

February 28, 2017

Our Portion

Dear Family,

Our Torah reading this week, found in **Exodus 25:1—27:19**, is called **Terumah**, or portion. In it, YHWH gives instructions on the building of the *Mishkan*, or Tabernacle, which means *dwelling place*.

God's Tabernacle was to be constructed of a variety of materials ranging from ordinary items, such as stones, wood and animal skins, to very precious items like silver and gold, but the real value of the components was realized only when they were used in the structure God had designed. The Tabernacle had parts that were seen by everyone, parts that were seen only by those who entered into the holy place, and parts that were seen only by the high priest once every year, and yet, God, esteeming each individual component valuable and precious, chose to abide there in the midst of His people.

Exo 25:8 And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Its divine design made it possible for YHWH to dwell in the midst of the people He loved and had called unto Himself. It has always been God's desire and plan for His called out ones to live in His presence, and in the early days after He had delivered Israel from Egypt, He told them of that plan for them.

Exodus 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself.

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey My Voice indeed, and keep My Covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine:

Exodus 19:6 And ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

We know that, even though the people answered and said that they would do all that YHWH had spoken, in fact, they ran from the presence and voice of the LORD and failed, at that time, to take their God-ordained place in His kingdom on earth. God took the sons of Levi to fulfill the service of the Tabernacle, but never forget, **He called the entire nation to be His priests**. This was the authority that He spoke into them at Mount Sinai, and His Word has the power in it to bring it to pass, but **for His Word to come to pass in people, they must trust in it**, they must believe it. **Although His Word is power filled, it must be mixed with faith in them that hear it (Hebrews 4:2)**. There was a zeal for God among these people to follow the letter of God's instruction, but there was a missing ingredient which could only be accomplished by the Holy One when He filled His believing people with His Word and with His Spirit. **The obedience of Yeshua opened the way for the Spirit of God to be sent into the hearts of those who heard His Word and put their trust in Him**. The Word of God revealed by the Holy Spirit transformed the blood-bought believers into the House of the Lord, a place prepared for the express purpose, "***That I may dwell among them.***"

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a Son over His own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

The Tabernacle in the wilderness was, to the natural observer, just a remarkable enclosure in such a desolate setting, however to those who looked deeper, there was a **Shekinah** presence, **the Glory of God**.

On the outside of individual members of God's congregation there is that which is ordinary, or even peculiar in the natural world, but because of Who is living within us, there is a glow from the glory of God, and the fact that we have the Spirit of God and His purpose within us, causes those who come in contact with us, to perceive the glory of God dwelling in us when we yield our lives in faith.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:

Let's take the admonition of Haggai 1:5 and 8 **to consider our ways... "and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD."**

We are the only Tabernacle that the great and mighty God of the universe chooses to inhabit. This has always been His plan. **Those physical structures served to point us to the reality of God literally inhabiting His covenant people and showing His love and power through them.** Let's prepare ourselves, washed in the blood of Yeshua, filled with the Word of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, unencumbered by the unfruitful trappings of this present world; let's let His light shine through us and shatter the darkness, in the mighty Name of Jesus. **Never withhold yourself from fulfilling your part in the Body of Messiah. Don't rob the congregation of your gifts and talents.** Bring your **Terumah** (portion), your body, a living sacrifice for the building up of the house of God.

Exodus 15:2 The LORD is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

Come take your place with us on Thursday evening at 6:30pm in Granby to receive revelation of your authority in Yeshua, and on Sundays at 10:00am at Living Word Christian Fellowship in Grand Lake to identify your place in the congregation of God.

A Part in His Body,
Terry