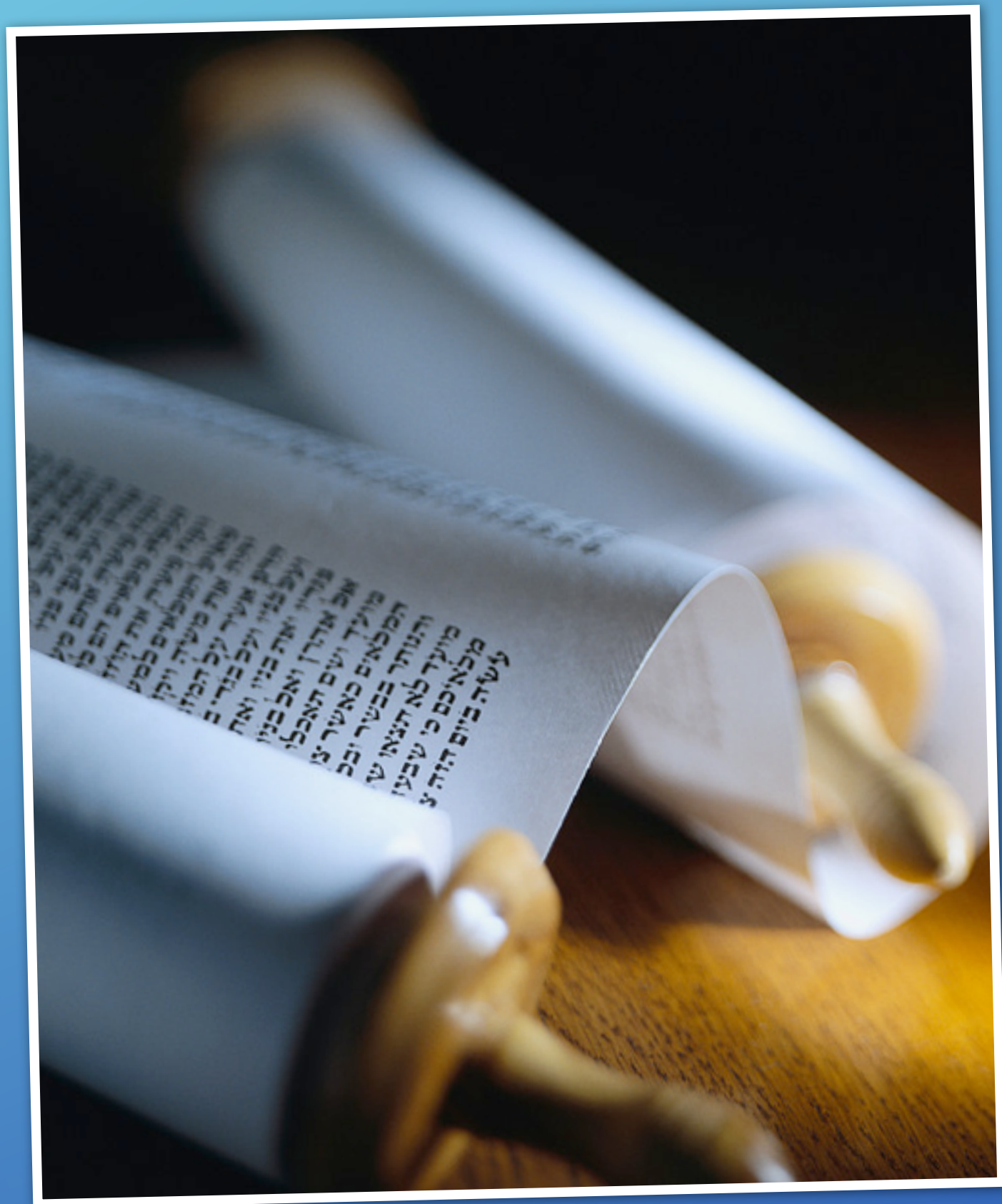




*BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: WEEKLY SCRIPTURE
READING*

---Roly Buys---

THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM

The portion comes from **Exodus 25:1-27:19, 1 Kings 5:26-6:13. And Hebrews 8:1-6, 9:23-24**

The proclamation comes that man must build a Tabernacle. It seems that we have a detailed set of architectural plans. And in amongst those building instructions we find this verse that says it all. There is a reason for the plans. GOD (YHVH) wants to dwell with mankind again.

