Pekudei

Saturday Morning Torah Study

Shabbat March 16, 2024

(Plaut pp. 670-72)

Exodus 40:1-8:

א וְיִדַבֶּר יִהְּוֹה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ב בְּיוֹם־הַחְדֶשׁ הָרִאשִׁוֹן בְּאֶחָד לַחְדֶשׁ תְּקִּים אֶת־מִשְׁכָּן אָהֶל מוֹעֵד: ג וְשַּׁמְתְ שָׁם אֶת אֲרָוֹן הָעֵדְרִת וְסַכֹּתְ עַל־הָאָרְן אֶת־הַפְּרֹכֶת: ד וְהַבֵּאתָ אֶת־הַשִּׁלְחָן וְעָרַכְתָ אֶת־עָרְכָּוּ וְהַבֵּאתָ אֶת־הַמְּנֹרָה וְהַעֲלֵיתָ אֶת־נֵרֹתֶיהָ: ה וְנָתַתָּה אֶת־מִזְבָּח הַזְּהְבֹּ לִקְטֹרֶת לִפְנֻי אֲרָוֹן הָעֵדְת וְשַׂמְתָ אֶת־מְסָרְ הַפְּתַח לַמִּשְׁכָּן: ו וְנְתַתְּ אֶת מִזְבָּח הָעֹלֶה לִפְנֵי פָּתַח מִשְׁכָּן אֹהֶל־מוֹעֵד: ז וְנָתַתְ אֶת־הַכִּיֹר בִּין־אְהֶל מוֹעֶד וּבֵין הַמִּזְבָּח וְנָתַתְ שָׁם מִים: ח וְשַׂמְתָ אֶת־הָחָצֶר סָבָיב וְנַתַתְ אֶת־מַסֶרְ שַׁעַר הָחַצֵּר:

God spoke to Moses, saying, "On the First Day of the First Month shall you set up the Tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting. You shall put in it the Ark of the Pact, and cover the Ark with the veil. You shall bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and you shall bring in the lampstand, and light its lamps. You shall set the altar of gold for the incense before the Ark of the Covenant, and put the screen of the door to the Tabernacle. You shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the Tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting. You shall set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shall put water in it. Finally, you shall set up the court around it, and hang up the screen at the court gate."

Commentary of Gersonides (Rabbi Levi ben Gershom 1288-1344):

ביום החדש הראשוי באחד לחדש תקים המשכן את משכן אהל מועד. הנה זה החדש הוא חדש ניסן כי הוא הראשון כמו שהתבאר בפרשת בא אל פרעה ואמנ' היה זה החדש ראש השנה למלאכת המשכן כי הוא יותר ראוי להיות ראש השנה מתשרי כי אז יתקרב אל הישוב השמש ויתחדשו הצמחים והפירות נישמחו החיות:

2. On the First Day of the First Month. It is clear that Nisan is the First Month

from 12:2, "This month shall mark for you the beginning of the months; it shall be the first to the months of the year for you." Nisan makes more sense as the beginning of the year than does Tishrei, for at that time the sun moves closer to inhabited areas, plants, and fruits are renewed, and all life rejoices.

Exodus 40:9-16:

ט וְלֶקַחְתָּ אֶת־שְּׁמֶן הַמִּשְׁחָה וּמְשַׁחְתָ אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכֵּן וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּוֹ וְלָקַחְתָּ אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּוֹ וְהָיָה קֹדָשׁים: יְנְקְדִשְׁתְ אֹתוֹ יִבְּיְה הָמִּיְבָּח הָעִלָּה יְנְקְדִשְׁתְ אֹתוֹ יִבְּלְיוֹ וְנְקַדַּשְׁתָ אֹתוֹ: יב וְהִקְּרַבְּתָ אֶת־אַהְרֹן יְאֶת־בָּנְיוֹ וְאֶל־פְּתַח אִהֶל מוֹעֶד וְרָחַצְתְ אֹתָם בַּמִּים: יג וְהִלְבַשְׁתְּ אֹתוֹ וְכְהָן לִי: אֶת־בְּנְנִיוֹ אֶל־בְּּתְח אִהֶל מוֹעֶד וְרָחַצְתְ אֹתָם בַּמִּים: יג וְהִלְבַּשְׁתְּ אֹתְם בָּמְים: יג וְהִלְבַּשְׁתְּ אֹתָם בְּמָים: יג וְהִלְבַּשְׁתְּ אֹתְם בְּנְיוֹ וְלְהַלְּתְ אֹתָם בַּאֲשָׁר זְיְבְיוֹ תִקְרְיב וְהִלְבַּשְׁתְ אֹתָם בִּתְנֹת: טוּ וּמְשַּחְתְּ אֹתָם כִּאֲשָׁר זִי וְלָהְיֹת לָהָם מִשְׁחְתָּ אֹתָם לְכְהָנָת לָהְיֹת לָהָם מִשְׁחְתָם לִכְהָנָת לִבְּלָם מְשְׁחָתָם לִכְהָנָת עוֹלָם לְּרֹתִם: טוֹ וַיִּעֲשׁ משָׁה בְּנְכֹּל אֵשֵּׁר צָוָּה יִהְוֹה אֹתִוֹ כָּן עָשָּה: עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹתָם: טוֹ וַיִּשְׁם משָׁה בְּכֵּל אֵשֵּׁר צְוָה יִהָּוֹה אֹתִוֹ כָּן עָשָּה:

