

March 18, 2025

To Dwell Among Us

Shalom

This week's Torah Portion is found in **Exodus 35:1-38:20**; in Hebrew, it is the Hebrew word, **Vayakhel**, or "**He Assembled.**"

Everything about the planned **Mishkan**, or Tabernacle, that God commanded the Children of Israel to build for Him in the wilderness was **splendid** and, following those plans with anointed craftsmanship, His building was brought together as an amazing **temporary structure** and place to worship YHWH! Nearly a ton of gold was used in its construction, along with much greater quantities of silver and copper. An amazing array of materials, precious stones, wood, leather, and fine fabric, estimated at today's market values at over thirty million dollars in materials alone, and it was all for a dwelling place to provide a way for an unregenerate people to approach the Great I AM so that **He might dwell among those He had chosen.**

God is awesome! When we consider that **His love made a way**, although He is unapproachable to mere flesh, He provided a way for Him to be near His people and for them to come to the place He had prepared for them to obtain mercy and grace. We often think of the opulence of the Tabernacle or the Temple of God, but what is more amazing is that He, in all His glory, made this way to be with mankind even before the manifestation of the Living Way, His **permanent, dwelling place perfected by the blood of the Messiah Yeshua.**

*Moshe said to the whole community of the people of Isra'el, "Here is what ADONAI has ordered: 'Take up a collection for ADONAI from among yourselves—**anyone whose heart makes him willing is to bring the offering for ADONAI:...**'" (Exodus 35:4-5 CJB)*

***Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit was willing came and brought Adonai's offering** for the work of the Tent of Meeting and for all its service as well as for the holy garments. (Exodus 35:21 TLV)*

All the material items the people were to offer were important, but the thing that qualified their gifts for use in God's tabernacle was not their intrinsic value — the willing hearts that prompted the contribution qualified as a giving a part of themselves as a part of His dwelling place. The ones who brought an offering to the Lord for the building of the Tabernacle had a **willing heart**, and that willing heart is the thing that stirred them up, or made them willing, to offer of their substance. Now, it's

obvious, in this context, that the things they offered were natural things, and for the most part, valuable things, but the fact is, the greatest thing we can understand about this is not that they were generous givers. **The difference between God's requirement that they were to have willing hearts and not just comply with supplying needed materials for the "Building Program."** Neither was their motivation because of pressure from others, or even guilt. **Something miraculous had to happen on the inside of them, in their hearts, before they willingly brought their offerings.** We all want to **be obedient** in bringing tithes and offerings, but **much more, to be motivated by our hearts.** The Apostle Paul speaks of that type of willingness in referring to the offering of the churches of Macedonia.

*Moreover, it was not just as we had hoped, but **they gave of themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.*** (2 Corinthians 8:5 TLV)

The first, and most important, thing we can offer to God is ourselves. That may sound simple, but it is a great challenge and is **vital to our** becoming what God has designed us to be. We stagger at the value of the Tabernacle, but God's most precious creation is not silver, gold, nor precious stones. His very own people are far more valuable to God. They are His creation; much more precious than any other thing He has made. **He made us for Himself, and, as the Word puts it, "For His pleasure we are, and were, created"** (Rev 4:11).

He loves us so much that He made the way for our being eternally united with Him through the Gift of God, through the blood and body of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah when we confess and trust Him in our hearts. Together, we are the very Body of Messiah. We are the dwelling place for the Most-High God. He has chosen us to show forth His glorious presence on the earth, and to make known His wisdom, might, and power to all the earth's inhabitants. **God has created us as His very own!**

*I praise You, **for I am awesomely, wonderfully made!*** (Psalms 139:14 TLV)

***Wonderful are Your works**—and my soul knows that very well.* (Psalms 139:14 TLV)

*As you come to Him, the living Stone, rejected by people but chosen by God and precious to Him, **you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be cohanim set apart for God to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Him through Yeshua the Messiah.*** (1 Peter 2:4-5 CJB)

It has always been God's desire to dwell amid His people. **The Mishkan, or Tabernacle, was the eternal plan of a loving God to be with His people,** even while they were

lost in their sin and iniquity. He showed them the power of the blood to make atonement, a temporary covering for their sins, so that they might **yearly** approach Him with the blood of bulls and goats. As we receive revelation of His Instruction, we recognize that He was **preparing us for the time that we would be redeemed with the blood of Yeshua, made into a dwelling place for YHWH.**

How can we be certain that we have a willing heart? What is necessary to maintain our hearts so that they are always willing, or ready? The Lord is preparing His dwelling place, and **His body, or His congregation of believers, united as a body, to be the Tabernacle or Temple of God.** Just as the Children of Israel brought the materials, **we offer our bodies as living sacrifices, because our hearts make us willing, or ready for His service.** Their willingness to release their offerings for His use was the first step, but they also were **commissioned to build** with the materials they had brought according to the plans given them. **In the same way, we are builders of the Body of Messiah through the anointing of the Holy Spirit Who empowers us and places within us His Words engraved in our hearts of flesh to manifest the mind of Messiah, a Willing Heart.**

All for Him,
Terry

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