

T'rumah (Contribution)

Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

1Kings 5:26 - 6:13

Hebrews 8:1-6; 9:23-24; 10:1

From The Heart

This week we come to a favorite Torah portion of mine. The teaching of the Tabernacle was one of the main teachings which got me interested in Torah to begin with. I have lost track of the number of times I have taught the “Tabernacle Experience” through the years, and the amount of people’s lives that have been affected by this teaching. Not because of me, but because of The One it represents. No matter how many times I read the instructions Yah gave to Moshe, the picture excites me.

The Tabernacle did not begin at Mount Sinai though. It began in Egypt. At least the materials for it began there.

Let’s review a moment. The Book of Exodus begins with the Hebrews in slavery. Slaves are known for many things, but wealth is not one of them. In Egypt, the Hebrews had food, water, shelter and a forced job, but regarding material possessions, not much. That would all change in an instant as just before they begin their journey into the wilderness, the Egyptians begin piling stuff into their wagons. End result? They are free and wealthy people. Free they can understand, but why all the wealth? There are no stores in the wilderness to use these resources. They will have manna, so they do not need to buy food. They will have water from a rock, so they do not need to buy bottled water. Their clothes will not wear out, so no need there. Why the stuff?

The answer would come in Exodus 25 when HaShem tells the people He desires a special tent right in the center of camp. He has provided all the materials for the tent and has placed it all in their possession. In the first words of Exodus 25 we find the reason He had the Egyptians give the stuff to them instead of to Him was a test. A test of their hearts.

“I desire to live among you” are the words He spoke. “You will have to prove you want me there by giving of your time in building the tent, your resources for the materials, and your heart to desire it.” If their heart, soul and resources were given to the project, He would live in their midst. He would not force them to give of themselves or their resources, they would have to volunteer from willingness and not by force.

Today, we are seeing a different, yet similar Tabernacle being built. It is not being built of gold, silver and fine linen, but something of much greater worth: Humans.

The principle of the Tabernacle has not changed. He does not force anyone to be a part. Only those who desire with all their heart, soul and resources are being brought together as His Tabernacle. This brings up one more issue to be addressed.

If we were to look at an actual Torah Scroll, we would find one Hebrew letter used very frequently, the letter “Vav.” This is the letter which will be translated as “and” in English Bibles. It would actually be an interesting study to see how many times the vav is used in conjunction with the Tabernacle.

So what is this vav and why is it used so many times? Vav is the connector. It is what makes the Tabernacle “Echad,” or one.

The Tabernacle is not to be looked at as many parts, but rather as one whole. The function of a hook is as important as the function of the Menorah. The function of a curtain is as important as the function of gold plated board. It was all to come together as one, for a single purpose, to be the dwelling place of The Almighty, a place His glory could shine forth from.

Our lesson in the Tabernacle? When we work willingly work together for His purposes, our differences can be brought together in His hand to make us one dwelling. A place for His glory to be revealed.