

Vayakhel (And he gathered)
Exodus 35:1 – 38:20

I am intrigued by **Bezaleel**, the craftsman assigned the building of the tabernacle, its furniture, vessels and priestly garments. Few notice him as they skip through chapter after chapter concerning the details of the tabernacle. That fact alone should alert us to the possibility that he is a **shadow of the Messiah**. The Messiah came to **build his assembly...His body**. Bezaleel built the **tabernacle**, which we have learned is a picture of the **body of the Messiah**. In prior commentaries we have seen that the **completed body/bride** appears in **Revelation 21 as the New Jerusalem**. Yeshua alludes to that **body** in the book of **John**:

John 2:19 Yeshua answered and said to them, "Destroy this **sanctuary**, and **in three days I will raise it up**." ²⁰ Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this **sanctuary**, and will You raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But **He was speaking of the sanctuary of His body**. ²² Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and **they believed the Scripture** and the word which Yeshua had said.

If one of the things he is alluding to is the **body of believers**, then He is saying that **within three days....within three thousand years He will repair that sanctuary...His body** made up of His **people**, His **bride**. Verse 21 verifies that He is speaking of **His body**. We tend to think of that as **His physical earthly body** and that is true, but there are layers of meaning to Scripture. Look at verse 22 where it says that His disciples remembered and believed "**the Scripture**". What **Scripture** did they believe? There was no New Testament Scripture. Did they believe the Scriptures concerning the **building/rebuilding of the Tabernacle**? We are at **the beginning of the 3rd day** since the time of Yeshua. The millennial period completes the 3rd thousand years and ends with that **completed sanctuary/bride/body** in Revelation.

Exodus 35:30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, יהוה (Yahwey) has called by name **Bezaleel** the son of **Uri**, the son of **Hur**, of the tribe of **Judah**; ³¹ "and He has filled him with the Spirit of Elohim, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, ³² "to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, ³³ "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

- Bezaleel – In the shadow of El (Elohim)
- Uri – My light
- Hur – Whiten (Etymological Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew)
- Judah – praise

Bezaleel's name which means "**in the shadow of El**", is a description of **one who is covered by the shadow of the Almighty**. Throughout the Scriptures, **living in the shadow of Elohim** is the best place to be. **His shadow is His Spirit**.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; **Hide me under the shadow of Your wings**,
Psalms 57:1 Michtam of David when he fled from Saul into the cave. Be merciful to me, O Elohim, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And **in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge**, Until *these* calamities have passed by.

Psalm 63:7 Because You have been my help, Therefore **in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.**

Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High **shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.** ² I will say of יהוה, "*He is my refuge and my fortress; My Elohim, in Him I will trust.*" ³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence. ⁴ **He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge;** His truth *shall be your shield and buckler.*

Our safety is under **the shadow of His wings....covered by His feathers.** Where does this **bird imagery** come from?

Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of Elohim was hovering** over the face of the waters.

Deuteronomy 32:11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, **hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings,**

The hovering is done by the Spirit. In one of the most well known stories of the Scriptures, Miriam/Mary is **overshadowed by the Spirit of the Almighty:**

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you,** and the power of the Highest will **overshadow** you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of Elohim.

Just as Bezaleel, **Miriam was building a tabernacle for Yeshua to dwell** for the next nine months.

Exodus 35:31 tells us that יהוה **filled Bezaleel with the Spirit of Elohim,** and in Isaiah we see a similar **filling of the Spirit upon Messiah:**

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch** shall grow out of his roots. ² **The Spirit of יהוה shall rest upon Him,** the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of יהוה.

