



Moriah Goldsmith Raanana Chapter Director Devotion

Parashat Terumah is a fascinating and inspiring parashah that captures the essence of giving and devoting oneself to the service of God. The story begins with God commanding Moses to have the people of Israel to fashion a sanctuary for Him. In return, God promised to dwell among them and be their God.

The story is set in the context of yitzit mitzraim. We can understand from this that Bnei Yisrael had just undergone a period of slavery and hardship. They were a downtrodden people, with no sense of freedom or faith. In this week's parasha, God provides them with an opportunity to dedicate and commit themselves to Him and His service.

The sanctuary that the people of Israel built was a reflection of their devotion and

commitment to God. Every single detail was carefully crafted, as each was meant to represent a unique aspect of God's presence. When the Beit Hamikdash was completed, it was filled with an awesome and immense presence of God.

Parashat Terumah provides us with a powerful lesson. We too can dedicate ourselves to the service of God and fashion our own lives into a Sanctuary of sorts, filled with love, compassion, and devotion. Like Bnei Yisrael, we too can receive the promise of His immanent presence. All we need to do is to commit ourselves to Him and be devoted to His service. IY"H



Yehudit Folger 12th Grade, Kfar Saba Holy Vessels

Parashat Teruma begins the section of Parshiot that discusses the Mishkan. In the parasha, it gives details about each utensil and vessel used in the Mishkan.

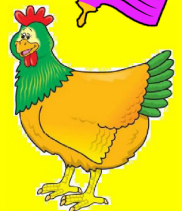
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Why do we get so many details? From the detailing of each object's description in the Torah, we learn two things. One of them is the Halachot of Shabbat, and the other is a lesson for life, that each one of us should be like a living breathing Mishkan and allow Hashem to dwell within us by doing Mitzvot.

The Mishkan is a portable house for Hashem, so that Bnei Yisrael can feel His presence among us. Similarly, we must pay close attention to the details of our character and make ourselves a suitable person for Hashem to surround.

One specific thing I want to focus on is the Aron Hakodesh. Moshe got the blueprint for the Aron Hakodesh when he was on Har Sinai. The box is made up of three parts, a gold box on the inside, a wooden box in the middle and another gold box

on the outside. The cover, the four rings on the sides, the Kruvim and the bars to carry the Aron Hakodesh are all made with pure gold. The Aron Hakodesh contains the 10 Commandments, so the Aron Hakadosh had to be suitable for something that important.

The lesson we learn from this is that we are like the Aron Hakodesh, each of us has the Torah within us and must present ourselves as beautifully and modestly as the box of the Aron Hakodesh. The box is gold within and outside, so we should be good both inside and out. ■

A small Sefer Torah with its own Aron Kodesh is available to shiva houses or for any other necessary occasion on a temporary free-loan basis.
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