

PARSHAT VAYAKHEL  
EXODUS 35:1-38:20  
KINGS II 11:17 - 12:17  
ADAR I 27, 5784/MARCH 7, 2024



*Wholeness by Jess Self*

1. “Extravagant deployments of verbatim repetition” (Robert Alter, The Hebrew Bible, note on Ex. 36:8-38). Back in T’rumah we read three chapters of “*You shall make*” (25, 26, & 27). Now in Vayakhel we’ve read three near verbatim chapters of “*It was made*” (36, 37, & 38).
2. Ex. 31:13—18: And you, speak to the children of Israel, saying, “Just: you shall observe my Sabbaths, because it is a sign between me and you through your generations: to know that I, YHWH, make you holy. And you shall observe the Sabbath because it is a holy thing to you. One who desecrates it shall be put to death. Because anyone who does work in it: that person will be cut off from among his people. Six days work shall be done, and in the seventh day is a Sabbath, a ceasing, a holy thing to YHWH. Anyone who does work in the Sabbath day shall be put to death. And the children of Israel shall observe the Sabbath, to make the Sabbath through their generations, an eternal covenant. Between me and the children of Israel it is a sign forever, because for six days YHWH made the skies and the earth, and in the seventh day He ceased and was refreshed.”
3. 35:2—3: Six days work shall be done, and in the seventh day you shall have a holy thing, a Sabbath, a ceasing to YHWH. Anyone who does work in shall be put to death. You shall not burn a fire (לא תבערו אש) in all of your homes on the Sabbath day.

4. Specs and construction/confirmation separated by Sinai and Golden Calf (& two Shabbats):
  - a. *You shall make Mishkan—Shabbat (do no work)—Sinai & 1<sup>st</sup> Tablets & Golden Calf & 2<sup>nd</sup> Tablets & Reconciliation—Shabbat (plus no fire)—Mishkan was made (exactly per spec).*