

MORASHAH
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Rabbi Shlomo Marks

Parashat HaShavuah Series

Parashat Terumah

God tells Moshe "Make for Me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them" – "them" being Am Yisrael.

A list of raw materials that Am Yisrael must donate (*litrom* verb, *terumah* noun) for the building the *Mishkan* (tabernacle) is presented to the Am Yisrael. The cover of the Ark and the Cherubim are described in detail. The *Shulchan* (table) and the bread offering are described.

The *Menorah* and utensils are described in detail.

The *Parochet* – the partition separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the *Mishkan* – is described in detail.

The ramped, copper altar (*Mizbe'ach*) is described in detail, as are the outer walls that surround the *Mishkan*.

1. Why does God give such a detailed list?
2. Does God really need a dwelling place?

Midrash

The Midrash tells us that God wanted Israel to build a Tabernacle (*Mishkan*) so that His presence might be among us. The physical *Mishkan* of wood and cloth was only a symbol for the true resting place of the Shechina (God's presence) in our hearts. This is achieved by devoting ourselves to Torah and God's service.

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Marks is rabbi of Congregation Mount Sinai, Jersey City, NJ.

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