

Torah Portion – Terumah  
Exodus 25:1 – 27:19

“Terumah” in Hebrew means, *contribution, gift or free will offering*. It comes from the beginning of this Torah Portion reading where the people were commanded to bring their free will contributions.

In this portion we see that Moses was commanded to build for Yahweh a dwelling place amongst His people. Moses was instructed to build this “tabernacle” exactly as he was instructed on the mountain and exactly as it appeared in Heaven. This would later be the model for the Temple in Jerusalem. Yahweh gives specific minute details that are to be followed. The instructions proceed from the inner to the outer court.

The tabernacle had an inner and an outer court. The outer court contained the Alter and the Bronze Laver. The inner court actually had 2 chambers, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The Holy Place contained the Table of Showbread, the Lampstand (Menorah), and the Altar of Incense. The inner chamber contained the Ark of the Covenant (a box covered in gold) with the lid covering which we call the Mercy Seat but in Hebrew was called the *kapporet*. This box initially held only the 2 tablets of the covenant which had been given to Moses. Later it also contained a jar of manna and Aaron's rod that budded.

The priests used the outer court to make sacrifices. The Holy Place was used by the priests to minister before Yahweh and the Holy of Holies was used only by the High Priest, just once a year on Yom Kippur, to make atonement for sins.

The tabernacle was required so that people could approach a Holy God. The tabernacle was the place of Yahweh's presence, His meeting place with man. The layout of the tabernacle illustrates the prescribed manner in which man can approach Him. Just as there was only one “tabernacle” and way to approach Yahweh in the wilderness and during the times of a functioning temple in Jerusalem, there is now only one way to approach Yahweh and that is through His son, Y'shua.

The tabernacle outlay and furniture, as well as every other aspect of the tabernacle structure, reveal the work of Y'shua. The tabernacle shows us the pattern of how we must approach God (YHVH) and come into fellowship with Him. By studying the outlay and furniture of the tabernacle we can see how we can be cleansed and separated, and thus be able to approach God, thru Y'shua, and have a relationship with Him which would otherwise have been impossible.

Notice that Yahweh instructed those who have a “willing” heart to bring their gifts for the construction of the tabernacle. Yahweh never forces Himself, or His ways, upon anyone. Whatever is done for Him, or His Son, must be done from a heart of love, obedience and free will. Anything done from less than that will be burned up at the coming of the promised one, Y'shua.

Just as with Noah and the building of the ark, Yahweh spares no detail in His instructions for the building and furnishings of the tabernacle. Yahweh is a God of “smallest details”. When it comes to His children, He also is a God of smallest detail. There is no area of our lives in which He is not concerned. There is no “small sin” that He does not see in each individual life. Nothing escapes His all seeing eye. Just as He required a person to be holy when they approached Him in the tabernacle or temple, He now requires us to be Holy and acceptable to Him. The first step is repentance from our sins, but after that, He requires a life time of continual cleansing and purging of our hearts. If we expect

to approach a Holy God we must take the steps necessary to approach Him. We do not approach Him on our terms, but on His terms.

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