

Parashah 23

P'kudei

פקודי "Accounts"

Exodus 38:21 – 40:38

Torah Together



This *Torah* portion continues the record of the actual construction of the Tabernacle with all of its associated furnishings and implements, focusing on the priestly garments. It also records the first time the Tabernacle was set up and its initial dedication. The portion provides a fitting end for the book of Exodus as the glory of the LORD takes up residence in the Tabernacle.

1. The Materials Used - 38:21-31

a) How much of each metal was used in the construction of the tabernacle? Which metal was used most? Do you find any spiritual significance in this?

b) Can you estimate the weight of the tabernacle and its furnishings? How do you think the Levites were able to carry this much weight? Can you estimate the value of the gold used in the tabernacle in today's currency?

c) Why do you think God wanted this information recorded?

Scripture Link:

One can't help but be surprised at the value of the gold and silver used in the construction of the Tabernacle. How did these slaves come by this great wealth? The answer is found in **Exodus 12:35-36**. As the Israelites were leaving Egypt after the tenth plague, God had instructed them to ask the Egyptians for articles of gold and silver, jewelry and clothing. God had made the Egyptians favorably disposed to the Israelites so they came away with great wealth.

2. The Priestly Garments - 39:1-31

This passage relates the actual construction of the garments that were described to Moses while he was on Mt. Sinai. What phrase is repeated at the end of the description of each piece of handiwork? Do you find this significant?

Receiving Blessings

In **Exodus 39:42-43**, one can sense Moses' satisfaction at the work that had been done, "exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses." So Moses blessed the people. God, being loving and generous, also blesses us after we do exactly as He commands.

3. Moses Inspects the Tabernacle - 39:32-43

What was Moses' assessment after he had inspected the construction of the tabernacle and all its furnishings? What did he then do (verse 43)? Is this a general principle?

"So all the work on the tabernacle . . . was completed."

Exodus 39:32

4. Setting up the Tabernacle - 40:1-33

a) How long had it been since the Israelites left Egypt when they erected the tabernacle for the first time? About how long do you think it took to build the tabernacle?

b) What did Moses do with the tabernacle and everything in it as he erected it? Why was this necessary?

Scripture Link:

The process of setting up the Tabernacle and consecrating it (setting it apart for use by God) lasted seven days. It is described in more detail in **Leviticus 8**. Although we may not completely understand all His reasons, God clearly considers it of utmost importance that the things associated with Him be formally set apart and made holy.

5. The Glory of YHWH - 40:34-38

Describe what happened after Moses had finished erecting and consecrating the tabernacle. What was the significance of this? Can you find any types and shadows here?

God's Dwelling Place

The Hebrew word for the Tabernacle is **mishkan** (Strong's 4907). It is derived from the Hebrew root word **shakan** (Strong's 7931) which means "to reside or permanently stay, to dwell." Thus the Tabernacle is literally God's dwelling place – He resides there. How amazing that God, the Creator of the Universe, chose to dwell in a tent among His people and make His presence known in such a physical way.

The Glory of God

The Hebrew word **shekinah** does not appear in the Bible. It was coined by ancient scribes as a unique name for the presence of God visible at the Tabernacle. It may have been derived from the Hebrew word **shakan** (Strong's 7931) which means "to reside or permanently stay; to dwell." It may also be based on an obsolete Hebrew word **sh'cheen** (Strong's 7822) which means "to burn."

Digging deeper

1. The "cloud" that settled upon the tabernacle as God took up residence there is often given the name "*shekinah*". Trace the appearances of this cloud through Scripture and note when and where it appears. What can you find out about the word "*shekinah*"? Why might this be used to describe the glory of God?

2. This "cloud" or the glory of God is often seen as a type of the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit). How many parallels can you find between this cloud and the *Ruach*?

For further study, see

Haftarah : 1 Kings 7:40 – 8:21

Brit Hadashah : Revelation 15:5-8