



Terumah

Shemot (Exodus) 25:1 – 27:19

With *Parshat Terumah*, we shift from the concentration of laws that characterized the previous two *parshiyot*, to the building of the *Mishkan*, (the Tabernacle, or portable sanctuary). G-d instructs Moses to solicit and accept gifts from the Israelites for this purpose. These are to be used in constructing the *Mishkan* so that G-d could dwell among the people. Among the various donations were precious metals and stones, tanned skins, blue, purple, and crimson yarns and linen, and special oils and spices.

The Mishkan was constructed according to G-d's exacting specifications and plans. First to be made was the Aron (Ark) of acacia wood, overlaid both inside and out with gold. The Ark was housed in the Holy of Holies, the innermost chamber of the Mishkan.

G-d describes the construction of the Tabernacle to Moses in great detail. The entire structure is to be portable, with a wooden framework and walls of richly colored fabric.

Inside the Tabernacle, next to the Holy of Holies, was a second room called the Holy place, which will contain a table overlaid in gold with the bread of display (showbread) set on it and the seven-branched Menorah also wrought of gold work.

In the court of the Tabernacle, an altar was constructed with horns of copper at each corner. The courtyard itself is to be 100 cubits long by 50 cubits wide, fenced in with five-twined linen on silver filleted poles with hooks of silver and sockets of brass.



Jewish Community Center of Paramus
E. 304 Midland Ave., Paramus NJ 07652
Phone: (201) 262-7691 Fax: (201) 262-6516
© 2007 Jewish Community Center of Paramus