

# DEBAR TORAH by RABBI ROHDE

## The Inspiring End Which Made the Project Possible From the Beginning

Parashat Pekude presents a summarizing of the entire building of the Tabernacle, along with a final summarizing narrative at the end describing how the Tabernacle was anointed and inaugurated and put into use, ending Exodus with the Descent of the Cloud/Fire Pillar of God upon the Tabernacle. Ostensibly the purpose of the summary is to give a full summary “accounting” of everything which went into building the Tabernacle, and indeed the name and first words of the Parasha mean “these are the accounting.” The Parasha does start out with accounting figures and inventories of the wood and textiles used. But the Book doesn’t end there with the accounting and inventory: It goes on to describe the anointing and inauguration of all the different parts and doesn’t stop its summarization until it tells us how the entire Tabernacle was fully assembled and put into use, with the Pillar of God descending upon it and ascending when it was time for Israel to decamp and move on. Why didn’t Pekude just end with the accounting and inventory? And the summarizing narrative here is problematic: Our Parasha mentions the Inauguration of Aaron and His Sons as well as anointing and inauguration of everything else here. Yet Leviticus, which ostensibly follows, then goes back and retells the Inauguration of the Priests in more detail later. And indeed some of the details don’t quite line up with the description in Leviticus: Our Parasha doesn’t mention the incident with Nadab and Abihu at all, for example. There is no explanation here of how exactly the Priests were purified, or how the vessels were purified. We could assume that the processes described in Exodus are the same ones which Leviticus just spells out in more detail. Hence we could assume that much of this narrative didn’t happen until later. However, why should Exodus have needed to summarize everything up to when the Tabernacle was complete and actually put into use?

One can answer that our Parasha’s name “Pekude” does not only mean “accounting” but also “Recounting” and “Visitation.” Thus part of the “accounting” must include a summarizing “recounting”. Further, Parashat “Pekude” could not end until God’s Pillar descended upon the Tabernacle because it was then that God came down to “Visit” the Children of Israel. But there is perhaps a deeper message here: The end for which the Tabernacle was planned and constructed was kept in mind from the beginning: As a student of Greek philosophy I sometimes like to point out that Aristotle considers the “telos” or end a kind of “cause,” what is called the “final cause” or “teleological cause”. The end or final purpose is often in-mind from the very inception, “causing” it to come into being, and such was very much the case here, in these matters of Holiness. Everything given for the Tabernacle had to have a special intent and a dedication which had to be guaranteed fulfillment. The holy end to which it was to be consecrated had to be born in mind at all times. Besides, in complex construction the work is nowhere near complete until all parts are assembled and the whole is found to be in working order. The purpose of serving God and having Him dwell in a Sanctuary among Israel was the end which excited a fervor in Israel and made the glorious project of building such a glorious Sanctuary possible, even for a people wandering in the desert. The whole amazingly glorious and complex enterprise was only possible through the inspiration of the aim of serving God. And it was the zeal for that same Sacred End which pushed the project through miraculously to completion, despite any obstacles, to the Very End.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Pekude

March 15-16, 2024 | 6 Adar II, 5784

### SCHEDULE

Kaplan: p. 480 | Haftarah: p. 1134

Hertz: p. 385 | Haftarah: p. 382

**Candle Lighting** | 6:45 pm

**Evening Services** | 6:45 pm

*Friday Night Lights will return next week.*

**Zemirot** | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

**Shahrit** | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

At the conclusion of the last word of the parasha, the congregation says:

**תְּזַק וְנִתְחַזַּק - תְּזַקוּ וְנִצְמַח לְבַבְכֶם כָּל הַיְמֵי חַיֵּיכֶם**

*Be Strong and let us be Strengthened - Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
All ye that hope for the LORD.*

**Morning Talk** | At Morning Services | Baruch-Lev Kelman, Rabbinic Intern

**Tot Shabbat** | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

**Youth Groups** | 10:00 am | Elias Room

**Jr. Congregation** | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

**Kiddush** | following services

**Shabbat Afternoon Class** | 6:00 pm | Baruch-Lev Kelman

**Teen Shiur will return next week.**

**Evening Services** | 6:45 pm

**Habdala** | 7:38 pm

*The Fast of Esther is observed in advance this year, on Thursday. See inside for full schedule.*

