Exodus 38:28

וְאֶת־הָאֵלֶף וְשִׁבְעֵי הַמָּאוֹת
וְחֲמִשָּׁה וְשִׁבְעִים
עָשָׂה יְוָיִם לְעַמּוּדִים

*From the 1,775 shekels he made **vavim** for the pillars.*

Text #6-Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch's Commentary on Exodus 38:28- notes that the *vavim* joined the pillars and curtains together so that the entire Mishkan functioned together as a unified whole.

Text #7-Talmud Shevuot 39a

בזה כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה “*All Israel are responsible for one another.*”

Text #8-Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Teshuvah 3:11 (Rambam)-“ *One who separates himself from the community—even if he commits no sin—but removes himself from the community of Israel and does not share in its life...has no share in the world to come.*”

Text #9-Zohar II: 184b (Parashat Terumah)- The Holy One dwells only in a place that is whole.

Text #10-Exodus 40:33–34

וַיִּכַּל מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַמִּלְאָכָה
וַיִּכְבֹּד יְהוָה מְלֵא אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן

Moses finished the work, and the Presence of the Lord filled the Mishkan.

Text #11-Abraham Joshua Heschel, The Sabbath (1951), Chapter 1

“The Sabbaths are our great cathedrals... a palace in time.”