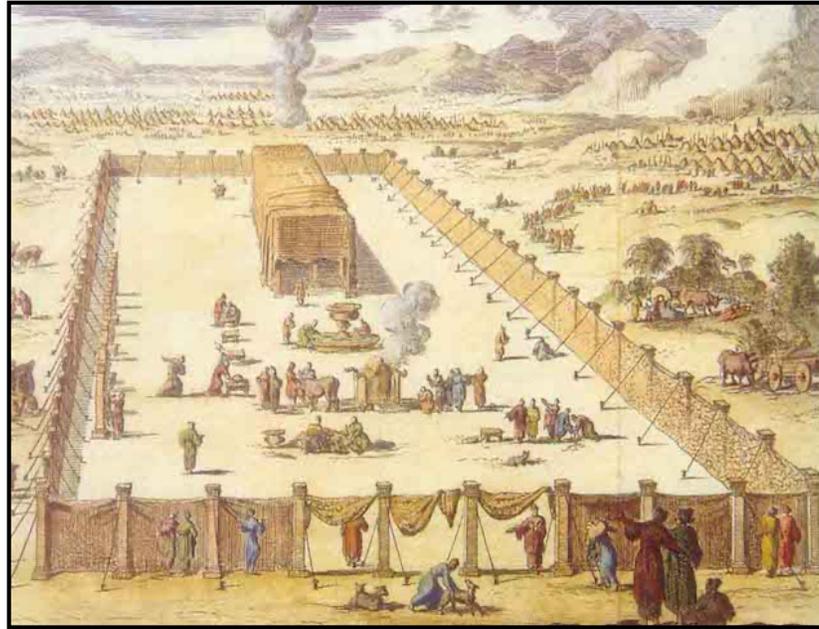


VAYAKHEL - EXODUS

- *And he assembled* -

Dan Stolebarger - Holy Ground Explorations
Chapters 35 - 38:21

INTRODUCTION



PARASHAT VAYAKHEL - 'And he assembled'

- According to Jewish tradition, Moses descended from Sinai (with the second set of tablets) on Yom Kippur, and on the following morning he convened the people to explain God's instructions regarding building the Tabernacle. Before he did so, however, he again reminded them to observe the Sabbath as a day of complete rest, with the added provision that they may not kindle any fire on this day.
- In the Torah, time is holier than place. Therefore, the observance of the holiest day of the week takes precedence over the building of the holiest place.

Remember ... the most precious gift one can give is TIME.

35

This next section (ch 35-40) is basically a repeat of what we have been over. The first time was when God gave instructions for the Tabernacle, the second time is when they actually built the structure.

⁴ Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which Yahweh commanded, saying, ⁵ 'Take from among you an offering to Yahweh.

Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as Yahweh's offering: gold, silver, bronze, ⁶ blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair, ⁷ rams' skins dyed red, sea cow hides, acacia wood, ⁸ oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense, ⁹ onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate.

Again ... remember the slave mentality. Also, keep in mind the gold given for the creation of the golden calf.

Selah - Do I have a willing heart? Do I give out of obligation? Am I more of a giver or a taker? Jesus said that the manner in which you give it shall be given to you.

Luke 6:38

² Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab, and every wise-hearted man, in whose heart Yahweh had put **wisdom**, even everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to the work to do it.

³ They received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, with which to make it. **They kept bringing free will offerings to him every morning.** ⁴ All the wise men, who performed all the work of the sanctuary, each came from his work which he did. ⁵ They spoke to Moses, saying, **"The people have brought much more than enough** for the service of the work which Yahweh commanded to make."

⁶ **Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman make anything else for the offering for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing.** ⁷ For the stuff they had was sufficient to do all the work, and too much.

How did Bezalel know how to construct the Tabernacle? The Spirit of God imparted him with wisdom (*chokhmah*), understanding (*tevunah*), and knowledge (*da'at*) - the same attributes used to describe God as the Creator of the Universe.

¹⁹ The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;
²⁰ By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew. **Proverbs 3:19-20**

Notice ... After Moses asked them to give, he sent them home to decide what they would give. This shows that Moses did not use manipulative techniques, such as asking people to make quick, public decisions about their giving. There was no manipulation at in Moses' request.

He didn't have a contest setting one tribe against another, to see which tribe could raise the most money, or any other such nonsense. God did the work in the hearts of the people.

BTW ... This may be the only time in recorded history a leader told his people, "The government has enough money; don't give us any more."

37

Bezalel **made the ark of acacia wood**. Its length was two and a half cubits, and its width a cubit and a half, and a cubit and a half its height. ² He overlaid it with **pure gold inside and outside**, and made a molding of gold for it around it. ³ He cast four rings of gold for it in its four feet—two rings on its one side, and two rings on its other side. ⁴ He made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. ⁵ He put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to bear the ark. ⁶ **He made a mercy seat of pure gold**. Its length was two and a half cubits, and a cubit and a half its width. ⁷ **He made two cherubim of gold**. He made them of beaten work, at the two ends of the mercy seat: ⁸ one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other end. He made the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. ⁹ **The cherubim spread out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces toward one another. The faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat.**



The weight of all the GOLD - a ton; SILVER - 7,000 lbs; BRONZE - 5,000 lbs.

By some estimations the present-day value of the materials used in the tabernacle would total more than \$13 million

8 He made the basin of bronze, and its base of bronze, out of the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered at the door of the Tent of Meeting.