### Weekday Service Times

Sunday Morning: 8:05 am

Monday-Friday Mornings: 7:05 am

Sunday-Thursday Evenings (Minha & Arbit): 6:30 pm

## 2024 YEAR OF HOPE

### *Year of Hope Capital Campaign*

#### Replacing our Sanctuary Carpet & Other Vital Repairs

Plans are underway to replace the carpet so that our sacred space reflects the reverence it deserves. Join our growing list of donors, and help us reach our goal of 100% participation!

*View the list and donate at [shearithisrael.org/giving/year-of-hope](https://shearithisrael.org/giving/year-of-hope).*

### CSI WOMEN & GIRLS – BECOME A READER!

#### Teen Girls & Young Women's Shir HaShirim Reading

Shabbat, Hol HaMoed Pesah, April 27

The young women (post-Bat Mitzvah through 20s) of our congregation recite the Song of Songs on Pesah. Preparation and training provided. Newcomers welcome!

For information and to participate, please contact [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com).

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to **Lauren & Mitchell Presser**, upon the birth of a grandson, born to Talya & Ilan Portnoy.

#### Election Results

Congratulations to Rabbi Soloveichik, Rabbi Rohde, and Rev. Edinger upon being re-elected to their constitutional positions of Hazzan, Shohet, and Shamash, respectively.

Congratulations as well to our newly voted-in electors:

**Victor Owen**  
**Sondra & Arnie Rosen**

We encourage you to welcome our new electors, and we look forward to having our new electors sign their names in our historic book.

#### Become a Trained Shearith Israel Security Volunteer

*For Qualified Shearith Israel Members*

Shearith Israel members and close friends are invited to apply to be a member of a Shearith Israel Volunteer Security Team through Community Security Service (CSS).

CSS volunteers work in tandem with paid security and law enforcement.

*Refer to our emails for the details.*

## PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Saturday Night, March 23-Sunday, March 24

Visit [shearithisrael.org](https://shearithisrael.org) for the full Purim schedule & activities

Megillah Readings	Fast of Esther (observed in advance, Thursday, March 21)
Saturday Night Main Reading   <b>8:15 pm</b>	Morning Services   <b>7:05 am</b>
Saturday Night Late Reading   <b>9:00 pm</b>	Minha (with tefillin)   <b>6:30 pm</b>
Main Morning Reading   <b>8:30 am</b>	Arbit   <b>7:10 pm</b>
Women's Morning Reading   <b>8:30 am</b>	End of Fast   <b>7:32 pm</b>
Late Morning Reading   <b>11:00 am</b>	

*A Purim Celebration Like No Other!*

#### Portuguese Pirate Purim Parley with Baruch-Lev Kelman

Saturday Night, March 23 | During Megillah Reading

For Kids of All Ages (under 5 must be accompanied by an adult)

Dropoff in Fidanque Youth Room at 8:00 pm | Come in costume!

Join Rabbinic Intern Baruch-Lev for an evening of swashbuckling fun and Purim learning, during the first megillah reading!

#### Congregational Purim Breakfast

Sunday, March 24 | Following Megillah Reading | Levy Auditorium

Following the megillah, all are welcome to join us for a festive Purim Breakfast!

*Free; sponsorships welcome at [shearithisrael.org/purim5784](https://shearithisrael.org/purim5784).*

#### Young Professionals Purim Brunch

Sunday, March 24 | 9:45 am | For registered guests ages 21-35 | Elias Room

Dive down the rabbit hole this Purim and step into the whimsical wonderland of Alice in Wonderland! Register at [shearithisrael.org/events/yp-purim](https://shearithisrael.org/events/yp-purim).

#### Matanot L'Ebyonim

It is one of the mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," will be distributed by Rabbi

Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

#### Sisterhood Mishloah Manot Pickup

If you chose to receive a Mishloah Manot package, pickup will take place at the synagogue during Purim. You can pick up your package from the table outside the Levy Auditorium.

*Note: There will be no package delivery.*