Exodus 25:22 *"There I will meet with you. I will speak with you from above the ark-cover, from between the two k'ruvim which are on the ark for the testimony, about all the orders I am giving you for the people of Isra'el."*

- 1) We know that the *earthly Tabernacle* was a *physical example* for us to study and understand.
- 2) We know that the Priesthood under the order of Levi was terminated when the Messiah rose again to become the Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.
- 3) We know that we are to worship in a *spiritual tent* not made by human hands and therefore we need to *understand the protocol* of the wilderness Tabernacle in order to enter the Heavenly one.

Hebrews 9:11-15 *"But when the Messiah appeared as cohen gadol of the good things that are happening already, then, **through the greater and more perfect Tent which is not man-made** (that is, it is not of this created world), ¹² he entered the Holiest Place once and for all. And **he entered** not by means of the blood of goats and calves, **but by means of his own blood, thus setting people free forever.** ¹³ For if sprinkling ceremonially unclean persons with the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer restores their outward purity; ¹⁴ then how much more the blood of the Messiah, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself to God as a sacrifice without blemish, will purify our conscience from works that lead to death, so that we can serve the living God! It is because of this death that he is mediator of a **new covenant [or will].**⁹ Because a death has occurred which sets people free from the transgressions committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promised eternal inheritance."*

- 4) And we also know that we are **Living Stones in a new Tabernacle** here on earth. (1 **Peter 2:4-5**) As Living Stones "inside" of the Tabernacle, we not only *must be pure/clean*, but in addition we must be *anointed and sanctified for the purpose*.

There are many lessons for us today, as we study this wilderness Tabernacle.

YOU MUST GIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY

As we read this portion we see that there is a *Commandment to give* towards the building material that is needed for the Tabernacle. A list of certain items that are needed are defined, but there is a most critical qualification, and it is this: you **must give wholeheartedly**.

Exodus 25:2-7 Tell the people of Isra'el to take up a collection for me — accept a contribution **from anyone who wholeheartedly wants to give.** ³ The contribution you are to take from them is to consist of gold, silver and bronze; ⁴ blue, purple and scarlet yarn; fine linen, goat's hair, ⁵ tanned ram skins and fine leather; acacia-wood; ⁶ oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; ⁷ onyx stones and other stones to be set, for the ritual vest and breastplate.

This requirement sets the pattern for those who want to serve YHVH and **who would think** to be Priests and Kings. We all have to **make a free will choice to serve GOD (YHVH)**. This choice **must be based on faith**, with *no expectation of a reward, or a position in the Kingdom*. We don't see any record of how much any individual gave, whether it was in equal parts, or whether it was in relation to what each tribe had (remember there were bigger and smaller tribes) ... we just don't know. Clearly enough, people reacted to *provide all that was needed*.

The only expectation that everyone had was that GOD (YHVH) who had met with them on Mount Sinai, would **continue to do so now on a daily basis**. However, it's not only a matter of making this one-time free will decision that counts. It's also our ability to **make a lifetime commitment!! We have been called to persevere!!**

By way of an illustration:

Have you ever decided to walk up one of the Wadi's¹ in the Negev? It's a 15-kilometer walk. Not too difficult, but a serious hike. And it can get very hot in summer. How many times have you started out with a bunch of happy people, only to find out after a while that some individuals would prefer to turn back... and the complaints, whining, and moaning does not stop, even after you have the opportunity to see the most amazing waterfall.

Because of the discomfort in the physical, we can focus on the sore feet and the heat without

understanding that we must realize that God could be speaking to us **of a spiritual waterfall of truth**.

¹ A Wadi is a valley, ravine, or channel that is dry except in the rainy season.

To make the first tithe contribution is quick and easy...

BUT!!