"You shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is in it, and shall consecrate it, and all its utensils; and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all its utensils, and sanctify the altar; and it shall be an altar most holy. You shall anoint the laver and its pedestal, and sanctify it. Then, you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the Tent of Meeting, and wash them with water. You shall put upon Aaron the sacral vestments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that Aaron may minister to me in the priest's office. You shall bring his sons, and dress them in tunics; and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to me in the priest's office; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations." Thus did Moses; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Exodus 40:17-27:

יז אֱלֹהֶי מַפַּכָה לָא תַעֲשֶׂה־לָּךָ: יח אֶת־חַג הַמַּצוֹתٌ תִּשְׁמֹרֵ שִׁבְעַׁת יָמִים תאכַל מַצוֹת אֲשֵׁר צִוּיתִּךְ לְמוֹעֻד חְדֵשׁ הָאְבִיב כַּי בְּחַדֶשׁ הָאָבִיב יָצָאתָ מִמִּצְרָיִם: יט כָּל־פָּטֶר רְחֶם לִי וְכָל־מִקְנְךָ תִזְּכָּר פָּטֶר שִׁוֹר וְשֶׂה: כ וּפָּטֶר חֲמוֹר תִפְּדָּה בְשֶׁה וְאִם־לָא תִפְּדָּה וַעַרַפְתֵּוֹ כִּל בְּּכְוֹר בָּנֶיךְ תִּפְּדֶּה וְלֹא־ֵיִרָאָוּ פָּנָי רֵיקִם: כֹא שְׁשֶׁת יָמִים ׁ תַעֲבֹּד וּבַיִּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי תִּשְׁבָּה וְלֹא־ֵיִרָאָוּ פָּנָי רֵיִקְם: כֹּא שְׁשֶׁת יָמִים ֹ תַּעֲשֵּׁה לְּךְ בִּכּוּּךִי קְצִיר תִשְׁבָּת בַּשְּׁנָה כֹּג שְׁלָשׁ בְּעָמִים בַּשְׁנָה יִרְאָה מְּעָמִים וְחֵג הָאָלִוּן | יְהֹוֹה אֱלֹהֶי יִשְׂרָאֵל: כֹד כִּי־אוֹרְישׁ גּוִים בָּשְׁנָה: כֹד כִּי־אוֹרְישׁ גּוִים מְּבֶּעָלֹתְרָ לֵבֹּקָר וְלֹא־יַיְלָשׁ בְּעָמִים בַּשְׁנָה: כֹה לֹא־תִשְׁחְט עַל־חָמֶץ אֶת־בְּנֵי יְהְוָה אֱלֹהֶיךְ שְׁלְשׁ בְּעָמִים בַּשְׁנָה: כֹה לֹא־תִשְׁחְט עַל־חָמֶץ דָּם־זִבְתִי וְלֹא־יָלָיו לַבִּקְר וְלֹא־תְבַשְׁל גְּדִי בַּחְלֶב אִמוֹ: כֹז וַיִּאֹמֶר יְהְוָה הְבָּיִים הָאֵלֶה בִּי עַל־בִּי | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶה בִּי עַל־בִי | הִדְּבָרִים הָאֵלָּה בִּי עַל־בִּי | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלָּה בִּי עַל־בִי | הִדְּבָרִים הָאֵלָּר וּיִבְּרִים הָאֵלָּר בִי עִל־בִיי | הַדְּבְרִים הָאֹלִי.

It came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the Tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the Tabernacle, and fastened its sockets, and set up its boards, and put in its bars, and erected its posts. Moses spread the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above it; just as God commanded. Moses took and put the Testimony into the Ark, and set the poles in the Ark, and put the covering over it. He then brought the Ark into the Tabernacle, and set up the veil of the covering, and covered the Ark of the Covenant; just as God commanded. Moses then put the table in the Tent of Meeting, upon the side of the Tabernacle northward, outside the veil. Moses set the bread of display in order upon it before the Eternal One; just as God had commanded. He then put the lampstand in the Tent of the Meeting, opposite the table, on the south side of the Tabernacle. Moses lit the lamps before the Eternal One; just as God commanded. He then put the golden altar in the Tent of the Meeting before the veil and burned sweet incense on it; just as God commanded.