Both **Messiah and Bezaleel** brought together the **spiritual and physical worlds.** The presence of the **Spirit** is what endowed Bezaleel with **wisdom, understanding, knowledge and all manner of workmanship.**

Wisdom, understanding, and knowledge....each of these words deserves its own study. Continuing to follow the trail of these words through the Scriptures would lead to a heightened understanding. I saw someone do a demonstration once of these words and I'll try to illustrate it for you. **Knowledge** was pictured as **water.** The **water** was poured into a **glass,** which was **understanding.** First a little was poured in, then a little more. **We** are that **glass** and we take in the **knowledge** as we can. Then the water-filled glass was handed off to a needy person. That is **wisdom....**using what's in the glass for its intended use. Now part of the demonstration included **more water (knowledge)** being poured into the glass than what it could handle. The water

spilled over the sides and made a big mess. That's what happens when all we do is take in **knowledge**. Taking in **knowledge** should be **more than filling your brain**. It needs to be **acted on**, or we won't be able to handle it.

Let's take a look at it from another angle. **Torah knowledge** is like **building materials**. If it's only kept up in our brains, it's only an **imaginary structure**. **Understanding** is **the ability to see the purpose and meaning** beyond the **Torah knowledge** that we have. **Wisdom puts knowledge and understanding to work** with the **proper heart attitude** and exactly according to the **Master's Plan**.

So, with those illustrations in mind, see if the verses below make a little more sense.

KNOWLEDGE:

- **Hosea 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of **knowledge**. Because you have rejected **knowledge**, I also will reject you from being **priest** for Me; because **you have forgotten the Torah** of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.
- **Malachi 2:7** "For **the lips of a priest should keep knowledge**, and *people* should seek the **Torah** from his mouth; For he is the messenger of יהוה of hosts.
 - We are the **priesthood** and it is our job to have **knowledge** and to teach **Torah**.
- **Habakkuk 2:14** For the **earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of יהוה**, as the waters cover the sea.
 - A prophetic view of the Messianic age and the abundance of **knowledge**
- **2 Peter 3:18** but grow **in the grace and knowledge** of our Adonai and Savior Yeshua the Messiah. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING:

- **Proverbs 15:21** Folly *is* joy to him who is destitute of **discernment**, But a man of **understanding** walks uprightly.
- **Proverbs 8:1** Does not wisdom cry out, And **understanding** lift up her voice?
 - **Understanding** seen as the **teaching voice**
- **1 Kings 3:9** "Therefore **give to Your servant an understanding heart** to judge Your people, **that I may discern between good and evil**. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"
 - **Understanding** is what Solomon asked for (he too built a dwelling for Elohim)
- **1 Chronicles 12:32** of the **sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times**, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;
- **Psalm 111:10** The fear of יהוה *is* the beginning of wisdom; **A good understanding** have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.

WISDOM:

- **Deuteronomy 4:5** "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as יהוה my Elohim commanded me, that you should act according *to them* in the land which you go to possess.⁶ "Therefore **be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples** who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.'
- **Psalms 37:30** The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice.
- **Proverbs 4:11** I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.
- **Proverbs 9:10** "The fear of יהוה is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
 - The fear of יהוה leads to wisdom
 - **Knowing Yeshua is understanding.** Knowing about Yeshua is only empty knowledge. It's water that will spill out of the glass.
- **1 Corinthians 1:22** For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;²³ but we preach Messiah crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Messiah** the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.
 - **Messiah crucified is the wisdom of יהוה.** Bezaleel, being filled with wisdom, had an understanding of this when he built the tabernacle.
- **James 3:13** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.
 - **Wisdom expresses itself in action.**

Many years later, יהוה would give to **Hiram** these same gifts that would enable him to build the temple during the reign of Solomon:

1 Kings 7:13 Now King Solomon sent and brought **Hiram** from Tyre.¹⁴ He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and knowledge in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.

It took **wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to build the tabernacle and the temple...the earthly dwellings for the Almighty.** Why? Because we know that the **tabernacle** was a picture of **Yeshua** – both the **head** and the **body** of **Messiah**...and He is the **personification** of those **characteristics**.

1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the **house of Elohim, which is the assembly of the living Elohim**, the pillar and ground of the **truth**.

