

NIPS put some before the Part in the Tent of Meeting, where I will meet with you, it shall be most holy to you. "But when you make this incense, you must not make any in the same proportions for yourselves; it shall be held by you sacred to the LORD. Whoever makes any like it, to smell of it, shall be cut off from his kin.

31 The LORD spoke to Moses. "See,

אֲנִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאַתָּה בֶּרֶךְ אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי הַיְהוּדִים

And the LORD spoke unto Moses,

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

Bezel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and I have filled him

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in

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RASHI incense every day on the inner

to speak with you, I set them for that place.

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

atomatic incense, and bring this behind the curtain" (Lev. 16:12).

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

IBN EZRA 37 But when you make

My sake.

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

it refers specifically to Moses. You must not

31:2 I have singled out by name.

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

refers to all the Israelites.

literally, "I have called by name" (OFS)—I have called him to do My work.

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

38 To smell of it. According to Saadia,

NAHMANIDES Day of Atonement, and in the Tent of Meeting, the rest of the Tab-

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

text does not say that it is forbidden to smell

31:2 See, I have singled out by name Bezelel. In 35:30, Moses will repeat this

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remark to the Israelites. In Egypt, the Israelites were so ground down by laboring with

bricks and mortar that they learned nothing of how to work with gold, silver, and precious

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high honor, as when one of King Absalom's

unity to study one does not find a man who is expert in all of the different crafts simult-

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temporarily. Even the most skilled of the Israelites, spending all day with his hands in clay

and mind, would lose the ability to do delicate, beautiful work. But Bezelel not only was

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Bezelel was not even 13 years old when he

expert in all crafts, but had the wisdom to understand the mystery of the Tabernacle and

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built the Tabernacle in my comment to 24:14.

its furnishings, and everything that they symbolized. That is why God told Moses, "See!"

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

3 Skill, ability, and knowledge. He

He wanted him to see what a miracle it was, and to understand that it was God who

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had great skill, and knew all sorts of hidden

had "endowed him" (v. 2) with the ability to make the Tabernacle. For it had always been

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mysteries. For only one who was extremely

God's will to make the Tabernacle in the wilderness, and "He who announced the gen-

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

of Hohen, and Bezelel understood mathe-

you in the womb. I selected you" (Jer. 1:5). Esodus Rabbah has the following midrash:

וְאֵת אֵשֶׁת בְּרַחֲמֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת בְּנֵי הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵת

so understood the mystery of the Tabernacle

I prepared one person for every task, as the Torah says, "I have singled out by

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that he understood the mystery of its thick-

combinations of letters by which heaven and earth were created." For the Tabernacle

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a boy, for when could a boy have learned all

says was 12 when he became king, does not prove the contrary. For we are not told how long he reigned, and therefore do not know how

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this knowledge? Solomon, who tradition

symbolized the universe, and it was Bezelel who knew and understood this mystery.

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the purpose of the incense was to bring down the divine flow of

prophecy onto our master Moses (Abartanel).

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38 Whoever makes any like it... shall be cut off. V. 33 says the same about the sacred anointing oil. "It is not right for someone

else to use the king's scepter." The same principle explains the prohibition of wearing a mixture of wool and linen, since this is what the

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priestly garments were made of (Bechor Shor).

31:2 I have singled out by name Bezelel. I have chosen Bezelel and Oholiab (v. 6); you choose the experts who will help them

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(Bechor Shor). I think many Israelites must have felt capable of doing the work of the Tabernacle, and there were factions supporting the

him until God instructed him to do so (Abartanel). The work must be done by someone specifically chosen by God, who will work with

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the intent to fulfill the purpose of the commandment to make the Tabernacle (Storm).

3 I have endowed him with a divine spirit. As I have discussed in my book Wars of the Lord, this verse shows us that any wis-

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dom we acquire flows to us from God, may He be exalted, this goes even for practical skills (Cremonides). Knowledge in every kind of

craft. Ordinarily one who reaches the highest level of intellect is lacking in practical knowledge; one finds that scholars who isolate

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themselves from the world are often lacking in practical skills or become