Commentary of Nachmanides (Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman: 1195?-1270):

ויהי בחדש הראשון באחד לחודש על דעת רבותינו הזכיר הכתוב שהוקם המשכן לעמוד כן באחד לחודש הראשון כאשר צוה (שמות מ':ב'). ואמרו ויקם משה את המשכן (שמות מ':י,ח), לספר מה שעשה בהקימו אותו מן היום הראשון שהתחיל בו שהוא כ"ג באדר. ולא הזכיר בכאן משיחת המשכן וכליו ולא משיחת אהרן ובניו וקרבנות המלואים, כי לא עשה אותם עד שסיים כל ההקמה ונצמוה בהם פעם שנית קח את אהרן, כמו שמפורש בפרשת צו (ויקרא תב):

17. In the First Month of the Second Year, on the First of the Month.

According to our Sages, this verse marks Moses' fulfillment on the 1st of Nisan of the commandment given to him in v. 2. But, "Moses set up the Tabernacle" (v. 18) describes what he did on each of the first Seven Days of the priests' ordination, starting with the 23rd of Adar. This passage does not mention the anointing of the Tabernacle and its furnishing (vv. 9-11), the anointing of Aaron and his sons (vv. 12-15), or the sacrifices of ordination. For Moses did not perform any of these things until the whole procedure was complete, when he was commanded a second time, "Take Aaron along with his sons, and the vestments, the anointing oil, the bull of sin offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread; and assemble the whole community at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting." (Lev. 8:2-3)

Commentary of Hizkuni (Rabbi Hizkuni ben Manoah mid-13th Century):

ויהי בחדש הראשון בשנה השנית למנין יציאת מצרים אבל בעלמא לשנות עולם מתשרי מנינן.

17. In the First Month of the Second Year. After their departure from Egypt. According to this count Nisan is the First Month, but for ordinary purposes the year is understood to begin in Tishrei.

Exodus 40:28-38:

 אֹהֶל־מוֹעֶד וַיָּעֵל עָלֶיו אֶת־הְעֹלֶה וְאֶת־הַמִּנְּחָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צְוָּה יְיהְוֹה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה: ס ל וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת־הַכִּיּר בִּין־אִהֶל מוֹעֶד וּבֵין הַמִּזְבָּח וַיִּתֶן שְׁמָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה: ס ל וַנְיָשֶׁם אֶת־הַבְּיִּה מְשֶׁה וְאַהְרָן וּבְּנְיוֹ אֶת־יְדִיהָם מְיִבְּרְבְּעָם לְרָחְצָה: לֹא וְרָחֲצֵוּ מִמֶּנוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהְרָן וּבְּנְיוֹ אֶת־יְרְאֵנּ וְאָת־רַגְּלֵיהֶם: לֹב בְּבֹאָם אֶל־אִהֶל מוֹעֵד וּבְקְרְבָתְם אֶת־הַחְצֵּר סְבִיב לַמִּשְׁבְּן וְיְקְצוּ וְבְּמִין אֶת־מַשֶּׁר בְּיִלְּה מְעָר הָחָצֵר וַיְיכֶל מִשְׁה אֶת־הַמְּלָאכָה: פּ וְלַמִּיְנְן אֶת־מִשֶּׁרְ שַׁעַר הֶחָצֵר וַיְיכֶל מִשְׁה אֶת־הַמִּשְׁבְּן שְׁעַר הָחָצְר וַיְיכָל מִשְׁה אֶת־הַמִּשְׁבְּן וּבְבָּוֹד יְיהְוֹה מְלָא אֶת־הַמִּשְׁבְּן וּבְבָּוֹד יְהֹוֹה מְלָא אֶת־הַמִּשְׁבְּן וּבְבָּוֹד יְהֹוֹה מְלָא אֶת־הַמִּשְׁבְּן וּבְבָּוֹד יִיהְוֹה מְלָּוֹ הְבְּנִוֹן וּבְבָּוֹד יִהְוֹה מְלָּוֹ הְבְּנָוְ וּבְבָּוֹד יִהְוֹה מְלָּוֹ הְבְּנָוְ וּבְּבָוֹ וֹלְבוֹת הָעָנָן וְבְּעָן וּבְבָּוֹ עִדְיִים לוּ וּבְבִּוֹי לְנִוֹ תְבְיְנוֹ וְלָּא יִסְעוּ עַד־יִיוֹם הְעָנְן וְלָּא יִסְעוּ עַד־יִיוֹם הַעְּלָוֹ וְהְבָּוֹ וְתְבְּבְוֹ וְתְּבְוֹ וְתְבָּוֹ וְתְּבָוֹ וְתְּבָּן וְבְּלִוּ וְבְּבִּוֹ וְתְּבְוֹ וְתְבִּים וְתְבִּיוֹ בְּלָבוֹ וְתִּבְיִם בְּלִוּ וְתִּיְם וְאֵשׁ תִּהְיָה לְּנְלָּה בָּוֹלְעוֹ תְּבְלָּוֹ וְתִּבְיִם בְּלָבוֹ וְתְּבָּן וְתִּבְיִם בְּבִּלֹם מִמְעִיהָם: לוֹ וְתְּבָּן וְתִּלְבוֹ וְתְּבָּן וְתִּבְיִבְּיִם בְּלִר מְּעְנִוּן וּבְּבִילוֹ מִמְעִיהְם:

Moses set up the screen at the door of the Tabernacle. He put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the Tabernacle of the Tent of the Meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meal offering; just as God commanded. Moses then set the laver between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water there, for washing. Moses, and Aaron and his sons, washed their hands and their feet there. When they went into the Tent of Meeting, and when they came near to the altar, they washed; just as God commanded. Moses erected the court around the Tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a Cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Glory of the Eternal filled the Tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter into the Tent of Meeting, because the Cloud abode on it, and the Glory of the Eternal filled the Tabernacle. When the Cloud was taken up from over the Tabernacle, the Children of Israel went onward in all their journeys, but if the Cloud was not taken up, then they stayed put until the day that it was taken up. For the Cloud of the Eternal One was upon the Tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the House of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Commentary of Rashi (Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzhak: 1040-1105):

ויעל עליו וגו'. אַף בּיוֹם הַשְּׂמִינִי לַמִלּוּאִים, שֶׂהוּא יוֹם הֲקָמַת הַמִּשְׂכָן, שִּׁמֵשׁ מֹשֶׁה וְהְקְרִיב קַרְבְנוֹת צִבּוּר, חוּץ מֵאוֹתָן שֶׂנִצְמַוּוּ בוֹ בַיּוֹם, שֶׂנֶאֱמַר קְרב אֶל הַמִּוְבֵחַ וְהַקְרִיב כֶּרְבְנוֹת צִבּוּר, חוּץ מֵאוֹתָן שֶׂנִצְמַוּוּ בוֹ בַיּוֹם, שֶׂנֶאֱמַר קְרָב אֶל הַמִּוֹבְח וֹאַת המנחה. מִנְחַת נְסָכִים שֶׁל תָמִיר, וְאת המנחה. מִנְחַת נְסָכִים שֶׁל תָמִיר, כְמוֹ שֶׁנֶאֱמֵר וְעִשָּׁרֹן סֹלֶת בָלוּל בְשֶּמֶן וְגוֹמֵר (שמות כ"מ):

29. On it he offered. Even on the Eighth Day of the priests' ordination which was the day on which the Tabernacle was set up, Moses still officiated. He offered all of the public sacrifices except for those which were commanded specifically for that very day, which Moses told Aaron to offer. (See Lev. 9:7) **The burnt offering.** The regular burnt offering. **The meal offering.** The regular meal offering, with its libation. "Now this is what you shall offer upon the altar: Two yearling lambs each day, regularly.... There shall be a tenth of a measure of choice flour with a quarter of a hin of beaten oil mixed in, and a libation of a quarter of a hin of wine for one lamb." (29:38, 40)

Commentary of Abarbanel (Don Isaac Abarbanel (1437-1508):

34. The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting. This was not a natural cloud formed from water vapor, but a cloud created *ex nihilo* by God on the First Day of Creation—a "Darkness over the surface of the deep," as Gen. 1:2 calls it. There are many parallels between the story of creation and that of the Tabernacle. I have interpreted some of the verses in the story of creation differently in my commentary to Genesis than I do here, to fit the interpretation to the context, but there is no contradiction; the Torah has 70 faces.

Commentary of Hizkuni:

שכן עליו העגן מיד, להראות חבתו של הקבוה על ישראל.

34. The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting. Immediately, to show the Holy One's love for Israel.

Commentary of Gersonides:

Why is there so much unnecessary repetition in this story, and indeed in many of the stories of the Torah? No explanation has been found that is sufficient to cover every example. It may be that it was the custom in those days to have a great deal of reptation in stories, and the prophet spoke according to this custom. But perhaps the Torah is so long-winded in these many harmless places to show us that when it is brief in profound places that is not simply a matter of style. We are

thus awakened to the necessity of seeking the reason for the Torah's brevity in these profound places, which we must attribute to the nature of the subjects discussed in them. In such places every aspect of the text must be examined in order to discover their true meaning. In the case of the Tabernacle, however, the repetition is so extraordinary that each of its detail must have its own particular meaning.