

Beth Tephila Messianic Jewish Congregation
(Under same management for 5779 years)

Shabbat Service

March 9th – 10:30 AM Lolo Community “Synagogue”
12:30 PM – Oneg Shabbat & Interactive Torah

P'kudei - Exodus 38:21 – 40:38

The First Accountant

אֱלֹהִים פָּקְדוֹ הַמִּשְׁכָּן מִשְׁכַּן הָעֵדוּת אֲשֶׁר פָּקַד עַל־פִּי מֹשֶׁה

eleh p'kudei ha-mishkan ha-edoot asher pookad al-pee Mosheh

These (are the) accountings of the tabernacle, (the) tabernacle of the testimony,
that were counted by the mouth of Moses

This is the number of the things for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony,
as they were numbered according to the command of Moses

עֲבַדַּת הַלְוִיִּים בְּיַד אִיתָמָר בֶּן־אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן

avodat ha-L'viyim b'yad Itamar ben-Aharon ha-kohen

(the) work of the Levites by the hand of Itamar, son of Aaron, the priest.

for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Itamar, the son of Aaron the priest.

Summary of the Book of Exodus

Looking Back



In Parsha Yitro, five weeks ago, we read from Exodus, Chapters 19 & 20. God's people, Israel, had arrived on the plain of Sinai and heard the voice of God through Moses, "...if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples.... and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." When the people heard God's words through Moses, they replied, "All that the Lord has spoken, we will do" (Ex.19:5,6,8). Yet when God called Moses to climb Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten commandments and kept him there for forty days, the people took their focus away from the visible and audible manifestations of God on top of the mountain. Instead, much like today, the peoples' focus was on their own "predicament." With Moses gone, they were leaderless. Their concept of worship, again much like today, changed from what they were willing to do for God to what they would receive for themselves. They wanted to worship like the other peoples of their area, so they had an idol made for themselves and worshiped it. Their concomitant immoral activities paralleled that of the surrounding Canaanite nations. When Moses returned and saw their idolatry and unbridled immoral activity, he was enraged. He was carrying two tablets of God's law. The covenantal basis of God's law was the fidelity of the people to God exclusively. God's people had already broken their covenant with God before even having seen the written Commandments! As the people repented with great mourning, it took the intercession of Moses with God to prevent the destruction of the people and for God's continued presence to remain among them. Even so, the 3,000 who took part in the immorality of the idolatry were killed. We remember the intercession of Messiah, Yeshua; for us as stated in **Romans 5:8**: "But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us."

God spoke to Moses about building a tabernacle, where He desired to dwell among His people and be their God. In Exodus, Chapters 25-30, God gave Moses very specific and detailed instructions for the construction of His tabernacle, giving Moses a vision of the heavenly tabernacle, its furniture, and the clothing of the priests "as a pattern" to follow (Exodus 25:9,40); (**Acts 7:44, Heb.8:2,5**). God's people **today** should take special note of the construction of God's tabernacle because **one day**, all those who have apprehended for themselves the sacrificial atonement of Messiah, will worship with Messiah in the heavenly tabernacle!!

In the Biblical text (**Chapter 38:21-31**) just after enumerating all the precious metals, stones, and fabric brought by the people, to fabricate and assemble the Tabernacle, we are introduced to the first accountant mentioned in the Bible, Ithamar, the youngest son of Aaron, the High Priest. The only other seemingly extraneous insertion within the five chapters devoted to the Tabernacle was the command to observe the Sabbath, while the Tabernacle was being constructed. Therefore these 11 verses regarding accounting for materials used must be considered equally important. Accounting ensures that all the valuable materials that were brought by the people were handled correctly and used for their intended purposes. The gold amounted to about 1,900 lbs.; the silver about 6,437 lbs.; the bronze about 4,500 lbs. Proper accounting for God's money produced confidence in those giving it that it has been used correctly and showed the magnificence of God's sanctuary that was given by the people, returning a portion of what God had provided them. Just as keeping the Sabbath was inserted as an example for us today, so accounting for what God has provided for His ministry is necessary today for every

congregation. Accounting for God's money illustrates how the Spirit of God in every believer is used to provide the resources necessary for God's ministry among His people.

