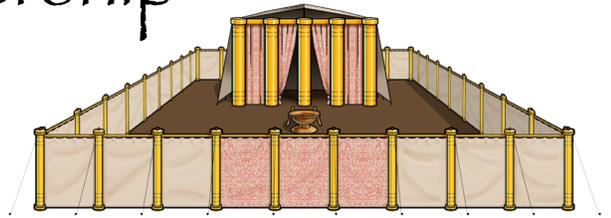


Vayakhel וַיַּקְהֵל

“And He assembled”

Worship

עבודת אלוהים



In this week's Parasha teaching the children of Yisra'el were assembled to hear the word of God. They are commanded by God to observe the Shabbat (Sabbath), the day of rest to God. Obeying this command is a way to worship God. Moshe gathered the people of Yisra'el and told them that God wants them to bring an offering for the Tabernacle. Exodus 36 tells us that the

people gave so much that Moshe told the people not to give anymore. The people had given with a generous Spirit, and Moshe had all that was needed to build the Tabernacle.

Exodus 37 describes the making of the Ark of the Testimony, the table for the showbread, and the gold lampstand. Exodus 38 describes the making of the altar (mizbeach מִזְבֵּחַ) of burnt offering, the bronze laver, and

the court of the Tabernacle. This was done so that they would have everything that was required for worship. Worship is essential for those who love God. The Yisra'elites demonstrated through their

obedience to God that they understood that they had been redeemed by God, and they desired to worship Him properly and give back to God what was needed to build the Tabernacle.

Focus Passage of Scripture

Exodus 35:1 – Exodus 36:7

In Exodus 35:1-3, Moshe gathered the congregation of the children of Yisra'el and said to them “These are the words which the Lord has commanded you to do: work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath (Shabbat) of rest to God.” Let's take a second to review: the number 7 means rest and this is a reminder to us that this time is purposeful and sanctified by God. When we embrace the Sabbath, we will find God's Holiness working through us. These passages of Scripture will continue to show us this. In Exodus 35:4-9, Moshe tells the children of Yisra'el that the Lord commands them to take from among them an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord.

Pray First

Father God,

We Praise You.

You are Mighty and Your faithfulness surrounds us.

We desire to worship You and we ask that You give us a generous spirit so that we can worship You and be a testimony to others so that they may see Your great love.

In Yeshua's name we pray,
Amen

Read Exodus 35:1 – 38:20

They were to bring gold, silver, bronze, blue, purple, scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair. This teaches us that worship involves giving back to the LORD. They were also to bring ram skins dyed in red, acacia wood, oil for the light and sweet incense. They were also to bring onyx stones and stones.

In Exodus 35:10 we read that all who are gifted artisans from among the children of Yisra'el shall make all that God commanded. These were men the Lord had filled with wisdom and knowledge on how to make the items for the Tabernacle (mishkan - מִשְׁכָּן). God will always give us what we need to do His work. In Exodus 35:11-14 we read that they were to make the Tabernacle, its tent, its coverings, its clasps, its boards, bars, pillars, and sockets, the mercy seat (kaporet - כַּפֹּרֶת), its boards, the veil of covering, all the utensils and the showbread (lechem ha'panim - לֶחֶם הַפָּנִים), the golden lampstand (menorah - מְנוֹרָה) for light, its utensils, and the oil for light.

In Exodus 35:19 the garments of ministry for ministering in the Holy place were to be made. These would be for Aharon the high priest and his sons to minister as priests. This was so that they would have everything that God required for worship. The people then departed from Moshe after hearing all that God commanded.



Table of Showbread

In Exodus 35:21 we read, "Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the Tabernacle of Meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments." In Exodus 35:22 men and women came as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings, and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold. All that God had commanded them to bring was for the purpose of worship. They were bringing what was precious to them and showing God that now He was more precious.

