

**EXODUS 35:30-35**

ל וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל רְאוּ קָרָא יְהוָה בְּשֵׁם בְּצַלְאֵל בֶּן־אֹרִי בֶן־חֹר לְמִטָּה יְהוּדָה:  
לֹא וַיְמַלֵּא אֹתוֹ רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים בְּחֻכְמָה בְּתַבּוּנָה וּבְדַעַת וּבְכָל־מְלָאכָה: לֵב וְלִחְשָׁב מִחֻשְׁבַּת  
לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּזָהָב וּבַכֶּסֶף וּבַנְּחֹשֶׁת: לֵג וּבַחֲרָשֶׁת אָבֹן לְמַלְאָת וּבַחֲרָשֶׁת עֵץ לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּכָל־מְלָאכָת  
מִחֻשְׁבֹּת: לַד וּלְהוֹרֹת נֹתֵן בְּלִבּוֹ הוּא וְאַהֲלִיאֵב בֶּן־אֲחִיסַמֵּךְ לְמִטָּה־דָן: לֵה מְלֵא אֹתָם  
חֻכְמַת־לֵב לַעֲשׂוֹת כָּל־מְלָאכָת חֲרָשׁ | וְחֻשָׁב וְרָקַם בְּתַכְלֵת וּבְאַרְגָּמָן בְּתוֹלַעַת הַשָּׁנִי וּבְשֵׁשׁ  
וְאַרְגַּ עֲשִׂי כָל־מְלָאכָה וְחֻשְׁבֵי מִחֻשְׁבַּת

30 And Moses said to the Israelites: See, Adonai has singled out by name Bezalel, son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 31 God has endowed him with a divine spirit of *hokhmah*, *tevunah*, and *da'at* in every kind of craft 32 and has inspired him to make designs for work in gold, silver, and copper, 33 to cut stones for setting and to carve wood - to work in every kind of designer's craft - 34 and to give directions. He and Oholiab son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan 35 have been endowed with the skill to do any work - of the carver, the designer, the embroiderer in blue, purple, crimson yarns, and in fine linen, and of the weaver - as workers in all crafts and as makers of designs.

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*hokhmah* - חֻכְמָה  
WISDOM (skill)

*tevunah* - תַּבּוּנָה  
UNDERSTANDING (ability)

*da'at* - דַּעַת  
KNOWLEDGE (knowledge)  
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In ten sayings the world was created. . .and in three it was finalized and these are they: *Hokhmah*, *tevunah* and *da'at* as it is stated: Proverbs 2:19-20, *By hokhmah Adonai founded the earth; By tevunah God established the heavens, By God's da'at the depths were split asunder And the skies dropped dew.* With the same three the Tabernacle was made, as it is stated: Exodus 35:3, *God has endowed him with a divine spirit of hokhmah, tevunah, and da'at in every kind of craft.* With the same three was the Temple built, as it is stated: Kings 7:14, *He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali. His father was a Tyrean, a worker in bronze, And he was filled with hokhmah, tevunah and da'at working in every kind of craftsmanship in bronze and he came to King Solomon, and executed all his works.* With the same three is it destined to be rebuilt, as it is stated: Proverbs 24:3-4, *With hokhmah a house is built and is established by tevunah. By da'at are its rooms filled with all precious and beautiful things.*

*Pirke De R. Eliezer III*

## Survey of Hokmah, Tevunah, Da'at

### RASHI

- hokhmah:*** what a person learns from other.  
***tevunah:*** a wider understanding gained through intelligent application of what he has learned (literally: “understanding things from his heart, from the things he has learned”)  
***da'at:*** the holy spirit (inspiration)

### Avraham b. Ha-rambam

- hokhmah:*** what a person learns and remembers from his colleague  
***tevunah:*** what he creates by the application of his intelligence and innovates by thinking, imagination, vision and analogy.  
***da'at:*** the intellectual perfection emerging from the combination of *hokhmah* and *tevunah*.

### Mendelssohn in the Biur

- hokhmah:*** A knowledge of the technique by which we achieve our desires.  
***tevunah:*** The ability to deduce one thing from another and achieve the unknown from the known.  
***da'at:*** The ability to perceive forms as they are whether they are sensory or extra-sensory.

### The Alter Rebbe, Rav Schneur Zalman of Liadi (Racheli Reckels, Breslev.co.il)

**Hokmah:** Wisdom - is the first flash of intellect. It is the essence of an idea. Hokmah is the first flash of an idea, symbolized by the imaginary lightbulb/fireworks/strobe lights that go off on the top of your head.

**Tevunah:** Understanding - is the first step at breaking the idea down into parts, thus clarifying the details and steps that will be necessary to materialize the idea into action; to assume an order and a “plan of action.”

**Daat** Knowledge - is the component by which a person immerses himself in his idea. The depth by which a person applies himself and his efforts to bringing his idea to fruition directly correlates with the union between his idea and his self.

### Rabbi Daniel Meyers. Malbim (Proverbs, 24:3):

- hokmah:*** is that which we learn from others  
***tevunah:*** “Hamaivin Davar Mitoch Davar” - one who understands a thing inside of a thing. (deduction)  
***Daat:*** Intuition.

Rabbi Daniel Meyers (cont.) For example, a trained doctor may have a legitimate intuition how to deal with a cancer patient, (God have mercy we never hear of such), choosing chemotherapy, surgery or another option. A layman, on the other hand, who has no Chochma or Bina in medicine, cannot have legitimate intuition in this matter.

#### **Midrash Tanchuma, Vayakhel 5:4**

Elihu disclosed: I said: "Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom." But it is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty, that giveth them understanding (Job 32:7). All of the understanding possessed by Bezalel came from the spirit of the Almighty, and it was instilled into him. And He hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom. Understanding and knowledge (Exod. 35:31). He was wise in his knowledge of the Torah, in understanding, because he comprehended the law, and knowledge, because his mind was full of learning, and in all manner of workmanship, according to its plain meaning. The Holy One, blessed be He, said: In this world, My spirit instills wisdom within you, but in the future I will implant My spirit within you and you will be restored to life, as it is said: And I will put My spirit within you and you shall live (Ezek. 37:14).

#### **Ein Yaakov (Glick Edition), Berakhot 9:3**

R. Yochanan said: "The Holy One, praised be He! doth not give wisdom to a man unless he possesses some; as it is said (Dan. 2, 21.) Who giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to those who possess understanding." When R. Tachalifa of the west (Palesine) heard this he went and related it to R. Abuhu, whereupon the latter replied: "What you infer from that passage, we derive from another; it is written (Ex. 31, 6.) And in the heart of all that are wise-hearted have I put wisdom."

#### **Midrash Tanchuma, Pekudei 3:16**

Concerning Bezalel it is stated: He hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, and in knowledge (Exod. 35:31). The very attributes with which the Holy One, blessed be he, created His world and fashioned man were possessed by Bezalel. And he constructed the Tabernacle. Furthermore it is stated: The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens; by His knowledge the depths were broken up (Prov. 3:19-20). And about Bezalel it is written: And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom and in understanding, and in knowledge (Exod. 35:31). The three attributes mentioned in the verse are referred to in the other: Therefore who doeth great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number (Job 5:9).