

AV MELACHOS OF PREPARING MATZAH

The Torah teaches that there are 39 major categories of work called the Avos Melacha, that are prohibited on Shabbos. These craft related labors were performed in the construction of the Mishkon, the Tabernacle. Preparing Shmura Matzah involves 11 of these 39 Melachos listed below. See if you can figure out which of the activities you will do are connected to the Av Melachos listed below.



חורש - Plowing - : Preparing the earth for planting.



קוצר - Harvesting:
Detaching a plant.



ט7 - Threshing:
Separating a natural product from its natural container.



בורר - Selecting:
Separating desirable items from undesirable ones (or vice versa) in a mixture.



מרקד - Sifting:
Separating mixed objects with a strainer (sifter).



אופה - Baking:
Changing the physical state of a substance by heating it.

זרע - Planting:
Causing plants to grow.



מעמר - Gathering:
Collecting natural produce into a bundle.
(Applies only to products that were grown.)



זורה - Winnowing:
Using the wind to separate wanted from unwanted objects.



טוחן - Grinding:
Breaking down a substance into small, usable pieces.



לש - Kneading:
Combining particles with liquid to form a dough or paste.



According to the Talmud Yeroshalmi the original purpose of the first 11 Melachos listed above, was to prepare loaves of bread for the Lechem Haponim. (Alternately; to grow and process plants needed to color the wool and skins of the Mishkan.) Learn what the rest of the 39 Melachos were.

The purpose of the following 13 melachos in the Mishkon was for preparation of wool and weave it into curtains.

גוזז - Shearing: detaching non-living parts from a person or animal.

מלבן - Bleaching: freeing material from unwanted dirt stains, dust, etc.

מנפץ - Combing: untangling clumps of raw material into separate parts.

לוצט - Dyeing: changing or reinforcing color.

טווה - Spinning: twisting a strand of fiber into thread.

מיסך - Threading a loom: tying the threads from the front to the back roller of a loom.

עושה שני צתי ירין - Threading a harness (of a loom): inserting two threads through the rings (one in each harness)

אורג - Weaving: pulling across the thread which adds a new row to the material.

פולט - Separating thread: cutting or removing the cloth from the loom rollers.

קושר - Tying: making a permanent knot.

מתיר - Untying: undoing a permanent knot.

תופר - Sewing: attaching two materials to one another.

קורט - Tearing: ripping apart material for a useful purpose.

The purpose of the following 7 melachos was for preparing the skins for the Mishkon covering.

ל - Trapping: restricting the movement of an undomesticated living creature for its use.

שוחט - Slaughtering: shortening the life of a living creature for its use.

מפשיט - Skinning: separating the skin from the flesh of a dead animal.

מעצב - Tanning: processing raw materials physically or chemically.

ממחק - Smoothing: rubbing an object to reduce roughness or form a shape.

משרטט - Marking: outlining a surface for a useful purpose.

מחתך - Cutting to shape: altering the size or shape of an object for functional use.

The following 2 melachos were needed to rebuild the Mishkon properly. Letters were written on the pillars to identify their position. Letters were often erased and rewritten.

כותב - Writing: creating meaningful images.

מוחק - Erasing: a cleaning process preparing a surface for writing.

The melachos of building and demolishing were employed to build and take apart the Mishkon when travelling.

צונה - Building: constructing or improving a structure.

סותר - Demolishing: destroying a structure to enable new construction.

It was necessary to light a fire needed for dyeing wool and smelting metals. Fire was extinguished to make the charcoal.

מכבה - Extinguishing: Putting out a fire.

מצטיר - Kindling a fire

This melacho completed metal construction.

מכה צפטיט - Final Hammer Blow: to complete the act construction.

This last melacho was needed to move the pillars from the wagons to a Public Area and vice versa; to bring the maasros for the Mishkon from the tents to a Public Area.

הולאה מרשות לרשות - Carrying: between one domain and another domain, (as in from a private area to a public area.)