



Shabbat Message for 3-9-19
Pekudei-Accountings of
Exodus 38:21-40:38
1 Kings 7:51-8:21
Hebrews 3:1-6

Introduction

Pekudei and has to do with the making of the priestly garments. Then God instructs Moses to erect the tabernacle. Moses does as God commands, and when he finishes the work, “the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Presence of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.”

Exodus 40:17-33

17 In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸ Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹ And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰ He took the testimony and put it into the ark and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²² He put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil, ²³ and arranged the bread on it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁴ He put the lampstand in the tent of meeting, opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle, ²⁵ and set up the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁶ He put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil, ²⁷ and burned fragrant incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁸ He put in place the screen for the door of the tabernacle. ²⁹ And he set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting and offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ³⁰ He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, ³¹ with which Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet. ³² When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, as the LORD commanded Moses. ³³ And he erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So, Moses finished the work. (ESV)

When we read the passage from this week’s Torah Portion, we see according to the text that Moses was the one who put everything together for the Tabernacle. We are not told he had any help. If so, then Moses had to have been helped by God Himself, and we see a miracle taking place regarding the Tabernacle. The other possibility is Moses had help.

He could have been helped by Aaron and his sons who were slated to become the priests of Israel. In verse 31, we are told that Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons would wash their hands and feet before going about God's work. So, while Moses is not a priest because they would have to come from the line of Aaron, Moses would be the one who sets the priests apart for their holy work before the Lord. Moses must be a picture of the Messiah. In the New Jerusalem, we are told there will be no Temple, and the Temple will be the Father and Son. As the fire by night was over the Tabernacle and the cloud by day, there will be no need for any of these things in the New Jerusalem. Is it possible we will be the living sacrifices before Yeshua and His Father? I am not saying we will literally be sacrificed. I am saying we belong to Him, saved by the grace of the Father, through the Son, and we will serve them for eternity after all has been brought to completion.

The Tabernacle was to show the people of Israel they had a God they could identify with the same as other nations, but their God was alive and not made from stone, wood, gold, silver, etc. We don't worship animals, they are created creatures like ourselves. The Tabernacle was meant to be the center of life for Israel as the temple would be later. Moses was the first leader of Israel and probably its strongest, as it would fall to him to put everything the Lord wanted into motion and bring them to their conclusion. Moses had been empowered by God to be a god to Pharaoh. He had been gifted by the Holy One, and he was determined to bring Israel and their God together.

1 Kings 8:6-9

6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. ⁸ And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. ⁹ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. (ESV)

This passage tells us the only thing that had been placed inside of the Ark by Moses were the two stone tablets representing the covenant that had been given by God to Moses to bind the Children of Israel to Him. The covenant is life because it comes from a living God and not a false god. A false god is made by men, while our God is alive, and it was He, through His Son Yeshua, who created us.

Exodus 25:21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark, you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. (ESV)

Once again, we see that the two stone tablets, also called the testimony, would be placed in the ark.

Deuteronomy 10:5 Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark that I had made. And there they are, as the LORD commanded me." (ESV)

Moses remembered his time on the mountain when he received the stone tablets, came down from the mountain, and placed them into the ark. If we take these various portions at face value, Moses put the Tabernacle together with all its parts and items. Moses also says he put the stone tablets in the ark he made. We know Moses did not do this. Craftsmen made everything for the tabernacle. God made the first set of stone tablets, but Moses broke them when he saw the people were worshipping the Golden Calf. He made two new stone tablets and went back up the mountain where the Almighty inscribed them again with His covenant. The mediator of this covenant would be Moses pointing the way to Yeshua. The High Priest would take the position of intermediary after Moses passes away. Though Joshua was Moses's assistant and chosen by God to lead Israel after Moses's death, his relationship with the Almighty was different than the one Moses had. Moses received the revelation of Torah from the Holy One and wrote it all down in a book. What were the Ten Words on the two stone tablets? For me, they represent an outline for the rest of the Torah. You go to a command contained in the Ten Words, and you then look it up in the Torah itself, if you need further information about it. Since we are over 3,500 years removed from when Moses received the Torah, there are some parts of it we do not fully understand. But there is one truth and reality – the Torah has not been done away with and still stands even today as the guide we should be following.

Hebrews 9:3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. (ESV)

It is in this passage that we first see mention that the ark contains a golden urn with manna in it and Aaron's staff that budded along with the tablets of the covenant. The re-telling of the story of the ark and what was in it was possibly revised by the rabbis in their writings. Since the rabbis believe their writings are part of the Oral Torah given by the Holy One to Moses along with the written Torah, this could be their thinking. In fact, in reading a recent article from an Orthodox Jewish magazine, it was implied that one can question the veracity of the Tanach but not the teachings of the rabbis. How could Moses have possibly remembered the written Torah, which took him forty years to write down, and what is known as the Oral Torah? They say Moses received it from the Almighty, passed it to Joshua, then Joshua to the seventy elders, and so on and so forth. Here in Hebrews we have a re-telling of a part of Torah that we cannot find in the Torah except for the passages we already shared. Does this cause us to doubt the validity of the book of Hebrews? No, it may be nothing more than an addition added from something contained in the writings of the rabbis. We need to be careful of what the rabbis have written and their eventual elevation of the Oral Torah over the Written Torah.

Hebrews 3:1-6

1 Therefore, brothers whom God has set apart, who share in the call from heaven, think carefully about Yeshua, whom we acknowledge publicly as God's emissary and as *cohen gadol*. ² He was faithful to God, who appointed him; just as "Moshe was faithful in all God's house." ³ But Yeshua deserves more honor than Moshe, just as the builder of the

house deserves more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God. ⁵ Also, Moshe was faithful *in* all God's house, as a servant giving witness to things God would divulge later. ⁶ But the Messiah, as Son, was faithful *over* God's house. And we are that house of his, provided we hold firmly to the courage and confidence inspired by what we hope for. (CJB)

With this week's Apostolic Writing's portion, we see a connection between Moses and Yeshua. As important as Moses was and is to our understanding of God's covenant with His people, the point being made here is Yeshua was His Father's emissary and *Cohen HaGadol*. How could Yeshua, born into the tribe of Judah be the High Priest, who comes from the line of Aaron, a Levite? Because Yeshua is a priest after the order of Melchizedek, the king and priest of the Holy One. Melchizedek brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham's successful raid to free his nephew Lot and his family. Abraham recognized Melchizedek's status and gave to him a tithe from what he had taken. It is possible Abraham and Melchizedek knew one another. In the rabbinic writings, they say he was Shem, the son of Noah, and that Shem taught Abraham the Torah he knew.

Torah has always existed and is not something newly created. It goes back to the garden when Adam and Chavah disobeyed their Creator when He told them they could not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil or they would die. They did not die immediately, but death did come eventually to them and to us as it always does.

Torah Man says: "Some drink at the fountain of knowledge. Others just gargle."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119