Colossians 2:1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,² that their hearts may be

encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of **understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of Adonai**, both of the Father and of **Messiah**, **³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Now, returning to Exodus 35, we see that Bezaleel was also filled with all manner of **workmanship**. Let's take another look at those verses:

Exodus 35:31 "and He has filled him with the Spirit of Elohim, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and **all manner of workmanship**,³² "to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze,³³ "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

The word "**workmanship**" may have triggered familiar verses in Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of Elohim,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.¹⁰ For we are **His workmanship, created in Messiah Yeshua for good works**, which Elohim prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

What Bezaleel was building was a tabernacle symbolic of the head and the body of Messiah which would house the Spirit of יהוה. We too, are **individual tabernacles**, building on **our foundation**:

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if anyone builds on this **foundation with gold, silver, precious stones**, wood, hay, straw,¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

Not only are we **individual tabernacles**, but we are also being built into **one united spiritual household** (picture of the **Tabernacle**) and this is pictured in the following verses:

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as **living stones**, are being built up **a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Adonai through Messiah Yeshua.⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"

Bezaleel is a prophetic picture of the Messiah who, in the end, is going to build the **heavenly tabernacle** as pictured in Revelation:

Revelation 21:2 Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from Elohim, prepared **as a bride adorned for her husband**.³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, **the tabernacle of Elohim is** with men, and **He will dwell with them**, and **they shall be His people**. Adonai Himself will be with them *and be* their Elohim.

Of course this is the ultimate desire of the Almighty...that He might once again **dwell among His people**...that Messiah may live with **His purified bride**. Now let's see how the Hebrew pictures this from the very beginning.

The first word of Scripture is **Bereshiyt** (בְּרֵאשִׁית), meaning “**In the beginning**”. If you take a look at this word in a Chumash or a Hebrew interlinear Bible, you will see that the first Hebrew letter is **enlarged**. Now this enlarged letter is found in all the ancient scrolls. An irregularity in the Hebrew has an **extra** teaching that goes with it, and this teaching is of course something that never comes across in the English translation. The word actually looks like this (Hebrew reads right to left):

בְּרֵאשִׁית

What is the story behind the **enlarged bet**? The ancient Hebrew language was pictographic and each letter was a picture of something. The bet was a **picture of a house or a tent or even a family**. We see the concept of the **family** in the common Hebrew phrase...the **House of Jacob**. The enlarged bet in Genesis 1:1 tells the story of the rest of Scripture. יהוה's desire is for a **house...a family**. To have a family, the groom must have a **bride**. This completed picture is what we saw in Revelation 21.

Okay, let's look at some further teaching from Brad Scott on related Hebrew words. This may help to tie together the concepts of **house, tabernacle, and the bride/body of Messiah**. These are all related Hebrew words with the common root of **build** (בָּנָה):

- Son – בֵּן
- Build/rebuild/restore - בָּנָה
- Builder – בָּנָה
- Plan/Pattern - תְּבִינָה
- Structure/building - בְּנִיין

Our Creator uses things that are **familiar** to us to help us understand **spiritual concepts**. We think of the word “**son**” (בֵּן) as being the **child of someone**...and it definitely is that. But the Hebrew words listed above all have meanings having to do with **building**. In Hebrew, to **build** (בָּנָה) is literally to take a **pattern/plan** (תְּבִינָה) and make something of it. The **pattern/plan** (תְּבִינָה) is **invisible** until it is **constructed**. The **pattern/plan** (תְּבִינָה) became **physical** and “**dwelt among us**” (John 1:14). **Elohim** is the **builder** (בָּנָה) and His **Son** becomes the **building** (בְּנִיין). Elohim's **pattern/plan** (תְּבִינָה) is His **Word** and the **Son** becomes the **manifestation of the plan...the building** (בֵּן). I hope that may shed some light on the heavenly **Father/Son** relationship for you.

