

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Terumah

For the week ending 4 Adar 5759
19 & 20 February 1999

Parsha Questions

1. How many types of items were the Jews to donate?
2. The donation of silver for the *mishkan* differed from the donation of the other items. How?
3. What property do *techeles* and *argamon* share that *oros eilim m'adamim* do not share?
4. What property do the above three share that *shesh* and *oros techashim* do not share?
5. Onkelos translates "*tachash*" as "*sasgona*." Why?
6. What kind of trees did Yaakov plant in Mitzrayim?
7. Describe two uses of: a) oil; b) spices; c) jewels.
8. The *aron* was made with three boxes, one inside the other. Exactly how tall was the outer box?
9. Why is the Torah referred to as "testimony"?
10. What did the faces of the *keruvim* resemble?
11. On what day of the week was the *lechem hapanim* baked?
12. What does *miksha* mean?
13. What was the purpose of the menorah's *gevi'im* (cups)?
14. How did Moshe know the shape of the menorah?
15. What designs were embroidered into the tapestries of the *mishkan*?
16. What is meant by "standing wood?"
17. How long was the *mishkan*?
18. How wide was the interior of the *mishkan*?
19. Why was the altar coated with *nechoshes*?
20. Which function did the copper *yeseidos* serve?

Sherlox Holmes and the Mysterious Crown

"I'm perplexed," said Watstein. "Regarding the *aron* (holy ark) the verse says: 'And make for it a gold rim all around.' (*Exodus 25:11*) Rashi says that this golden rim surrounding the *aron* represents the 'Crown of Torah.' Why does Rashi make this comment?"

"The *aron*," said world famous detective Sherlock Holmes, "housed the Two Tablets of the Torah. How beautiful that it be crowned with gold, as if to say: Whoever is dedicated to Torah merits a golden crown!"

"It brings tears to my eyes," said Watstein. "Yet, it does not answer my question."

"What is your question?" asked Sherlock.

"All aspects of the Temple and its vessels are infused with ethereal symbolism; however, Rashi does not make it his business to explain them all. Why specifically here does Rashi do so?"

"Indeed, it is a mystery, Dr. Watstein, yet I think I have an answer..."

Answer

"Was the rim part of the *aron*?" asked Sherlock.

"Apparently," said Watstein.

"Then why wasn't it made of wood?"

"What do you mean?" asked Watstein.

"The *aron* was wood covered with gold. The rim was just gold. Why?"

"Hmm, I think I see your point," said Watstein. "If the rim was an integral part of the *aron*, it should have been made of wood like the rest of the *aron* and then covered with gold. The fact that it was not made of wood indicates that it was separate from the *aron*, that it served some other function. Thus, Rashi explains its purpose: To symbolize the 'Crown of Torah.'"

"Majestic insight, Dr. Watstein."

(*Sherlox*" is by Reuven Subar,
inspired by Dr. Avigdor Bonchek's "What's Bothering Rashi")

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Parshas Terumah — 4 Adar 5759, 19 & 20 February 1999

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I Did Not Know That!

“They shall make me a mishkan and I will dwell (v’shachanti) amongst them.” (Exodus 25:8)

The word v’shachanti (I will dwell) hints at the number of years that both the First and Second Temples stood, as follows: Read as two words, v’shachan ti means “He dwelt 410.” This hints that Hashem’s Presence dwelt in the First Temple for 410 years, until its destruction. Rearranged, v’shachanti spells v’sheni kaf tav, which means “and the Second, 420.” This hints that the Second Temple stood for 420 years.

Ba'al Haturim

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

25:1	The <i>Mishkan</i> , a “Portable Sinai”
25:10	Universal Torah Involvement
26:33	Making and Placing

Ibn Ezra

25:3	The Need for Silver
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Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh

25:8	The <i>Shechina</i> Within Jewry
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Sefer Hachinuch

95	Our Need for a <i>Mishkan</i>
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 - 13.
2. 25:3 - No fixed amount of the other items was required. The silver was given as a fixed amount: A half shekel.
3. 25:4,5 - They are wool, *oros eilim* are not.
4. 25:4,5 - They are dyed; *shesh* and *oros techashim* are not.
5. 25:5 - The *tachash* delights (*sas*) in its multi-colors (*gvanim*).
6. 25:5 - *Arazim* — cedars.
7. 25:6-7 - a) The oil was lit in the menorah and used for anointing. b) The spices were used in the anointing oil and for the incense. c) The precious stones were for the *ephod* and the *choshen*.
8. 25:11 - The outer box was one and a half *amos* plus a *tefach* plus a little bit, because it rose a little bit above the *kapores*. [The *kapores* was a *tefach* thick (see 25:17)].
9. 25:16 - It testifies that Hashem commanded us to keep the *mitzvos*.
10. 25:18 - The faces of children.
11. 25:29 - Friday.
12. 25:31 - Hammered.
13. 25:31 - Purely ornamental.
14. 25:40 - Hashem showed Moshe a menorah of fire.
15. 26:1 - On one side a lion; on the other side an eagle.
16. 26:15 - The wooden beams were to be upright and not stacked one upon the other.
17. 26:16 - 30 *amos*.
18. 26:23 - 10 *amos*.
19. 27:2 - To atone for brazenness.
20. 27:19 - They secured the curtains against the wind.