“It was highly significant that the brass of these mirrors was employed to construct that laver in which the priests must wash on approaching the altar or entering the Tabernacle. It is in the beauty of holiness men must worship, and by the surrender of everything of the flesh.” (Morgan)

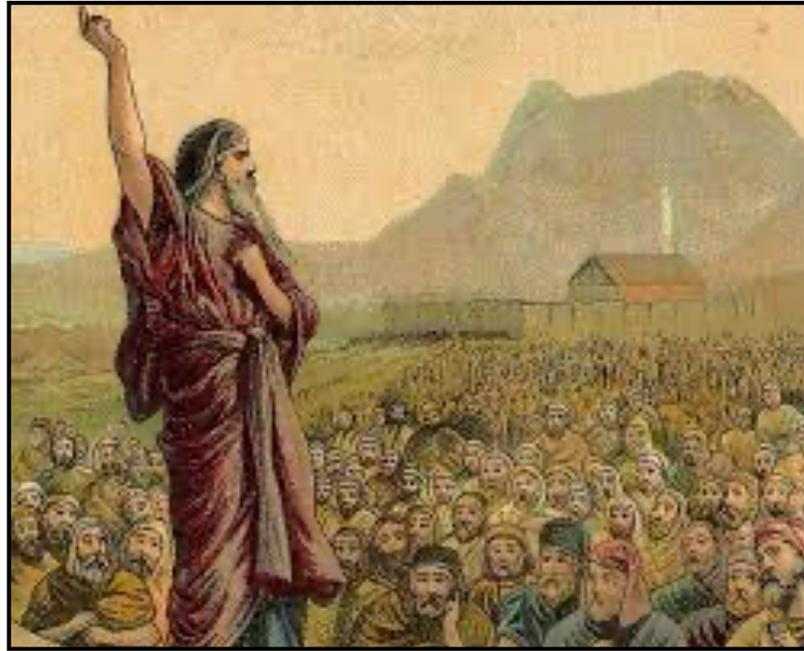
It is wonderful to think that these women gave up their ability to measure their own physical beauty to make this reservoir for the water of ceremonial washing. By analogy, it may be said that some are so focused on looking at themselves that they fail to look to Jesus. It is always time to surrender such a mirror to Jesus. (Guzik)

PEKUDEI - EXODUS

- *Accounting of* -

Dan Stolebarger - Holy Ground Explorations
Chapters 38:22 - 40

INTRODUCTION



PARASHAT PEKUDEI - 'Accounting of'

- Parashat Pekudei is the final portion of the Book of Exodus. It begins with Moses' accounting of all the materials that were donated for the construction of the Mishkan (i.e., Tabernacle). Moses first recorded the inventory of the building materials and furnishings, and then he carefully checked the special priestly garments. After all the work was confirmed to be in complete accordance with the LORD's instructions, Moses blessed the people.

26 a beka a head, that is, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, for everyone who passed over to those who were counted, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty men.

- **Assuming these were married men with 2 or more children, the total number of people represented by the shekalim reaches two million.**

They determine this number by the account of the weight of the silver used for the sockets of the Mishkan. A half-shekel tax was imposed on all males from the age of 20 years and up. Moses recorded the weight of the silver to be “a hundred talents [kikars] plus 1,175 shekels. If one kikar equals 3,000 shekels and there were 100 kikars, this amounts to 300,000 shekels. We then add 1,775 to yield 301,775 and multiply by 2 to result in 603,550 men aged 20 or more (Exod. 38:26).

8 He made the **breastplate**, the work of a skillful workman, like the work of the **ephod**: of gold, of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen. 9 It was square. They made the breastplate double. Its length was a span, and its width a span, being double. 10 They set in it **four rows of stones**. A row of ruby, topaz, and beryl was the **first row**; 11 and the **second row**, a turquoise, a sapphire, and an emerald; 12 and the **third row**, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 13 and the **fourth row**, a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in gold settings. 14 **The stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names**; like the engravings of a signet, everyone according to his name, for the twelve tribes. 15 They made on the breastplate chains like cords, of braided work of pure gold



⁴² According to all that Yahweh commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work. ⁴³ Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it as Yahweh had commanded. They had done so; and Moses blessed them.

40

¹⁷ In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was raised up. ¹⁸ Moses raised up the tabernacle, and laid its sockets, and set up its boards, and put in its bars, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹ He spread the covering over the tent, and put the roof of the tabernacle above on it, as Yahweh commanded Moses. ²⁰ He took and put the covenant into the ark, and set the poles on the ark, and put the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹ He brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the covenant, as Yahweh commanded Moses.

Review

Door

Altar

Bronze Laver

Table of Shewbread

Menorah

Golden Altar

Ark

Mercy Seat

40

³³ He raised up the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.

³⁴ **Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and Yahweh's glory filled the tabernacle.** ³⁵ **Moses wasn't able to enter into the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud stayed on it, and Yahweh's glory filled the tabernacle.** ³⁶ When the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward, throughout all their journeys; ³⁷ but if the cloud wasn't taken up, then they didn't travel until the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the **cloud of Yahweh was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in the cloud by night**, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

"To speak of a journey is to look for an arrival: He who has begun a work of salvation for Israel will complete it (Philippians 1:6)." (Cole)

Without the glory, it was just a fancy tent. The same could be said of a church, of a home, or of the human tent.

Exodus ends with great hope and trust in God. Though Israel was in the middle of a desolate desert, had fierce enemies in the Promised Land, and was weak and liable to sin and rebellion, God was with them. This gave them great cause for faith and confidence.