In Exodus 35:30-35 Moshe tells the children of Yisra'el that God called B'tzalel (Bezalel) of the tribe of Y'hudah (Judah) and filled him with the Spirit of God giving him wisdom, understanding, and knowledge in all manner of workmanship. B'tzalel could work in gold, silver, and bronze. He could cut jewels for setting, carve wood and work in all manner of artistic workmanship. God also put in the hearts of B'tzalel and Oholi'av (Aholib) the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan the ability to teach others these skills (Exodus 35:34). This shows us today that whom God calls He will equip with knowledge and understanding and provide them with everything that they need.

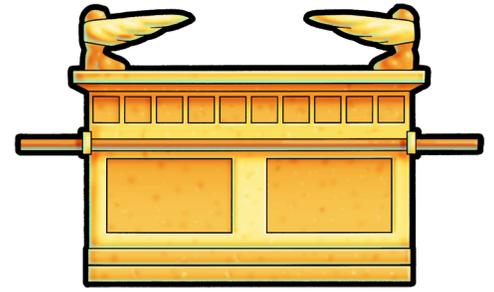
Every morning the people would continue to bring the freewill offering. In Exodus 36:4-5, the craftsmen who were doing the work of the Sanctuary told Moshe that the people brought more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded them to do. The Yisra'elites were displaying a generous spirit. All who follow God are called to be servants of God displaying this generous spirit. Throughout this Torah reading we see the children of Yisra'el's desire to obey God and worship Him.

Fun Fact:



The temple lampstand, called the Menorah, was formed from a single lump of gold!

The Yisra'elites were to do God's labor. They had been redeemed from Egypt and whenever a person has been redeemed the natural response is to worship the Redeemer. Worship is always done based on God's instruction. If we are not worshipping God in a submissive manner, obedient to God, it is idolatry. The Yisra'elites showed the world that they had a willing and obedient heart. This gave them a generous spirit.



Ark of the Covenant

We are to have that same willing heart to serve God with an obedient and generous spirit. When we submit to God, His purposes are our objectives. We will see that God supplies generously and He will give us the wisdom to know what to do. A generous heart gives us a different perspective. We will start to see things with an eternal perspective. We should all ask God to give us a generous spirit so that we can serve Him and have a pleasing testimony of Him.

Tabernacle Review Quiz (Exodus 37-38)

1. What was the length, width and height of the Ark that B'tzael made?

Length: Width: Height:

2. The Mercy Seat was made of pure gold (True or False)?

3. What was the length and width of the mercy seat?

Length: Width:

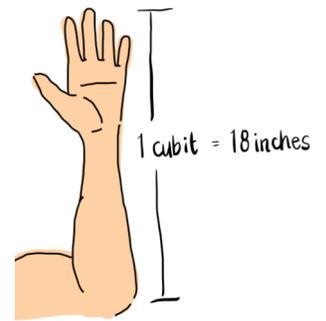
4. What were the Cheribum made from?

5. The table of showbread was made of what kind of wood?

6. What metal covered the table of showbread?

7. The hangings of the court on the south side of the Tabernacle were how many cubits long?

8. How long were the hangings on the east side of the Tabernacle?



A Deeper Dive

2 Corinthians 9:6 says, "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." This is teaching us that what you sow you will reap. We see this in today's Torah lesson. The Yisra'elites gave more than was needed so that they could worship God. God provided more than was needed. They learned that God would meet their need.

The same is true for believers in Yeshua. An important thing to remember is that generosity is not always financial. Sometimes we can be generous with our time, such as visiting someone who is lonely, or helping a neighbor.

Pray First

Father God,
We Praise You for Redeeming us through
Your Son Yeshua. We ask You to forgive
us of our prideful and selfish hearts. We
ask that You make us a generous people
so that we may have a pleasing testimony
before You.