Garments of the High Priest - Exodus, Chapter 39



Completed Tabernacle Passes Inspection

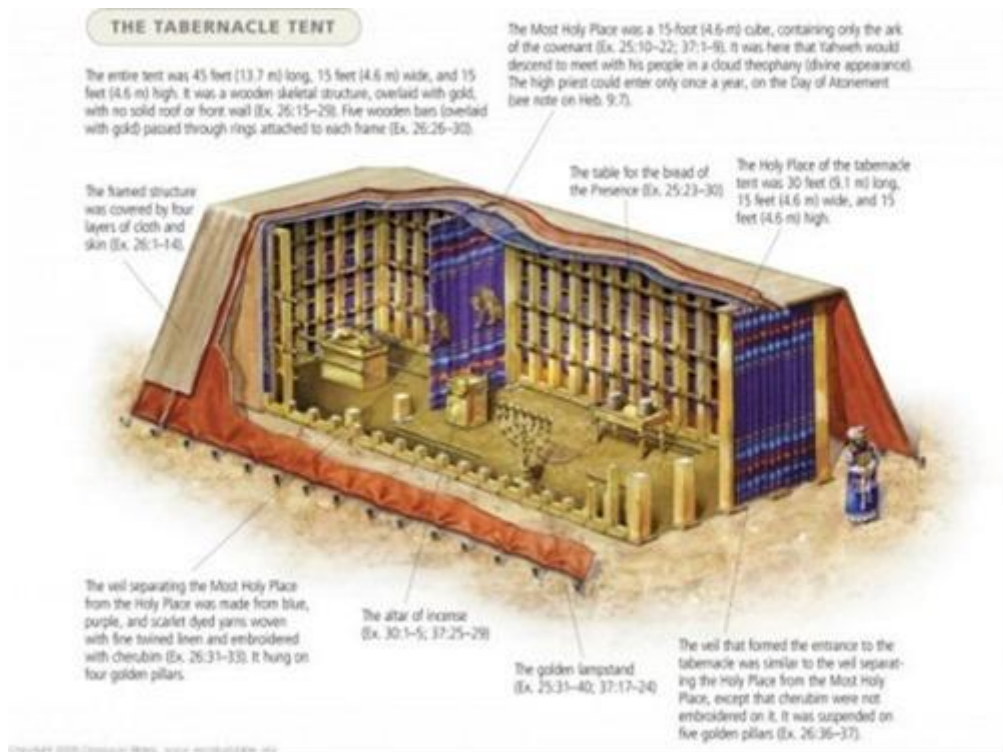
The phrase ..."as God had commanded Moses..." appeared over and over in connection with the building of the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was the place God chose to dwell among His people, and it was to be built exactly according to His instructions. Neither Moses, nor Bezalel, nor Oholiab were allowed to add their own flourishes. It had to be constructed God's way! Therefore, when the construction was completed, Moses came to inspect the finished Tabernacle. **Chapter 39:32-40** show the detail in which Moses inspected all individual components of the Tabernacle. "And Moses examined all the work and behold, they had done it; just as the Lord had commanded, this they had done. So Moses blessed them" (39:43).

You'll notice that all the complicated work of fabrication and assembly had to be accomplished to God's exacting standards and required inspection before Moses blessed the people. The obvious application for us **today** is that God provides us with specific directions to be pleasing to Him and to come into His presence. **We are not allowed to decide these matters on our own!** To attempt to do so would be "missing God's target"....the very definition of sin. And....there will come a day of God's inspection of our lives! We are told, "Therefore the wicked will not stand in (God's) the judgment, nor

sinner in the assembly of the righteous" (**Psalm 1:5**). Our lives must meet God's exacting standards for us to be included in God's book of life. However, most of those living today do not foresee God's coming inspection. "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation" (**2nd Peter 3:4**). God has delayed His inspection of the lives of those living today to allow all who wish to come to Him according to His rules to do so. Don't delay! No one knows how long he will have the opportunity to come to God with all his heart, soul, and spirit before he dies or before his heart is hardened through continual, unrepented sin. God's people had prepared the Tabernacle exactly according to God's directions, and Moses blessed them.

Exodus, **Chapter 40** describes the erection of God's Tabernacle, its anointing, and the anointing of its furniture, and the sons of Aaron. Everything in the Tabernacle and everyone who served in the Tabernacle was anointed with the specially prepared anointing oil. Everything the oil touched became holy to God. As we will see in Leviticus (beginning next week), everyone who touched anything that had been anointed had to be "ceremonially clean." From this picture we understand that while God wishes everyone to come into His presence, our Holy God cannot countenance sin to be in His presence. No one can come into God's presence, except through the sin sacrifice He provided....only according to His rules!

"Then the Cloud Covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Glory of the Lord Filled the Tabernacle." Exodus 40:34



Lastly, I would point out God's continued direction in the lives of His people. When the cloud ascended from the tabernacle, the people prepared to take down the tabernacle and set out, following the direction of God (40:36-7). When the cloud stayed over their camp, the people also remained in camp. **Today**, too, we should always follow God's direction in

our lives... even on a day-to-day basis. Also, the tabernacle is a picture of corporate worship. God expects His people to get together to worship Him collectively, sharing prayers, and coming alongside those in need to provide both physical and spiritual help. Tabernacle worship was participatory. No one stayed at home....neither should we today! "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near" (**Hebrews 10:23-25**).

As we read about the earthly tabernacle, let us come together this Shabbat to rejoice over God's personal indwelling in our hearts and our future worship within God's heavenly tabernacle. "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "**Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them...."** (**Revelation 21:3**).

Chazak, Chazak, v'Nit'chazek!

Be strong, Be strong, and may we be strengthened!

SHABBAT SHALOM