To live with the expectation and knowledge that YHVH will be dwelling with us, and will know everything that we do, and will want to talk to us about some of these choices, is altogether something else...

*Let's think about the relevance of the items required as defined for the wilderness Tabernacle and try to **convert these items into terms that could apply to the Tabernacle made up of Living Stones.***

This is my personal understanding, *and I would urge you to make your own study.* Without a doubt, we need the ***spiritual equivalent in the Tabernacle made of Living Stones.***

GOLD (Ezekiel 18:4, Psalm 72:15)	WISDOM, LOVE, PRAISES
SILVER	TRUTH
BRONZE	HUMILITY
BLUE/SCARLET/PURPLE YARN	THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD (YHVH)
LINEN (Revelation 19:7-8)	RIGHTEOUSNESS, TRUTH, TRANSPARENCY
GOAT'S HAIR	ATONEMENT
TANNED RAM'S SKINS/ LEATHER	TEACHING
ACACIA WOOD	ENDURANCE, STRENGTH
OIL	LIGHT/TRUTH
SPICES FOR ANOINTING OIL AND INCENSE	WITNESS TO GOOD DEEDS/ SWEET ODOUR
ONYX AND OTHER STONES (Ezekiel 28:12-15)	FAITH, SPIRITUAL

In the Haftarah portion we read the story about King Solomon. While many think that he was a wise and wonderful man, this portion actually reveals something very different... *Solomon gets to build the Temple, but in the process he:*

- 1) Makes agreements with foreign kings (1 Kings 5:32).
- 2) **Taxes** his people beyond measure (**no free choice in giving**).
- 3) He divides the kingdom; all tribes have to pay but his own tribe pays NO taxes—**creating dissatisfaction**.
- 4) He **makes slaves** of his own people (1 Kings 5:27-32—**no real commitment**).

In short, he breaks just about every condition that GOD (YHVH) has set as a benchmark for a king.

Building the Tabernacle - a Picture of Marriage

The building of the Tabernacle, the process to create the space that GOD (YHVH) will be able to use to allow His Glory to be seen again, is the story of the Bridegroom and the Bride.

If you think back to the previous portions of scripture, you will recall that it was very recently that the Israelites had arrived at Mount Sinai, seen the lightening, heard the thunder, and “saw” the words of the Ten Commandments.

A short time before that Moses had approached them and told them exactly what the meaning of the meeting was, and that this was in fact a marriage proposal.

Answering the marriage proposal made by YHVH, the people said...*we will do and we will hear!*

So when the Tabernacle is constructed, **we should be on the lookout for any image that could portray the marriage relationship.** And we find it in the image of the Tabernacle.



On the one side of the curtain, we find the “**space**” **were YHVH stays** and from where He will speak. And in that **same space** we find the ARK of the Covenant, including the Commandments.

On the other side of the curtain, **we find the “space” for the Bride.**

- Here we have the *Menorah*, filled with the **first fruit of the Olive** as pure oil;
- we find the table with the *shewbread*, **a symbol of a life of consecration**;
- and finally we find the **altar of incense** where we come to *declare our love and commitment to Him* .

Inside the Tabernacle the veil still maintains “separateness,” however, with the sacrificial offer of the Messiah, we now can enter *the fullness of intimacy*...

One thing remains outstanding...**we need to have the robe² of the Bride, the robe that has the exact same attributes as the priestly robe...**

And until you and I are *fully perfected* and able to enter the Tabernacle completely Pure/Holy, we will have to complete our walk on earth with the picture of the ARK and the poles **inside the rings in mind. Remember the poles of the ARK were kept at all times within the rings while they travelled through the wilderness, and it's only when the ARK rests at its permanent residence that the poles will be removed. And the reason is this... We are on a journey towards holiness and will therefore always carry the ARK and its contents (the Tablets of the Covenant) with us as a constant reminder of what OUR goal really is.**

This symbol reminds us.... while we yet walk on earth, **we need to carry the Commandments on our shoulders.**

We cannot put the ARK down, or let something/someone else carry it.

It is a burden that we carry, as it helps us to define the pure from the impure—and it helps us to keep the robe unblemished.

