Parshas Terumah

For the week ending 4 Adar 5756
23 & 24 February 1996

Parsha Questions

1. Why in the first verse of the Parsha does the word Terumah appear 3 times?
2. The skin of which now-extinct animal was used in making the Mishkan?
3. From where did the Jewish People obtain the wood to build the Mishkan?
4. Describe two uses of: a) oil; b) spices; c) jewels.
5. Betzalel made the Aron out of three boxes, one inside of the other. Of what material were these boxes made?
6. What is the significance of the crown on top of the Aron?
7. The Torah is referred to as “testimony” (25:16). To what does the Torah testify?
8. Describe two uses of: a) oil; b) spices; c) jewels.
9. What did the faces of the Cherubim on top of the Aron resemble?
10. How did Betzalel make the Cherubim?
11. What is the significance of the crown on top of the Shulchan (table)?
12. In which direction did the flames of the Menorah cast their light?
13. How did Moshe know the shape of the Menorah?
14. What designs were embroidered into the tapestries of the Mishkan?
15. What is meant by “standing wood” in verse 26:15?
16. What was the length of the Mishkan?
17. How wide was the interior of the Mishkan?
18. What was the height of the Mizbe’ach (Altar)?
19. What were the dimensions of the Court of the Mishkan?
20. How were the yeseidos (copper pegs) used?

I Did Not Know That!

The Menorah had 6 side branches and a central stem, in total 7 flames. The 3 right flames symbolize intellectual ideals and the 3 on the left symbolize aspects of one’s livelihood. All should be directed by the central light, the Torah.

Sforno

Bonus Q:
In the order of the Parsha, Moshe first commands the Bnei Yisrael to make the Ark and afterwards he commands about making the components (walls and curtains) of the Mishkan itself. However, the components of the Mishkan were built before the Ark. Why didn’t Moshe command according to the order of construction?

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Recommended Reading List

**Ramban**
- 25:1 The Mishkan, a “Portable Sinai”
- 25:10 Universal Torah Involvement
- 26:33 Making and Placing

**Ibn Ezra**
- 25:3 The Need for Silver

**Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh**
- 25:8 The Shechina Within Jewry

**Sefer Hachinuch**
- 95 Our Need for a Mishkan
- 96 Utility and Form
- 97 Blessings and Benefit

Answers to this Week’s Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated.

1. 25:2 - To allude to the three different types of Terumah offered.
2. 25:5 - The Tachash.
3. 25:5 - Yaakov foresaw through Ruach Hakodesh that the Jewish People would be commanded to build the Mishkan. He planted cedars in Egypt and commanded his children to cut them down and to take the wood with them when they left Egypt.
4. 25:6-7 - a) The oil was burned in the Menorah and used for anointing. b) The spices were a component of the anointing oil and of the incense. c) The jewels were used in the Ephod and the Choshen.
5. 25:11 - The outer and inner boxes were made of gold and the middle box was made of wood.
6. 25:11 - It symbolizes the crown of Torah.
7. 25:16 - It testifies that Hashem commanded us to keep His mitzvos.
8. 25:18 - The faces of children.
9. 25:18 - They were hammered out of a solid block of gold as part of the cover of the Aron.
10. 25:24 - It symbolizes the crown of royalty.
11. 25:31 - It was initially to be hammered from one block of gold, but afterwards Hashem told Moshe that it should be thrown into the fire and it ‘made itself.’
12. 25:37 - Towards the middle flame.
13. 25:40 - Hashem showed Moshe a Menorah made out of fire.
14. 26:1 - On one side a lion and on the other side an eagle.
15. 26:15 - The wooden beams were to be placed upright and not to be placed one upon the other.
16. 26:16 - 30 Amos (cubits).
17. 26:23 - 10 Amos.
18. 27:1 - There are two opinions. Rabbi Yehuda said it was three Amos high. Rabbi Yosi said it was 10 Amos high.
19. 27:18 - One hundred Amos long by fifty Amos wide.
20. 27:19 - They were used to secure the curtains against the wind.

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