Now, the whole point of that little detour was to show you that the **pattern/plans** (תְּבִינָה) **for the tabernacle came from the Father** and it is a picture of Yeshua, the Son (בֵּן) coming to earth for the **restoration/rebuilding** (בָּנָה) of His family...the **physical** manifestation of the **heavenly** pattern. Let's return to Exodus.

Exodus 35:34 "And **He has put in his heart the ability to teach**, in him (**Bezaleel**) and **Aholiav** the son of **Ahisamach**, of the tribe of **Dan**.³⁵ "He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the **engraver** and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine linen, and of the weaver -- those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

- Aholiav – The Father’s tent
- Dan – judgment
- Ahisamach – My brother is close

Bezaleel (**in the shadow of El**) and Aholiav (**the Father’s Tent**) were the builders set up to do the work of the tabernacle. We know that Bezaleel is from the tribe of **Judah (praise)** and **Aholiav** is from **Dan (judgment)**. Therefore it is **both judgment and praise that would build the tabernacle**. They would use the **knowledge, understanding, and wisdom** they had been given to make each item. Verse 34 says יהוה had put it in their hearts to “**teach**”. Not only would **they** see the **spiritual implications** (through the **understanding** given to them) of each item to be made, but they would **teach** this **knowledge** to those who had hearts to help. One more thing on verse 35. The Hebrew translated as “**engraver**” is more often translated as “**carpenter**”. Hmm...Yeshua was the son of a **carpenter**, plus a carpenter is one who “**builds a house**.”

Let’s take a look at something fun. Not only do Hebrew letters have a pictographic meaning, but they each have a **numerical value**. יהוה is very precise and the study of gematria is fun and amazing. The numerical value of words and phrases can be compared, such as the following:

- **Bezaleel** – (בְּצִלְאֵל) – (ב)2 + (צ) 90 + (ל) 30 + (א) 1 + (ל) 30 = 153
- **The sons of Elohim** (John 1:12) – (בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים) – (ב) 2 + (נ) 50 + (י) 10 + (ה) 5 + (א) 1 + (ל) 30 + (ה) 5 + (י) 10 + (ם) 40 = 153
- **153 fish - John 21:11** Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large **fish, one hundred and fifty-three**; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

What does it all mean? **Bezaleel** (153) is the **builder** of the **house**. The **house** is a picture of the **body or the “sons of Elohim”** (153). Yeshua tells His disciples that they will be “**fishers of men**” (153). Pretty amazing, huh?

Bezaleel is a pretty significant person in the Bible, even though he doesn’t attract a lot of attention. I’d like to end with this very interesting bit of information. From 1 Chronicles we can get the family tree of **Bezaleel**.

1 Chronicles 2:19 When Azubah died, **Caleb** took Ephrath as his wife, who bore him **Hur**.²⁰ And Hur begot **Uri**, and Uri begot **Bezaleel**.

Bezaleel's great grandfather was **Caleb**, one of the spies who came back with a positive report concerning the Land of Israel. Because of his **faithfulness**, he was allowed to go into the Promised Land without dying in the wilderness. He and his entire household would be included in this blessing:

Deuteronomy 1:36 'except **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh; **he shall see it**, and to him and **his children I am giving the land** on which he walked, because he wholly followed יהוה.'

That means Bezaleel survived the 40 years in the wilderness! He and his family were later given **Hebron** in the Promised Land! Today Hebron is one of the most fought over pieces of property in the whole world. It is the burial site of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...and possibly even Adam and Eve. It is also where David reigned for the first few years of His kingship. Is it any wonder that today satan would like to have this city under his control?

The tabernacle was built by those given **knowledge, understanding, and wisdom**. Today that assembly of people which is symbolized by the tabernacle is once again being restored. It is our job to participate in the building process by receiving **knowledge**, and acting on it with **understanding** and **wisdom**. In simple terms that means being **obedient** to what the **Spirit reveals** to us from **His Word**. Together **with Messiah as our head**, we can be a part of the **restoration** of His **tabernacle!** **HalleluYah!**

Shabbat Shalom,
Ardelle