Let's make sure that we **grasp the fact that the Ark and the Mount Sinai experience are connected; it is visible proof that we are talking about the marriage.**

² Please see a detailed study on the Robe of the Bride – <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=374>



MOUNT SINAI		ARK OF THE COVENANT
	GOD SPEAKS	
Exodus 25:1-2		Exodus 25:22
	TABLETS OF THE COVENANT	
Exodus 24:12		Exodus 25:21
	CLOUD	
Exodus 30:1-10		Exodus 19:9/24:15-18
	FIRE ON THE ALTAR	
Leviticus 6:6		Exodus 24:4-5

THE ACT OF LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR

We saw in the previous portion many of the Commandments and very few of these pertain to the manner in which we worship GOD (YHVH).

The *vast majority* all **deal with how we are to relate to our brothers and sisters**. It seems that since we are in relationship with GOD (YHVH) (*having uttered the, I DO*), that we need a Tabernacle so that we can meet with Him. But before we get to build that Tabernacle, GOD impresses on us that *the way we treat each other will determine how we will relate to Him*.

The lesson seems clear—we should not attempt to worship Him, **if we cannot apply justice, mercy and kindness to our fellow beings**. It's critical that we connect verse 11 and verse 16 together, as it shows that our efforts of worship are worthless if our relationships with our neighbours are not in good standing.

Isaiah 1:11-17 “Why are all those sacrifice offered to me?” asks ADONAI. “I’m fed up with burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened animals! I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls, lambs and goats! ¹² Yes, you come to appear in my presence; but who asked you to do this, to trample through my courtyards? ¹³ Stop bringing worthless grain offerings! They are like disgusting incense to me! Rosh-Hodesh, Shabbat, calling convocations — I can’t stand evil together with your assemblies! ¹⁴ Everything in me hates your Rosh-Hodesh and your festivals; they are a burden to me — I’m tired of putting up with them! “When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; no matter how much you pray, I won’t be listening; because your hands are covered with blood. “Wash yourselves clean! Get your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing evil, ¹⁷ learn to do good! Seek justice, relieve the oppressed, defend orphans, plead for the widow.

A righteous believer, *who has the Commandments written on his heart, will be caring and kind*. Only then will our worship be meaningful. How wonderful will the Tabernacle of Living Stones shine with the Fire, Cloud and Glory, when we are known as a society whose works of love reflect the Image of the Living GOD (YHVH).

THE MENORAH AND END TIMES

One of the most important utensils that are described for us in this portion is the **making of the menorah**.

Exodus 25:31-40 “You are to **make a menorah** of pure gold. It is to be made of hammered work; its base, shaft, cups, ring of outer leaves and petals are to be of one piece with it. **32** It is to have six branches extending from its sides, three branches of the menorah on one side of it and three on the other. **33** On one branch are to be three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with a ring of outer leaves and petals; likewise on the opposite branch three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with a ring of outer leaves and petals; and similarly for all six branches extending from the menorah. **34** On the central shaft of the menorah are to be four cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with its ring of outer leaves and petals. **35** Where each pair of branches joins the central shaft is to be a ring of outer leaves of one piece with the pair of branches — thus for all six branches. **36** The rings of outer leaves and their branches are to be of one piece with the shaft. Thus the whole menorah is to be a single piece of hammered work made of pure gold. **37** “Make seven lamps for the menorah, and mount them so as to give light to the space in front of it. **38** Its tongs and trays are to be of pure gold. **39** The menorah and its utensils are to be made of sixty-six pounds of pure gold. **40** See that you make them according to the design being shown you on the mountain.

It's such a clear design model. Nothing is left for man's imagination. We can only use pure gold - it speaks of absolute *purity*!! If we study the picture drawn for us, you will notice something interesting—we see the branches, with leaves and flowers... **What is the image that is being created? The tree of Life from the Garden of Eden.**

Why should we be focusing on this Menorah as part of our every day life and worship? *Why?* Simply because we are to **be that Menorah**... **We are to produce the oil of faith, love, hope,** and if we do so we will, in the End Times find ourselves accompanied by the Messiah Himself.

