

Parshat Terumah

Summary

- . God calls upon the nation to contribute materials to build the Mishkan for him to dwell in
- . Moshe is given instruction on how to dismantle and reconstruct the Mishkan on Har Sinai
- . Inside the inner chamber behind curtains was the Aron with angels on top
- . Outside the curtains was the lechem and the Menorah
- . The Torah details the specific sizings of the Mishkan and the tapestries and lengths
- . There was a mizbeach right outside the Mishkan

Commentary:

Rashi: 1050-1105, France

gold, silver, and copper, etc.: They were all given voluntarily; each person [gave] what his heart inspired him to give, except [for] the silver, which they gave equally, a half-shekel for each individual. We do not find throughout the entire work of the Mishkan that more silver was required, as it is said: "The silver of the community census was...a beka per head..." (Exod. 38:25, 26). The rest of the silver, which was given there [in the work of the Mishkan] voluntarily, they [the workers] made into service utensils.

זהב וכסף ונחשת וגו': כולם באו בנדבה, איש איש מה שנדבו לבו, חוץ מן הכסף שבא בשווה מחצית השקל לכל אחד, ולא מצינו בכל מלאכת המשכן, שהוצרך שם כסף יותר, שנאמר (שמות לח כו - כז) וכסף פקודי העדה וגו' בקע לגלגלת וגו', ושאר הכסף הבא שם בנדבה עשאוה לכלי שרת:

I chose this Rashi because it answers one of the biggest questions surrounding the fundraising of the Mishkan: specifically, what were the requirements of donations? As evident by Rashi's commentary, there were no requirements and everyone simply volunteered. This illuminates an inspiring takeaway from the story of the Mishkan: that the Jews were so eager to have God dwell among them, that they were willing to sacrifice their own goods... all "what his heart inspired him to give."

Paintings:



Song of Songs, and the Cherubim by Yoram Raanan

I chose this piece because of the awe-inducing display of the famous Cherubim, the angels, from atop the Aron. As Yoram explains, the angels would face each other when the Jews and G-d were close, and would face away from each other when there was strife. In the painting the angels appear to be kissing. Raanan explains that this is a call back to the Song of Songs, in which G-d says he wishes to “kiss him on the mouth,” and the Rabbis explain this as G-d telling mystical secrets. I’ve always been fascinated by the idea of the Cherubim, and the Aron in general, which is another big reason I chose this picture.



Preparing to Build by Ahuva Klein

I chose this piece because it depicts my favorite aspect of the parshah, the togetherness of the Jewish people. When called upon by G-d to contribute personal belongings for the good of the nation, it's inspiring to read about how (like Rashi explains) the Jews volunteered to give priceless possessions in the pursuit of G-d. Looking at a painting like this, it's almost bittersweet with the foreknowledge of the sins the Jewish people make down the line. But it's at least comforting to take solace in the fact that the Jews at different times were truly capable of being a great nation to Hashem.