In Yeshua's name we pray,
Amen

Read:

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

But this I say: He who sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly, and he who
sows bountifully will also reap
bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

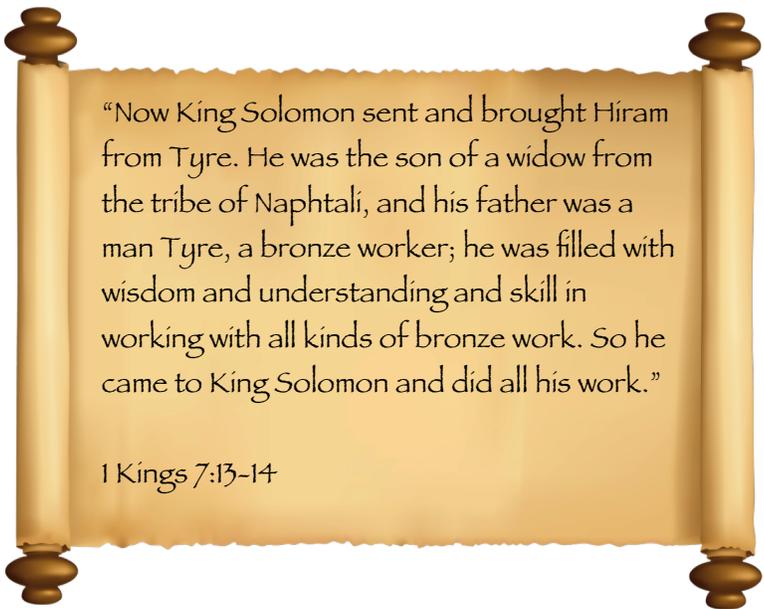
2 Corinthians 9:8 says, "God is able to make grace abound toward you, that you, always having sufficiency in all things, may have a abundance for every good work." God is saying that He will supply our needs for the work that He has called us to do.

We are God's instruments by which He sows His Righteousness. This is a reason to Praise God. We want to be a people that when we see a need we meet it joyfully. The Yisra'elites gave joyfully when they gave the temple offering. Let this be an example to us and may we be a people with a generous spirit, joyfully seeking to serve God so that we may worship Him.

Hiram the Craftsman

1 Kings 7:13-26 and 7: 40-50

In our Torah readings we read how God fills men and women with knowledge and wisdom to build the Tabernacle. This was so they could worship God. In our Haftarah we read that Solomon hires Hiram and God fills him with the knowledge and wisdom needed to build the bronze pillars, the sea of Cast Bronze, and oxen. All of these were built for the Temple that God had called Solomon (Shlomo שלמה) to build, so that the Yisra'elites could worship Him.



“Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.”

1 Kings 7:13-14

Hiram submitted to building what God had called him to do. When we submit to God, when His purposes are our objectives, we will see God supplies and gives in abundance. He will equip us to serve Him. When we take the time to study these passages of Scripture, we should ask God to illuminate the Scriptures to us. God's Word teaches us how to worship Him. God does not need our worship. He is God whether we worship Him or not. He has redeemed us, setting us free to worship Him. This does not mean we are free to worship Him any way we want to. We must worship Him according to the way His Word teaches us. When we worship Him according to His Word we are blessed. When we try to worship Him in any other way He does not accept it and we are inviting evil into our lives.



Word Match

Draw a line connecting each word on the left with the pronunciation in Hebrew on the right.

Tabernacle

Mishkan (מִשְׁכָּן)

Mercy seat

Mizbeach (מִזְבֵּחַ)

Lampstand

Lechem ha'panim - (לֶחֶם הַפָּנִים)

Showbread

Menorah (מְנוֹרָה)

Altar

Ketoret (קֶטֶרֶת)

Incense

Kaporet (כַּפֹּרֶת)



What did Hiram name the two bronze columns he crafted for the Temple?



Tabernacle Review Quiz Answers:

1. Length: 2 and a half cubits, Width: 1 and a half cubits, Height: 2 and a half cubits
2. True
3. Length: 2 cubits and a half, Width: 1 cubit and a half
4. Gold
5. Acacia wood
6. Pure gold
7. 100 cubits
8. 50 cubits

Word Match (Answers):

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Mishkan | - | Tabernacle |
| Kapporeth | - | Mercy Seat |
| Menorah | - | Lampstand |
| Lechem ha'panim | - | Showbread |
| Mizbeach | - | Altar |
| Qitter | - | Incense |
- The two bronze columns were named Boaz and Jachin.