Can you imagine a picture like this? **We are the Tabernacle of Living Stones that is formed into the image of a Menorah. Consider this—the Messiah comes to speak to the seven churches—and then stands amongst seven Menorahs. Only Living Stone Menorahs that have pure oil will be standing with the King of kings.**

Revelation 1:12-17 I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold menorahs; **13** and among the menorahs was someone like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest. **14** His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame, **15** his feet like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters. **16** In his right hand he held seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp double-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. **17** When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand upon me and said, “Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last.

A FINAL THOUGHT

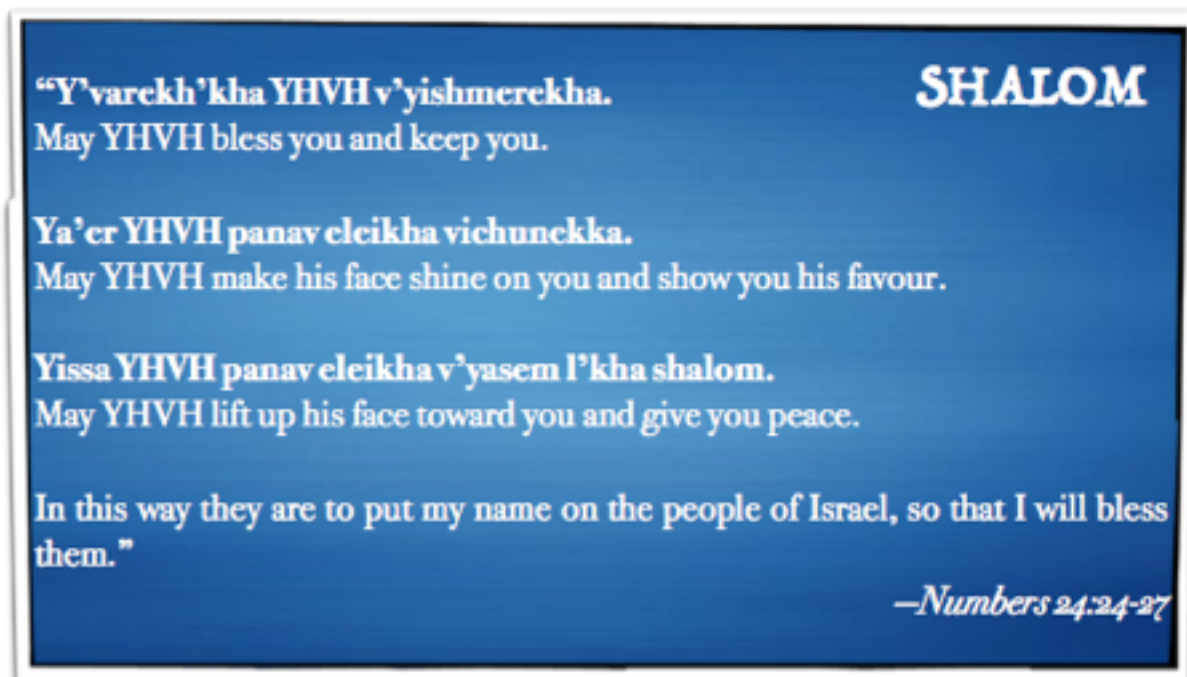
To build a Tabernacle, GOD (YHVH) tells us that we need an architect/a master builder. The man chosen was B'tzal'el, a man from the Tribe of Judah. Critically the Bible says:

"I have filled him with the SPIRIT OF GOD"

Exodus 31:1-4 ADONAI said to Moshe, ² "I have singled out B'tzal'el the son of Uri the son of Hur, of the tribe of Y'hudah. ³ I have filled him with the Spirit of God — with wisdom, understanding and knowledge concerning every kind of artisan. ⁴ He is a master of design in gold, silver, bronze.

In order to build the End Time Tabernacle made of Living Stones, **we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and we need to hear and do what the Master Architect Y'shua (Jesus) says.**

Only then will the "old –man/ego" be subdued **and the Will of GOD (YHVH) reign supreme.**



Shalom!!